

# HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This is a grassroots organizing and training curriculum rooted in lessons from multi-racial, cross-class, feminist organizing. It is for emerging or established groups and organizations working to get into good trouble here and now in 2020 and beyond, as we confront a world where our economic, governance, and ecological systems are literally on the brink of collapse. **The curriculum is built off of the political assumption that the values of the groups using it are rooted in, or working to root down into, the best of our feminist traditions. These traditions are intersectional in practice, rigorous, interdependent and loving, anti-imperialist, visionary, often socialist and communist yet not dogmatic;** in other words, Pro-Black, Pro-Worker, Pro-Queer, Pro-Immigrant, and Pro-Planet values.

This curriculum was developed and tested with amazing local cohorts of emerging and existing leaders in New Orleans, Phoenix, and Cheyenne through Auburn Seminary's Feminist Leaders for Reproductive Justice cohort from 2019-2020. Auburn is equipping leaders with the organizational skills and spiritual resilience required to create lasting, positive impact in local communities, on the national stage, and around the world.

This curriculum does not go into digital organizing or communications work. There are tons of training entities and plenty of leadership around that area of work. We acknowledge the ways our world and political landscape are fundamentally transformed by media, technologies, and the digital age. We don't have our head in the sand about this and we are fans of distributed organizing. Many parts of this curriculum could be tailored to those contexts. But we decided to root this program and accompanying curriculum in the most humble and fundamental building block of social change and transformation: flesh, breath, spirit, and the profound longing and necessity for us to learn and relearn over and over how to be in right relationship and move collective work together, across power, identity, and experience. **No matter how big we get, without this, we stay small.**

After much deliberation, the sections of this workbook were chosen to answer the question: ***What are the kinds of organizers we need in this time? What do we need to have inside us and between us to wage the fights that are calling our names?*** How do we build adaptable, focused, and courageous teams and projects? Are there parts of the magic of SONG and other red-state organizing projects that can be offered more broadly to movement? How do we inoculate ourselves against the despair and infighting knocking at our door?

This is just a humble offering to that line of thinking and questioning and, of course, organizing. This does assume facilitators of the content will have a baseline of understanding of facilitation and grassroots organizing experience. There are certain political assumptions that underlie this curriculum. Some of those that are important to name are that **social movements are our best bet for long term structural progressive social change, that leadership is a collective endeavor, and that this moment requires us all to try new things in pursuit of liberation and justice.** There is also an underlying assumption that when we say 'feminist leadership,' we are implying interdependent, intersectional, and collectively oriented leadership rooted in praxis. This feminism is a marathon and not a sprint, and our work is only possible because of what has come before.



## **THIS CURRICULUM IS:**

**SUPPORTED BY ILLUSTRATIONS AND  
INTERACTIVE GRAPHIC WORKSHEETS**

**FOR FACILITATORS THAT HAVE  
A BASELINE UNDERSTANDING OF  
FACILITATION AND GRASSROOTS  
ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE**

**ARRANGED THEMATICALLY**

**DESIGNED FOR YOU TO PICK AND  
CHOOSE FROM WORKSHOP TEMPLATES,  
ACTIVITIES, WORKSHEETS, GRAPHICS, AND  
ADDITIONAL READINGS AND RESOURCES**

## **THIS CURRICULUM IS NOT:**

**FOR DIGITAL ORGANIZING OR  
COMMUNICATIONS WORK**

**AN IDEOLOGICALLY FOCUSED TRAINING  
CURRICULUM**

**A TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE OR NONVIOLENT DIRECT  
ACTION (NVDA)**

**ONE-SIZE FITS ALL**

This workbook is arranged thematically. Each section contains some framing of the topic, followed by workshop templates, activities, and graphic worksheets to help you dig deeper into the topics. There are also additional, optional resources to choose from, since every context is different. The six themes are:

**WHO ARE YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE?**

**POWER, LEGACY & HISTORY**

**BUILDING THE TEAM OF THE WILLING**

**GET ME BODIED: BODILY & SPIRITUAL SELF-DETERMINATION**

**THE BEST OF OUR ORGANIZING TRADITIONS**

**A GOOD TEAM IS HARD TO MAINTAIN**

In the appendix there are some additional tools for working with groups, including notetaking and debrief templates, a cache of icebreakers and energizers, and a glossary of key terms.