

the problem

The U.S. uses prisons and policing as a failed “solution” to social problems. As a result, our communities are being destroyed.

- In the past two decades, the number of people in prison in the U.S. increased 400%.
- Prisons are filled with 68% people of color.
- 4 million people who have been in prison face barriers to jobs, parental rights, public assistance, and housing.
- In neighborhoods where people are most affected by mass imprisonment and policing, we see the direct impact of our annual \$50 billion investment in prisons and policing: closed schools, homelessness, basic health care is out of reach, and poverty remains a reality in the richest country on earth.



www.criticalresistance.org



NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

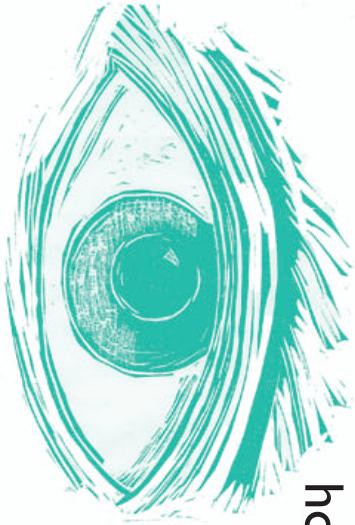
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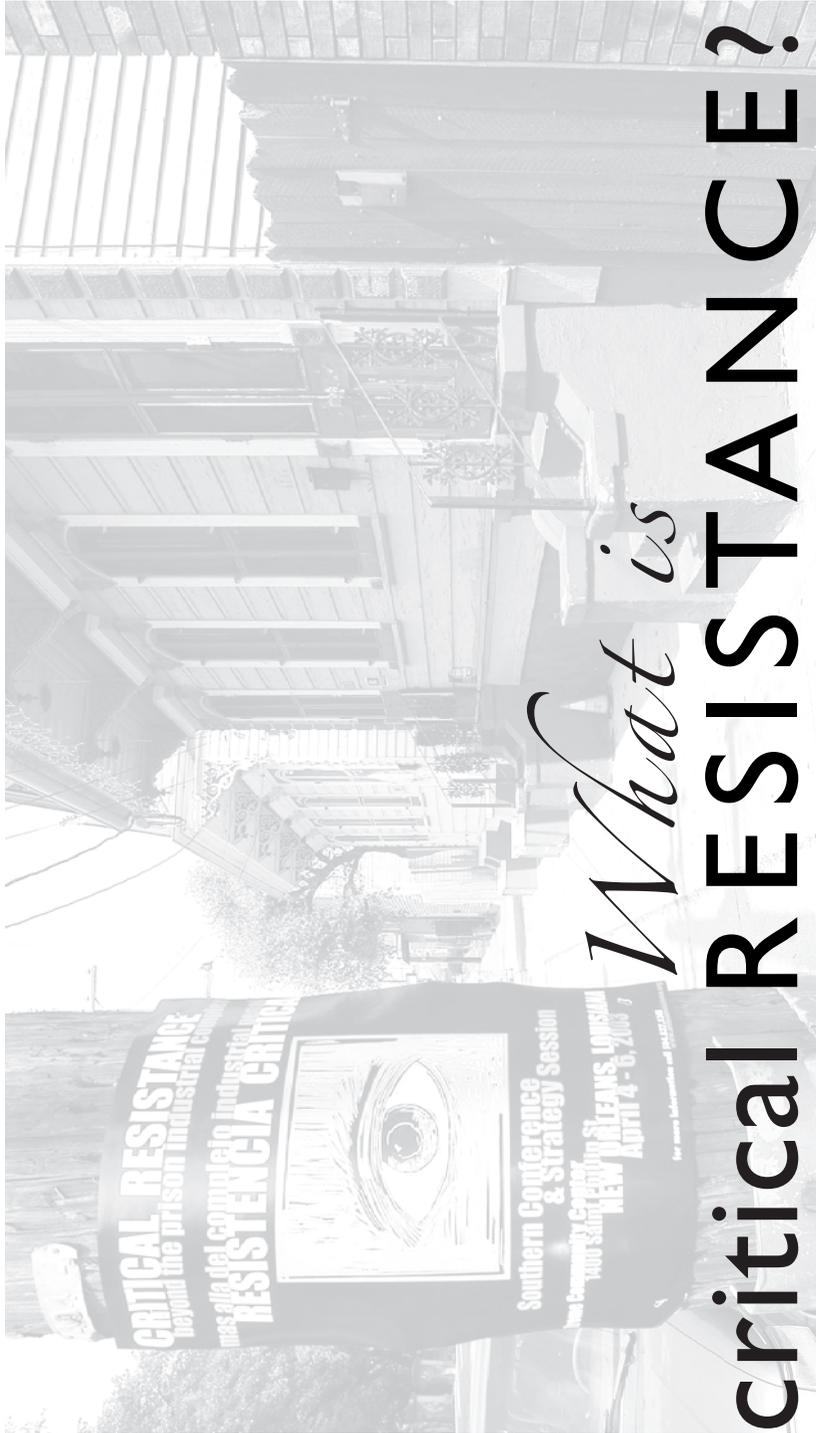
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how you can help

We need you as a member of this growing movement! There are many ways to join Critical Resistance:

- **ORGANIZE** with your local Critical Resistance Chapter.
- **DONATE** to sustain Critical Resistance's work.
- **VOLUNTEER OR INTERN** in one of our offices.
- **START A CR CHAPTER** in your community.



our vision

Critical Resistance’s vision is the creation of genuinely safe, healthy communities that do not rely on prisons and policing to respond to harm. We call our vision “abolition.” We take the name “abolitionists” purposefully from those who called for the abolition of slavery in the 1800’s. Abolitionists believed that slavery could not be fixed or reformed – it needed to be abolished.



who we are

Critical Resistance is our members. Our members lead CR by developing and carrying out organizing projects and campaigns with the support of our small paid staff. We believe our work is strongest when it is lead by those most directly impacted by imprisonment and policing. CR has multiple chapters across the country and thousands of members and supporters.



what we do

- **SHRINK** the system by stopping prison expansion and promoting policies that reduce the number of people in prison and the reliance on policing.
 - **CREATE ALTERNATIVES** such as the Plan for a Safer Los Angeles or our re-printing of *Instead of Prisons*.
 - **SHIFT PUBLIC OPINION AND PUBLIC POLICY** through media and public education work.
 - **BUILD AND SUPPORT LEADERSHIP OF PEOPLE DIRECTLY IMPACTED** through leadership development projects.
- All toward the goal of **BUILDING A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT** to demand change.

our history

- Organizing three major conferences where people most impacted served as the “experts”, bringing together thousands, in New Orleans, New York and California.
- Building multiple grassroots chapters across the country.
- Forcing a halt to California’s massive 20-year prison building boom.
- Creating unique and broad based coalitions that reach far beyond the usual suspects.
- Building leadership development projects with people in post prison and alternative to prison programs.
- Helping to defeat moves to increase policing and jails.
- Producing two prisoner newsletters and Critical Resistance Radio -- giving voice to people inside.
- Supporting hunger strikers on Florida’s death row.
- Producing four documentaries about grassroots organizing against the prison industrial complex.
- Developing alternative public safety models.
- Working to popularize the idea of abolition.

