

**LOVE &  
ABOLITION**

A ZINE BY *m***EGAN JONES**

**I WAS BROUGHT TO PRISON ABOLITION THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND IT HAS BECOME AN ETHOS THROUGH WHICH I SHAPE MY LIFE. MARIAME KABA HAS A QUOTE THAT GROUNDS ME WHEN IT COMES TO ABOLITION BUT ALSO IN HOW TO NAVIGATE THE FUCKED UP WORLD WE LIVE IN, "HOPE IS A DISCIPLINE." SITTING IN JAIL VISITING ROOMS, WAITING FOR COLLECT CALLS FROM JAIL, AND MY INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE VISITING LOVED ONES INSPIRED ME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JAILS & PRISONS AND SPECIFICALLY ABOLISHING PRISON. NO ONE DESERVES TO BE IN A CAGE AND NONE OF US ARE FREE UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE.**

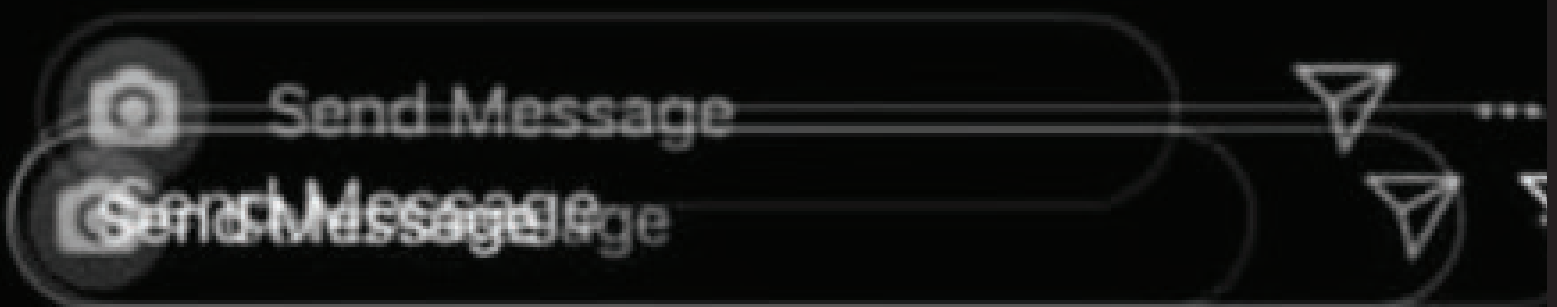
**ON MY JOURNEY OF FINDING HOPE AND PRISON ABOLITION, WHAT IT ALWAYS CAME BACK TO WAS LOVE. LOVE CULTIVATES A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE SEEK TO CREATE THE LEAST HARM POSSIBLE. WHEN PEOPLE OPERATE OUT OF LOVE, YOU REMOVE THE IMPULSE FOR VIOLENCE AND HARM. AS BELL HOOKS EXPLAINS, LOVE AND ABUSE CANNOT CO-EXIST.**

**WHILE I MULLED OVER ALL THE IDEAS I PICKED UP FROM BOOKS I WILL RECOMMEND AT THE END OF THIS ZINE, I WAS EAGER TO HEAR HOW MY FRIENDS AND PEERS TALK ABOUT LOVE AND COMMUNITY. THESE QUESTIONS AND THIS ZINE ARE INFORMED BY THE WORKS OF BELL HOOKS, MARIAME KABA, ANGELA DAVIS, RUTH WILSON GILMORE AND OTHER ABOLITIONISTS. I POSTED THESE QUESTIONS ON INSTAGRAM ANONYMOUSLY FOR FOLKS TO DISCUSS LOVE. I FEEL LIKE WE DON'T THINK ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF LOVE AND ITS POWER IN OUR LIVES. I HOPE TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO THINK OF HOW IMPORTANT LOVE IS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD AND HOW LOVE TIES INTO THE IDEA OF ABOLITION.**

**I WANT THIS ZINE TO MOVE PEOPLE TO THINK DEEPER ABOUT HOW THEY LOVE AND FEEL LOVED. PUTTING A FOCUS ON LOVE REQUIRES US TO ACT OUT OF LOVE AND I THINK THAT IS INDESCRIBABLY INFLUENTIAL ON THE PROBLEMS OUR SOCIETY FACES PLUS IT'S FUN TO THINK ABOUT LOVE! IMAGINING A WORLD WITHOUT PRISONS REQUIRES A LOT OF IMAGINATION AND A LOT OF LOVE, I HOPE THESE QUESTIONS INSPIRE YOU TO WORK TOWARDS THE KIND OF WORLD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN.**

**- MEGAN JONES**

**Who wants  
to love  
before 2019  
end**



# The Prison Industrial Complex & Abolition



**THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (P.I.C.) IS A TERM WE USE TO DESCRIBE THE OVERLAPPING INTERESTS OF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY THAT USE SURVEILLANCE, POLICING, AND IMPRISONMENT AS SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.**

**THROUGH ITS REACH AND IMPACT, THE P.I.C. HELPS AND MAINTAINS THE AUTHORITY OF PEOPLE WHO GET THEIR POWER THROUGH RACIAL, ECONOMIC AND**

**OTHER PRIVILEGES. THERE ARE MANY WAYS THIS POWER IS COLLECTED AND MAINTAINED THROUGH THE P.I.C., INCLUDING CREATING MASS MEDIA IMAGES THAT KEEP ALIVE STEREOTYPES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR, POOR PEOPLE, QUEER PEOPLE, IMMIGRANTS, YOUTH, AND OTHER OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES AS CRIMINAL, DELINQUENT, OR DEVIANT. THIS POWER IS ALSO MAINTAINED BY EARNING HUGE PROFITS FOR PRIVATE COMPANIES THAT DEAL WITH PRISONS AND POLICE FORCES; HELPING EARN POLITICAL GAINS FOR "TOUGH ON CRIME" POLITICIANS; INCREASING THE INFLUENCE OF PRISON GUARD AND POLICE UNIONS; AND ELIMINATING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DISSENT BY OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES THAT MAKE DEMANDS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND REORGANIZATION OF POWER IN THE US.**

**P.I.C. ABOLITION IS A POLITICAL VISION WITH THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING IMPRISONMENT, POLICING, AND SURVEILLANCE AND CREATING LASTING ALTERNATIVES TO PUNISHMENT AND IMPRISONMENT.**

**FROM WHERE WE ARE NOW, SOMETIMES WE CAN'T REALLY IMAGINE WHAT ABOLITION IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE. ABOLITION ISN'T JUST ABOUT GETTING RID OF BUILDINGS FULL OF CAGES. IT'S ALSO ABOUT UNDOING THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN BECAUSE THE P.I.C. BOTH FEEDS ON AND MAINTAINS OPPRESSION AND INEQUALITIES THROUGH PUNISHMENT, VIOLENCE, AND CONTROLS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. BECAUSE THE PIC IS NOT AN ISOLATED SYSTEM, ABOLITION IS A BROAD STRATEGY. AN ABOLITIONIST VISION MEANS THAT WE MUST BUILD MODELS TODAY THAT CAN REPRESENT HOW WE WANT TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE. IT MEANS DEVELOPING PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR TAKING SMALL STEPS THAT MOVE US TOWARD MAKING OUR DREAMS REAL AND THAT LEAD US ALL TO BELIEVE THAT THINGS REALLY COULD BE DIFFERENT. IT MEANS LIVING THIS VISION IN OUR DAILY LIVES.**

**ABOLITION IS BOTH A PRACTICAL ORGANIZING TOOL AND A LONG-TERM GOAL.**

**[CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG/MISSION-VISION/NOT-SO-COMMON-LANGUAGE/](https://criticalresistance.org/mission-vision/not-so-common-language/)**

# Nine Perspectives for Prison Abolitionists

**PERSPECTIVE 1: IMPRISONMENT IS MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE AND INDEFENSIBLE AND MUST BE ABOLISHED. IN AN ENLIGHTENED FREE SOCIETY, PRISON CANNOT ENDURE OR IT WILL PREVAIL. ABOLITION IS A LONG RANGE GOAL; AN IDEAL. THE ERADICATION OF ANY OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM IS NOT AN EASY TASK. BUT IT IS REALIZABLE, LIKE THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY OR ANY LIBERATION, SO LONG AS THERE IS THE WILL TO ENGAGE IN THE STRUGGLE.**

**PERSPECTIVE 2: THE MESSAGE OF ABOLITION REQUIRES "HONEST" LANGUAGE AND NEW DEFINITIONS. LANGUAGE IS RELATED TO POWER. WE DO NOT PERMIT THOSE IN POWER TO CONTROL OUR VOCABULARY. USING "SYSTEM LANGUAGE" TO CALL PRISONERS "INMATES" OR PUNISHMENT "TREATMENT," DENIES PRISONERS THE REALITY OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND MAKES US CAPTIVES OF THE OLD SYSTEM. OUR OWN LANGUAGE AND DEFINITIONS EMPOWER US TO DEFINE THE PRISON REALISTICALLY.**

**PERSPECTIVE 3: ABOLITIONISTS BELIEVE RECONCILIATION, NOT PUNISHMENT, IS A PROPER RESPONSE TO CRIMINAL ACTS. THE PRESENT CRIMINAL (IN)JUSTICE SYSTEMS FOCUS ON SOMEONE TO PUNISH, CARING LITTLE ABOUT THE CRIMINAL'S NEED OR THE VICTIM'S LOSS. THE ABOLITIONIST RESPONSE SEEKS TO RESTORE BOTH THE CRIMINAL AND THE VICTIM TO FULL HUMANITY, TO LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND DIGNITY IN THE COMMUNITY. ABOLITIONISTS ADVOCATE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF COERCION AND INTERVENTION IN AN INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE AND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF CARE AND SERVICES TO ALL PEOPLE IN THE SOCIETY.**

**PERSPECTIVE 4: ABOLITIONISTS WORK WITH PRISONERS BUT ALWAYS REMAIN "NONMEMBERS" OF THE ESTABLISHED PRISON SYSTEM. ABOLITIONISTS LEARN HOW TO WALK THE NARROW LINE BETWEEN RELATING TO PRISONERS INSIDE THE SYSTEM AND REMAINING INDEPENDENT AND "OUTSIDE" THAT SYSTEM. WE RESIST THE COMPELLING PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES TO BE "ACCEPTED" BY PEOPLE IN THE PRISON SYSTEM. WE ARE WILLING TO RISK PRESSING FOR CHANGES THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO AND DESIRED BY PRISONERS. IN**

**RELATING TO THOSE IN POWER, WE DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE PERSONHOOD OF SYSTEM MANAGERS (WHICH WE RESPECT) AND THEIR ROLE IN PERPETUATING AN OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM.**

**PERSPECTIVE 5: ABOLITIONISTS ARE "ALLIES" OF PRISONERS RATHER THAN TRADITIONAL "HELPERS." WE HAVE FORGED A NEW DEFINITION OF WHAT IS TRULY HELPFUL TO THE CAGED, KEEPING IN MIND BOTH THE PRISONER'S PERSPECTIVE AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF ABOLITION. NEW INSIGHTS INTO OLD, CULTURE-LADEN VIEWS OF THE "HELPING RELATIONSHIP" STRENGTHEN OUR ROLES AS ALLIES OF PRISONERS.**

**PERSPECTIVE 6: ABOLITIONISTS REALIZE THAT THE EMPOWERMENT OF PRISONERS AND EX-PRISONERS IS CRUCIAL TO PRISON SYSTEM CHANGE. MOST PEOPLE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN NEEDS IN TERMS OF SURVIVAL, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS. WE SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION OF PRISONERS AND PROGRAMS WHICH PLACE MORE POWER IN THE HANDS OF THOSE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE PRISON EXPERIENCE.**

**PERSPECTIVE 7: ABOLITIONISTS VIEW POWER AS AVAILABLE TO EACH OF US FOR CHALLENGING AND ABOLISHING THE PRISON SYSTEM. WE BELIEVE THAT CITIZENS ARE THE SOURCE OF INSTITUTIONAL POWER. BY GIVING SUPPORT TO ÑOR WITHHOLDING SUPPORT FROM-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PRACTICES, PATTERNS OF POWER CAN BE ALTERED.**

**PERSPECTIVE 8: ABOLITIONISTS BELIEVE THAT CRIME IS MAINLY A CONSEQUENCE OF THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY. WE DEVOTE OURSELVES TO A COMMUNITY CHANGE APPROACH. WE WOULD DRASTICALLY LIMIT THE ROLE OF THE CRIMINAL (IN)JUSTICE SYSTEMS. WE ADVOCATE PUBLIC SOLUTIONS TO PUBLIC PROBLEMS-GREATER RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE.**

**PERSPECTIVE 9: ABOLITIONISTS BELIEVE THAT IT IS ONLY IN A CARING COMMUNITY THAT CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL REDEMPTION CAN TAKE PLACE. WE VIEW THE DOMINANT CULTURE AS MORE IN NEED OF "CORRECTION" THAN THE PRISONER. THE CARING COMMUNITIES HAVE YET TO BE BUILT.**

**[WWW.PRISONPOLICY.ORG/SCANS/INSTEAD\\_OF\\_PRISONS/NINE\\_PERSPECTIVES.SHTML](http://WWW.PRISONPOLICY.ORG/SCANS/INSTEAD_OF_PRISONS/NINE_PERSPECTIVES.SHTML)**

# **What makes you feel loved?**

**LOVE MAKES ME FEEL SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I CAN BE MYSELF AND NOT BE JUDGED. LOVE GIVES ME BUTTERFLIES WHEN I THINK OF SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE DID FOR ME OUT OF NOTHING BUT THEIR LOVE FOR ME.**

**MY KIDS = LOVE TO ME.**

**\* \* \***

**INNOCENCE & UNDERSTANDING MAKES ME FEEL LOVED. LOVE MAKES ME FEEL SAFE BECAUSE IT FEELS WARM AND CLOSE AND CHANGES MY ENERGY INTO A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT WHICH DIMINISHES ANY NEGATIVE THOUGHTS OR REALITY PROBLEMS. ACTS OF LOVE I APPRECIATE IS QUALITY TIME AND COMMUNICATION. ADORATION IS ALWAYS NICE. BUT FOR NOW, LOVE ONLY EXISTS WITHIN MY INTERNAL SELF AND MY FAMILY AS I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYONE TO SHARE IT WITH. IT CAN STILL BE A BEAUTIFUL WORLD ALONE, MAKES ME DISCOVER MORE ABOUT MYSELF & WHAT MAKES ME LOVING.**

**\* \* \***

**LOVE IS SUCH A BIG WORD THAT IT'S DIFFICULT TO EVEN WORK WITH IT. FOR ME, LOVE IS MY NUCLEAR POD: MY MOM, MY SISTER, AND ME. LOVE MAKES ME FEEL SAFE, CALM, AND UNEQUIVOCALLY ACCEPTED. LOVE, REAL LOVE SHOULDN'T BE ASSOCIATED WITH BUTTERFLIES. THAT BUTTERFLY FEELING IS ADRENALINE. THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT BUTTERFLIES, THAT DOPAMINE OXYTOCIN HIGH SHOULD BE ABANDONED IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS BECAUSE IT'S VITAL IN THE MOST LITERAL SENSE. BUT LOVE IS MORE THAN AN IMPULSE. LOVE IS AN IMPERATIVE AND TRANSCENDS NEEDS AND WANT.**



**Me if**

**loving hard**

**Was a job**

**WHAT MAKES ME FEEL LOVED INCLUDES FEELING SAFE BEING VULNERABLE WITH SOMEONE AND FEELING SEEN FOR WHAT MAKES ME UNIQUE AND ENCOURAGED IN WHAT I PURSUE. LOVE MAKES ME FEEL SAFE BECAUSE IT MAKES ME FEEL UNDERSTOOD. I LIKE WHEN SOMEONE NOTICES SOMETHING ABOUT ME OTHER PEOPLE DONT SEE, OR WHEN WE CAN DEEPLY SHARE A NICHE ARTISTIC INTEREST TOGETHER THAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE WE HAVE SIMILAR EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES AND POSITIONING TOWARDS LIFE. THE FEELING OF BEING LOVED FEELS LIKE SOMEONES ARMS AROUND YOU WHEN YOUR DOWN OR SMILING AT YOU ACROSS THE ROOM BECAUSE THEYRE PROUD TO SEE YOU DOING YOUR THING. I GET BUTTERFLIES WHEN SOMEONE SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE & ESP WHEN THEY LOOK REALLY CUTE. MY EX MAKES ME THINK OF LOVE, SO DOES MY MOM AND MY GRANDMA, MY FRIEND GABI WHO HAS A VERY GENTLE AND EXPANSIVE HEART.**

**\* \* \***

**I LIKE IT WHEN SOMEONE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I MATTER, BECAUSE I'M NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL THAT WAY.**

**\* \* \***

**WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL LOVED? BEING SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT YOUR GROWTH AND RESPECT YOUR BOUNDARIES.**

**I FEEL SECURE IN LOVE WHEN I KNOW YOU WILL STICK AROUND DURING MY HIGHS AND LOWS. TO KNOW SOMEONE WANTS TO BE THERE FOR YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH MAKES ME FEEL SAFE.**

**BEING SURROUNDED BY LOVED ONES JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE THINGS WE LOVE, OR NOTHING AT ALL, MEAN MORE TO ME THAN ANY CORPORATE GIFT.**

**"THAT'S WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'VE FOUND SOMEBODY SPECIAL. WHEN YOU CAN JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP FOR A MINUTE AND COMFORTABLY ENJOY THE SILENCE."  
-MIA WALLACE, PULP FICTION (1994)**

**TO ME BEING LOVED FEELS LIKE DEJAVU; YOU EXPERIENCE THESE NEW SENSATIONS WITH SOMEONE YET IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE FELT THEIR LOVE BEFORE. BEING IN LOVE FEELS LIKE A WARM THROAT, NUMBNESS IN YOUR CHEEKS, A STOMACH LIGHT AS A FEATHER. YOU CAN FEEL YOUR HEART AND THE WORLD STOP FOR THAT SECOND. RE READING MESSAGES OVER AND OVER JUST TO PICTURE YOUR PERSON PICTURING HOW THEY WANT EXPRESS THEIR LOVE FOR YOU.**

**I FEEL BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH WHEN I DON'T HAVE TO DOUBT SOMEONE'S DEVOTION. I FEEL BUTTERFLIES WHEN THEY REMEMBER "MEANINGLESS" CONVERSATIONS. I WANT TO FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY WHEN WE LOCK EYES AND WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST PURE LOVE. I'VE ONLY HAD THIS FEELING TWICE, IT'S SOMETHING RARE THAT STICKS WITH YOU AND NOTHING CAN REPLICATE IT.**

**RELATIONSHIPS COME AND GO BUT SOULMATES ARE FOREVER. MY IMMEDIATE FRIENDS, MOM, AND PETS ARE MY SOULMATES. IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT.**

\* \* \*

WHEN I FEEL SOMEONE LOVES ME, I FEEL THEY ANTICIPATE MY NEEDS, MY JOYS, MY FEARS AND MYSELF. I AM NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT OR A MEANS TO AN END. I THINK I'M SOMEWAYS THAT MEANS SUPPORT (FINANCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY, COMMUNITY AND IN MY ENDEAVORS AND DREAMS) BUT IN OTHERS IT MEANS OPENNESS. ALLOWING FOR THE HARD MOMENTS IN OUR HUMANITY TO BE SEEN AND NOT JUDGED OR TURNED AWAY FROM. TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO ONE ANOTHER. THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT LOVE, YOU MEET SOMEONE A FRIEND A LOVER AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM, AND NOT BY THE OBLIGATION OF FAMILY, JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO UNKNOWING THEM.



**How do you  
show others  
you love them?**

**I WANT OTHERS TO FEEL SAFE AND SECURE IN MY LOVE FOR THEM. I WANT THEM TO KNOW THERE IS NO JUDGEMENT ONLY LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING. THAT EVEN THOUGH MY LOVE MAY NOT SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, IT IS THERE TO HELP THEM THROUGH TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE.**

**\* \* \***

**I SHOW MY LOVE BY MAKING THE PEOPLE I LOVE AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE. COOKING IS MY FAVORITE WAY TO SHOW I CARE FOR SOMEONE. CLEANING UP, LIGHTING A CANDLE, AND FLUFFING PILLOWS ETC. IS HOW I SHOW MY LOVE FOR OTHERS THAT I LIVE WITH. I ALSO LIKE TO RANDOMLY SENT MY FRIENDS GIFTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY AREN'T EXPECTING ANYTHING. BEING LOVED BY ME MEANS THAT, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I WILL BE THERE AND ALWAYS HAVE AN AIR MATTRESS. AS A LOVER, ROMANTICALLY SPEAKING, I WOULD LIKE TO BE KNOWN AS THAT AMAZING GIRL THAT FED ME AND THEN FUCKED ME. AFTER THE DEATH OF MY GIRLFRIEND IN MY TEENS, I HAVEN'T REGAINED THE ABILITY TO BE ROMANTICALLY AVAILABLE DESPITE TRYING DESPERATELY.**

\* \* \*

I LIKE TO AFFIRM OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE BEING VULNERABLE WITH ME AND MAKE THEM FEEL CONFIDENT WHENEVER I CAN. I KNOW WHEN I LOVE SOMEONE WHEN THEY BECOME A PART OF WHO I AM. I HOPE BEING LOVED BY ME FEELS LIKE SOMEONE IS ROOTING FOR YOU & THINKS YOU'RE SICK. I TRY TO BE GENEROUS AND ALSO TELL THE PEOPLE I LOVE HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO KNOW THEM

I WENT TO YOUR  
HOOD  
AND EVERYBODY  
KNEW AND  
LOVED YOU!!!!!!

\* \* \*

I TRY TO SHOW UP, IN THE WAYS I FEEL AVAILABLE TO. SOMETIMES THAT'S A RIDE SOMEWHERE, OR HELPING SOMEONE MOVE, SUPPORTING MY FRIENDS CAUSES. ROMANTICALLY I LOVE PROVIDING A SOFT PLACE TO LAND WHEN THE WORLD IS HARD. I GIVE SO MUCH OF MY INTENTION AND I FEEL THAT'S A POWERFUL THING.

**One thing about me is  
I'm a Very Loving  
Person I have a lot of  
Love in my heart**

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT AND GIFTS IS MY WAY OF SHOWING AFFECTION TO FRIENDS. THESE GIFTS ARE SPECIAL BECAUSE THEY'RE RANDOM & SMALL BUT MEANINGFUL. COULD BE A STICKER, SOMETHING I THRIFTED, SOMETHING I DREW. I THINK I MAKE OTHERS FEEL SAFE BY LETTING THEM KNOW I CARE ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT & FEEL SINCE MANY PEOPLE SEEM TO FEEL INVALIDATED OR BELITTLED WHEN THEY SHOULDN'T.

I KNOW I MIGHT SOUND SERIOUS BUT DURING MOMENTS OF CONTACT WITH LOVED ONES I EXPRESS FREE AND HAPPY ENERGY BECAUSE I GENUINELY HAVE SO MUCH VALUE FOR THE PEOPLE I SURROUND MYSELF WITH

\* \* \*

**I TRY AND SUPPORT THEM AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO THE THINGS THEY LOVE. ALSO I TRY TO HELP THEM FEEL HAPPY.**

\* \* \*

**I WANT THE PEOPLE I LOVE TO KNOW MY LOVE IS IN EVERY INTERACTION I HAVE WITH THEM. I EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION IN GIFTS BIG AND SMALL. A CHIP I SEE THEM SNACKING ON ALL THE TIME. A MISPRINT FROM WORK THAT MADE ME THINK OF YOU. A MEAL WE CAN SHARE TOGETHER. MY LATE GRANDPA EXPRESSED HIS LOVE FOR MY MOM AND I BY BRINGING US GROCERIES AND GIFTS EVERY TIME HE VISITED JUST BECAUSE HE COULD. I NEVER REALIZED I FOLLOWED HIS LOVE PATTERN UNTIL MY BEST FRIEND POINTED IT OUT TO ME. I'M SO THANKFUL TO HAVE FELT HIS LOVE BECAUSE I WANT TO SHARE THAT LOVE I FELT ONTO THE NEXT PERSON.**

**I WOULD HOPE BEING LOVED BY ME FEELS LIKE A FRIEND THAT ALWAYS WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU. SHE'LL NEVER JUDGE YOU BECAUSE SHE KNOWS LIFE IS A PROCESS AND THERE'S NO RIGHT OR WRONG WAY TO BE YOU. SHE WILL GIVE YOU ADVICE TIL HER FACE IS BLUE OR SIT IN SILENCE WHILE YOU TELL ME YOUR STORY.**

**I HAVE SO MUCH LOVE STORED IN MY BODY THAT'S READY TO EXPLODE ONTO THAT ONE PERSON. IT'S CONSISTENTLY HARD FOR ME TO CONTAIN ALL OF THE LOVE. WHEN I FIND THAT PERSON, I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN THAT PERSON TO KNOW THAT I'M THERE FOR THEM. I AM A PASSIONATE AND CARING LOVER BECAUSE I'M A PASSIONATE CARING FRIEND, FIRST.**

**I LOVE YOU WHEN I'M REMINDED OF YOU ALL HOURS OF THE DAY IN RANDOM THINGS. YOU POP INTO MY MIND BECAUSE IT COMFORTS ME. I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU MAKE ME NOSTALGIC. I'M NOSTALGIC BECAUSE I WANT TO FEEL THAT FEELING ALL OVER AGAIN. I LOVE SOMETHING WHEN I CAN PICTURE IT IN MY MIND FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I LOVE LOVE.**

**What does  
your utopian  
neighborhood  
look like?**

**MY IDEAL SOCIETY IS COMPLICATED, AS ANY SOCIETY IS. WE HAVE CROSSED THE THRESHOLD, TECHNOLOGICALLY, WHERE WE CANNOT REVERT TO AN AGRARIAN, COLLECTIVIST SOCIETY. IT WOULD COLLAPSE IMMEDIATELY. A UTOPIAN NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURES SEMI-HIGH RISES THAT ARE COVERED IN PLANTS AND EVERYTHING IS SOLAR POWERED. HOUSING IS FREE AND GUARANTEED. THERE ARE NO LONGER PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND THE IVY SYSTEM IS ABOLISHED. ALL STUDENTS ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLING, AND STUDENTS THAT ARE NEURODIVERGENT ARE GIVEN EXTRA CARE/CLASSES. BUT THEY ARE NEVER COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM EVERYONE ELSE. PEOPLE HAVE JOBS AND ARE PAID A WAGE BUT THAT WAGE HAS TO BE CONGRUOUS WITH THEIR LABOR AND TIME. UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME IS PROVIDED FOR EVERYONE. IT'S ENOUGH TO SURVIVE OFF OF. YOU HAVE TO WORK IF YOU WANT A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING UNLESS YOU ARE DISABLED.**

**\* \* \***

I THINK A SCENARIO WHERE I DON'T HAVE AS MUCH SOCIAL ANXIETY OR FEAR OF NEGATIVE INTERACTIONS. I THINK A COMMUNITY THAT HELPS LIFE BE A LITTLE EASIER IS WHAT I'D WANT.



Okay so...  
theres this thing  
called  
**love**  
and me & my girls  
well...weve gone pro

**NOBODY IS HUNGRY, EVERYBODY HAS TIME IN THE DAY FOR JOY AND THEIR DIGNITY IS ACKNOWLEDGED AT WORK AND IN EVERY DAY INTERACTIONS. AFFORDABLE HEALTHY GROCERIES, REAL LONG TERM HOLISTIC AND FREE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES, SCHOOLS THAT SUPPORT TEACHERS AND ARE NOT FUNDED BY AREA CODE, HEALTHCARE AS A HUMAN RIGHT, UNIVERSAL RENT CONTROL, FREE DAYCARE, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN EVERYTHING, A DIVERSE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY, THE FUCKING CHILD TAX CREDIT, REPARATIONS.**

**LESS POVERTY = LESS TRAUMA & DESPERATION = LESS CRIME**

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IT WILL BE A PLACE WHERE MATERIAL GOODS ARE NOT THE WAY TO SHOW STATUS. KINDNESS TO THE EARTH AND OTHERS ARE THE WAY. PUNISHMENTS ARE NOT THE NORM. REHABILITATION AND CARING AND COMPASSION ARE THE NORM, NOT THE EXCEPTION. NO ONE IS SCARED TO ASK FOR HELP AS IT IS READILY AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT. HOMELESSNESS IS A THING OF THE PAST AS EVERY CITIZEN HAS THEIR BASIC NEEDS MET. WOMEN ARE REVERED AND NOT CONSIDERED LESS THAN.

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A FOREST AND WE ARE ALL CUTE ANIMALS.

\* \* \*

A COMMUNITY THAT EXPRESSES THEMSELVES ARTISTICALLY WITHOUT REPERCUSSION AND FINANCIAL BURDEN IS MY UTOPIAN WORLD. NO MORE COG IN THE MACHINE JOBS. NO MORE SOCIAL CLASSES ONLY HUMANS SUPPORTING HUMANS. MONEY COMES AND GOES SO WHY ARE WE CONDITIONED TO DEPEND ON IT SO MUCH? WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY FOR FOOD AND BASIC NECESSITIES? WHY DOES A JOB TITLE DEFINE WHETHER I CAN AFFORD A HOME OR DETERMINE THE NEXT PLACE I GET TO EAT AT.

I WANT A WORLD WITHOUT GOVERNMENTS TAKING OUR RIGHTS AWAY. MY UTOPIA IS THE NEXT REGIME TAKEOVER. THE NEXT GLOBAL INTERVENTION. REVOLUTION WHEN?

\* \* \*

FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY AND TO EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR NEED. PLAIN AND SIMPLE. I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO BE HUNGRY/LACK A HOME/ OR SAFE SPACE TO BE. I THINK THERE WILL BE THOSE THAT FILL ROLES THAT THEY WANT AS OPPOSED TO A FEELING OF FINANCIAL NEED. ONE COULD STUDY WHATEVER THEY WANT FOR FREE AND PUT THAT BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY. I LOVE OCTAVIA BUTLER'S IDEA OF COMMUNITY IN PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

# **What does prison abolition mean to you?**

**NO PRISONS / MORE REHABILITATION SOURCES. SOME  
SORT OF SYSTEM FOR ACCOUNTABILITY. NO SLAVERY.**

**\* \* \***

**I BELIEVE IN PROGRAMS THAT AIM TO REHABILITATE PER-  
PETRATORS. THERE ARE SEEDY PERSONIFICATIONS OF EVIL  
HUMANITY IN PRISONS. THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN  
PRISONS. THERE ARE DAMAGED SOULS WHO ENDURE THEIR  
TRAUMA BY RETALIATING IN PRISONS. THERE ARE PEO-  
PLE WHO DESERVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE REMOVED FROM  
SOCIETY IN PRISONS. THEY ALL DESERVE BASIC HUMAN  
RIGHTS. FOOD, WATER, EDUCATION, HUMAN INTERACTION,  
FRESH AIR, NATURE, A PLACE TO LIVE, SAFETY, A FUTURE.**

**THEY DESERVE TO WORK THROUGH THEIR TRAU-  
MA. THEY DESERVE THERAPY, EDUCATION, A CHANCE  
TO SPEAK. THERE ARE EVIL PREDATORS WHO SHOULD  
STAY AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC. THE DESERVE A  
HOME. THEY DESERVE LOVE. THAT'S MY UTOPIA.**

**\* \* \***

**OVER THE COURSE OF A CENTURY, WITH RADICAL REFORMS  
TO HEALTHCARE AND UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME, WE COULD  
SEE SOMETHING APPROACHING PRISON ABOLITION. UNFOR-  
TUNATELY, I'M A PESSIMIST AND I DON'T THINK THIS IS CUR-  
RENTLY FEASIBLE. HOPEFULLY IN 400 YEARS THEY LOOK  
BACK AT US AND THINK WE WERE THE BARBARIANS WE ARE.**

**\* \* \***

**RIGHT NOW I FEEL THAT IT'S VERY RACIST. WE HAVE A SYSTEM THAT IS BUILT TO SERVE THE OPPRESSORS. I THINK FOR ABOLITION TO BE POSSIBLE, THAT WILL HAVE TO CHANGE.**

**\* \* \***

**IT MEANS ACKNOWLEDGING PEOPLES FUNDAMENTAL DIGNITY AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT COLONIAL POWER STRUCTURES SHAPE HOW WE UNDERSTAND WHAT VIOLENCE IS. PRISON ABOLITION LOOKS LIKE DIVESTING IN CRUEL CARCERAL SOLUTIONS AND INVESTING IN COMMUNITY CARE TO BUILD SAFETY NETS SO PEOPLE SUFFER MUCH LESS TO FULFILL THEIR BASIC NEEDS. IT MEANS COMING TO UNDERSTAND OUR INTERDEPENDENCE AND HOW WE MUST HEAL FROM OUR COMPETITIVE AND EXTRACTIVE SOCIETY IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT IS TO COME. I DONT THINK FULL ABOLITION IS POSSIBLE UNDER NATIONALISM, PERHAPS IF WE ARE TO BE ORGANIZED INTO SMALLER COMMUNITIES IN THE FAR FUTURE. I THINK RELYING LESS ON THE POLICE STATE FOR ORDER IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, BUT NOT IN AMERICA WHERE RACIALIZED VIOLENCE IS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH OUR SOCIETY IS BUILT.**

**\* \* \***

**I BELIEVE IT IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT NEEDED. A WORLD WITHOUT PRISONS WOULD BE A WORLD WITH CITIZENS AS THE CENTER NOT PROFIT.**

**\* \* \***

**THIS IS CRAZY BECAUSE I WAS JUST THINKING EARLIER OF HOW SOMETHING LIKE THIS SHOULD EXIST. I THINK REHABILITATION IS POSSIBLE INSTEAD OF USING PRISON OF PUNISHMENT. I DO FEEL LIKE A MIND CAN GROW AND EXPAND SINCE A LOT OF THE CRIMES CAUSED ARE USUALLY BY DAMAGED MINDS THAT HAVE NEVER RECEIVED ANY FORM OF LOVE IN THEIR LIFE, JUST IMMERSSED IN DARKNESS AND I BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES AT LEAST A CHANCE TO ESCAPE THAT MINDSET. OF COURSE, IF THEY COOPERATE. INABILITY TO COOPERATE FOR A HEALED MIND RESULTS IN TIME SERVED NORMALLY. I DO SAY THIS WITHOUT KEEPING CERTAIN CRIMES IN MIND AS I'M SURE GRUESOME AND DISGUSTING FELONIES MAY BE HARDER TO WORK WITH.**

# CONCLUSION

TO CREATE THE WORLD WE WANT TO LIVE IN, WHERE EVERYONE HAS RESOURCES AND AUTONOMY, IT IS GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF IMAGINATION AND A LOT OF LOVE. LOVE INSPIRES ME EVERY DAY. TO BE SURROUNDED BY LOVE IS HEALING, IT IS LIFE-CHANGING, AND IT SUSTAINS US. THE MOMENTS I REFLECT ON THE MOST IN MY LIFE ARE MOMENTS FILLED WITH LOVE.

IT IS MY STRONG BELIEF THAT IF WE ALWAYS START WITH LOVE, THERE IS NO REASON TO CREATE SYSTEMS OF PUNISHMENT. WHEN WE SEE EVERYONE AS DESERVING OF LOVE, WE OPERATE OUT OF THE BEST ASSUMPTIONS AND THIS GIVES SPACE FOR CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF OUR BIGGEST SOCIETAL PROBLEMS. IF WE OPERATE OUT OF LOVE, HOW MUCH DIFFERENTLY WOULD WE TREAT SOMEONE WHO STEALS? HOW COULD POVERTY EXIST IF SYSTEMS WERE CREATED WITH THE INTENTION TO CARE?

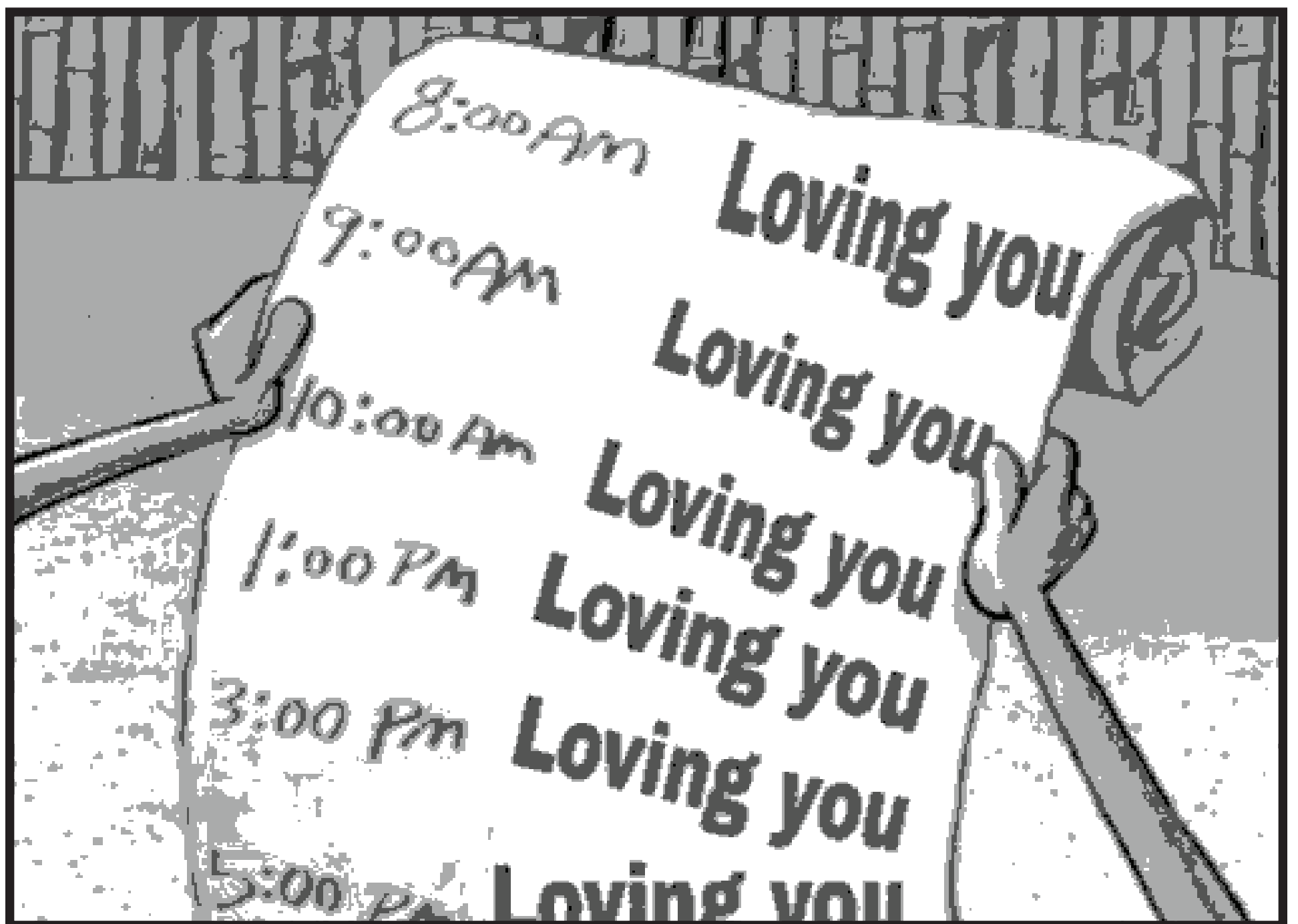
IT IS ALSO MY STRONG BELIEF THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT MEANT TO NAVIGATE THIS WORLD ALONE, THAT PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED IN COMMUNITIES THAT CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER. SYSTEMS OF CAPITALISM, WHITE SUPREMACY, AND PATRIARCHY NECESSITATED THE IDEALS OF INDIVIDUALISM AND WE ARE ALL WORSE OFF FOR IT. IN TIMES OF EXTREME SURVIVAL, THOSE IN POWER WOULD HAVE US BE

**LIEVE THAT HUMANS INSTINCTIVELY HANDLE CRISIS AS "ONE MAN FOR HIMSELF." WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IN REAL LIFE IS THAT WHEN TIMES BECOME TOUGH, PEOPLE INSTINCTIVELY SHOW UP FOR EACH OTHER. MUTUAL AID BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT AND SYSTEMS OF CARE BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE.**

**LASTLY, IT IS MY STRONG BELIEF THAT NO ONE DESERVES TO BE IN A CAGE. THERE ARE SYSTEMS TO BE CREATED AND SUSTAINED OUT OF LOVE AND CARE THAT ELIMINATE THE NEED TO LOCK PEOPLE AWAY. KILL THE COP IN YOUR HEART AND HEAD. WE HAVE BEEN INDOCTRINATED TO BELIEVE PEOPLE DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED BUT THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO HANDLE HARM AND CONFLICT. THE "JUSTICE SYSTEM" COMPOUNDS HARM AND PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS CAUSE HARM, BUT IF WE OPERATE OUT OF LOVE, THE SOLUTIONS TO HARM CAN BE TRANSFORMED.**

**IF YOU ARE STILL WONDERING, WHAT ABOUT THE MURDERERS AND RAPISTS? LOOK AT YOUR LOCAL POLICE FORCE.**

local woman smokes  
joint and notices love in  
everything



8:00 AM

**Loving you**

9:00 AM

**Loving you**

10:00 AM

**Loving you**

1:00 PM

**Loving you**

3:00 PM

**Loving you**

5:00 PM

**Loving you**

# WORKBOOK

**WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL LOVED?**

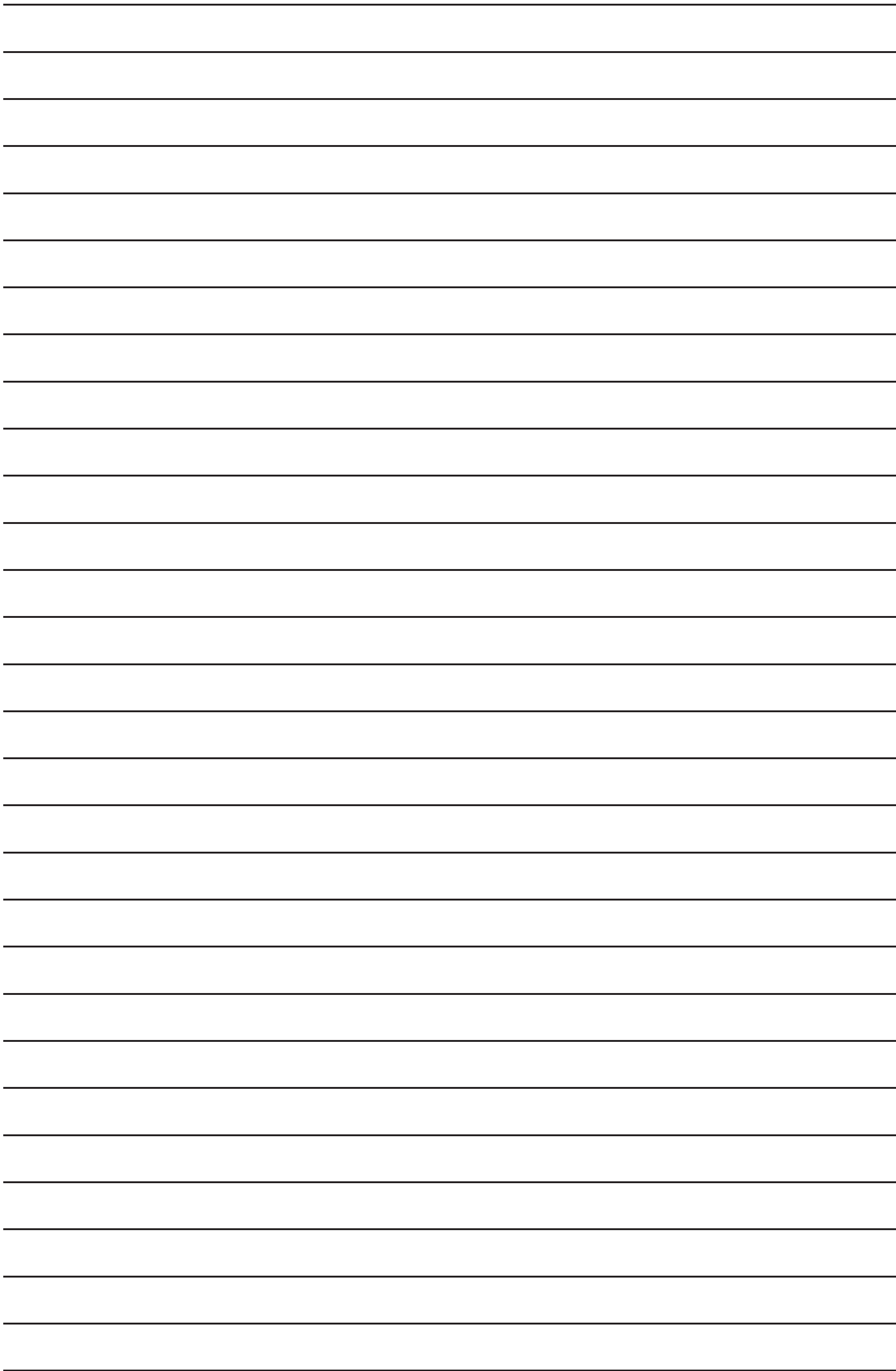
**HOW DOES LOVE MAKE YOU FEEL SAFE?**

**WHAT ARE ACTS OF LOVE OTHERS PERFORM  
FOR YOU THAT ARE MEANINGFUL?**

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE  
FEELING OF BEING LOVED?**

**WHAT GIVES YOU BUTTERFLIES?**

**IS THERE SOMEONE/SOMETHING  
THAT MAKES YOU THINK OF LOVE?**



**HOW DO YOU SHOW OTHERS  
YOU LOVE THEM?**

**HOW DO YOU MAKE OTHERS FEEL SAFE?**

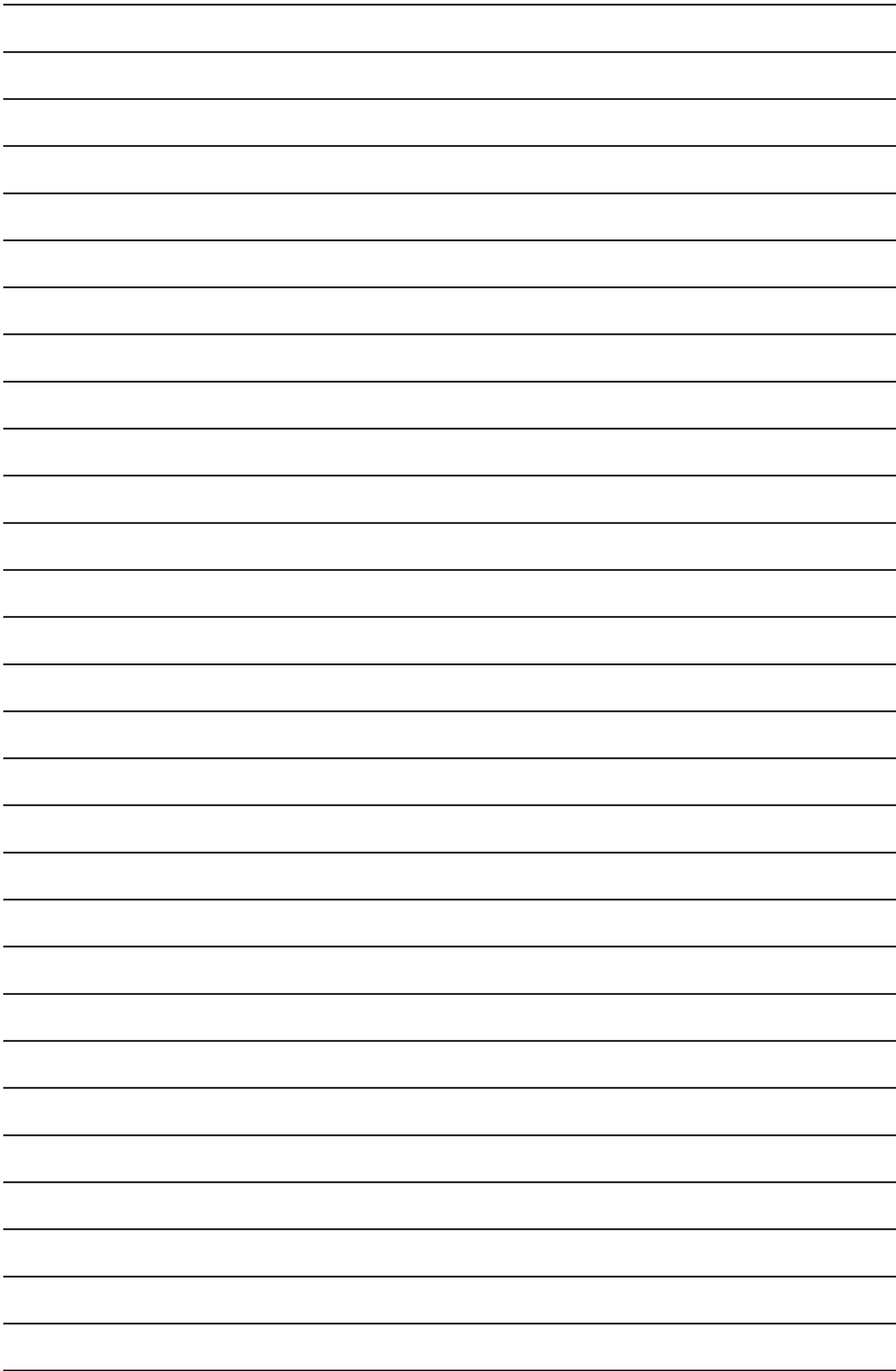
**WHAT ACTS OF LOVE DO YOU  
PERFORM FOR OTHERS?**

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE  
BEING LOVED BY YOU?**

**HOW WOULD YOU WANT TO BE  
DESCRIBED AS A LOVER?**

**HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU  
LOVE SOMEONE/SOMETHING?**

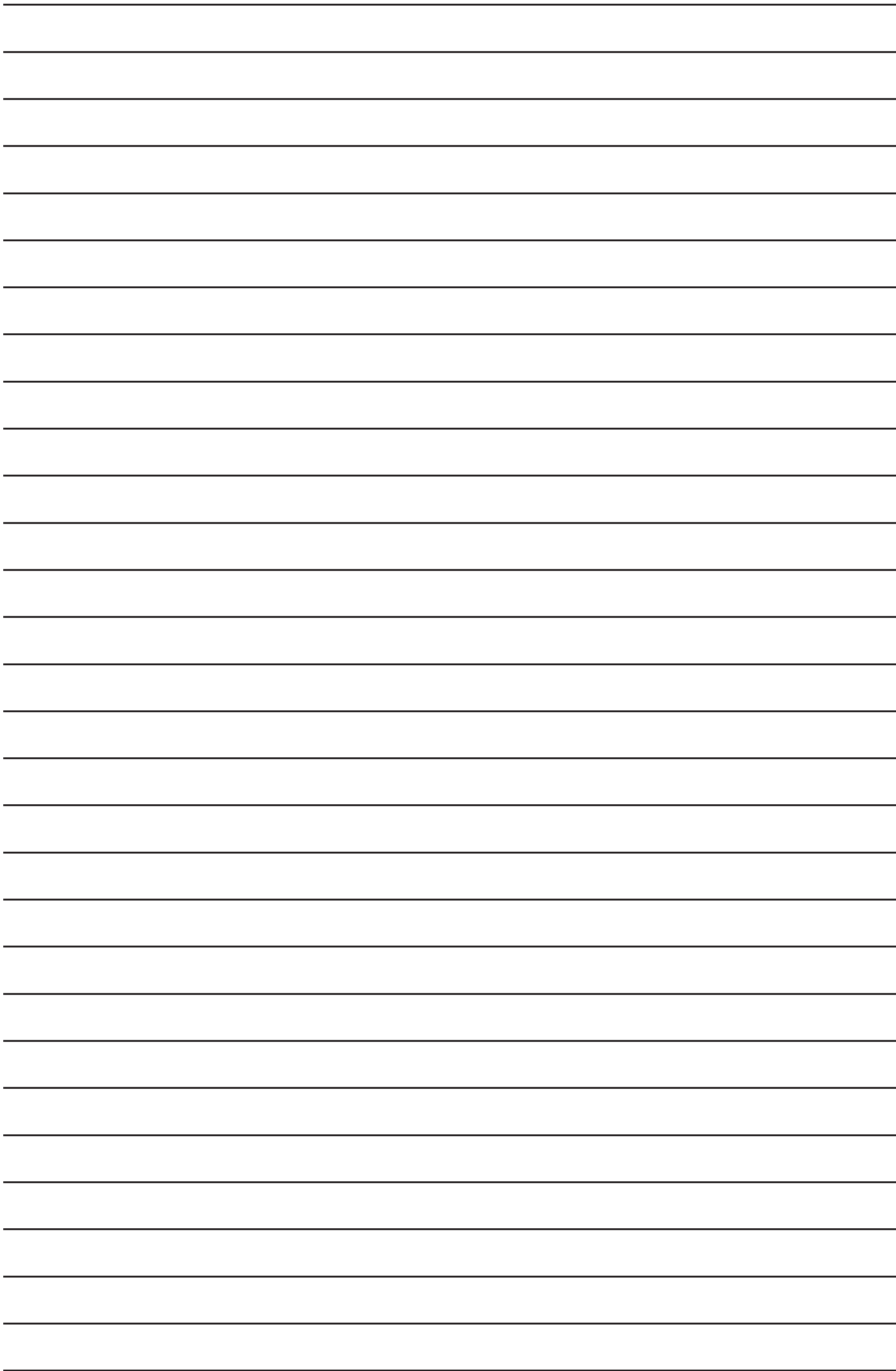
**THIS CAN BE ABOUT LOVING  
YOURSELF/OTHERS/NATURE/PETS/ETC**



**WHAT DOES PRISON  
ABOLITION MEAN TO YOU?**

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?**

**DO YOU BELIEVE ABOLITION IS POSSIBLE?**



# **WHAT DOES YOUR MOST UTOPIAN NEIGHBORHOOD LOOK LIKE?**

**WHAT KIND OF SERVICES AND GOODS ARE AVAILABLE?**

**HOW DO YOU EXCHANGE GOODS/SERVICES?**

**HOW WOULD YOUR COMMUNITY ADDRESS HARM?**

**HOW DO YOU CONNECT TO YOUR NEIGHBORS?**

**WHAT EXISTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THAT MAKES YOUR LIFE AND OTHERS EASIER?**

**WHAT DOES TRANSPORTATION LOOK LIKE?**

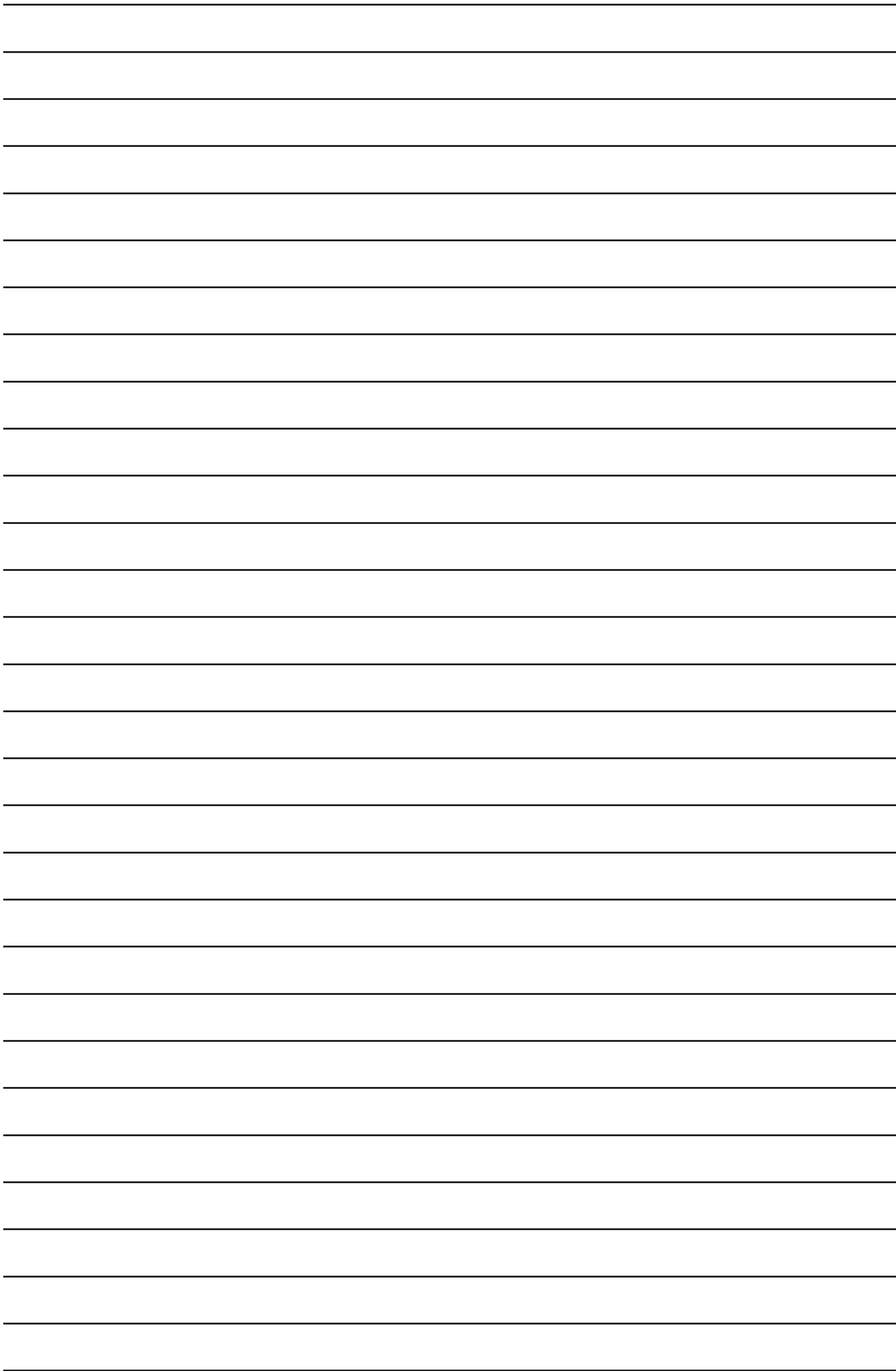
**ARE THERE SCHOOLS?  
WHAT DO PEOPLE STUDY?**

**ARE THERE JOBS?  
HOW ARE PEOPLE COMPENSATED?**

**WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT?**

**WHAT BASIC NECESSITIES ARE PROVIDED? WHAT DOES A PERFECT DAY IN YOUR UTOPIA LOOK LIKE?**

**ANSWER ALL OR SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS, TOTALLY UP TO YOU! GET CREATIVE, BE DESCRIPTIVE, TRULY IMAGINE WHAT YOUR PERFECT WORLD AND COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE!!**



# LITERATURE

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**THESE ARE THE BOOKS I READ  
THAT HELPED SHAPE MY BELIEFS:**

**WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US  
- MARIAME KABA**

**LET THIS RADICALIZE YOU  
- MARIAME KABA**

**BECOMING ABOLITIONISTS  
- DERECKA PURNELL**

**ABOLITION. FEMINISM. NOW.  
- ANGELA DAVIS**

**ARE PRISONS OBSOLETE?  
- ANGELA DAVIS**

**ALL ABOUT LOVE  
- BELL HOOKS**


**FOR AN EXTENSIVE LIST ON BOOKS  
ABOUT ABOLITION, YOU CAN LOOK HERE:**

**ABOLITIONNOTES.ORG/PRISON-ABOLITION-BOOKS**

**too damn easy to be  
COOL these days...**

**mfs better start  
learning how to be  
LOVING!**

**...or it's OVER!**



**i be waking up REAL  
EARLY to love**

**too hard**

# **LONG BEACH LOCAL RADICAL BOOK CLUB**

**ABOLITION STARTS WITH COMMUNITY.**

**IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR FOLKS TO BUILD AND  
LEARN WITH, JOIN OUR RADICAL BOOK CLUB!**

**WE ARE ANARCHISTS AND ABOLITIONISTS, AND WE  
OPPORATE THROUGH A NONHIERARCHICAL STRUC-  
TURE. WE WORK TOGETHER TO ORGANIZE BEYOND  
OUR WEEKLY READINGS, FOCUSING ON THINGS LIKE  
BEACH CLEAN-UPS, LOCAL VOTERS GUIDES, HARM  
REDUX, AND MORE.**

**WE ARE WORKING TO CREATE THE WORLD WE WANT  
TO LIVE IN BY BUILDING COMMUNITY AND COMING  
TOGETHER AROUND RADICAL POLITICS.**

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM:**

**@CARECULTURECOLLAB\_LB**

**FREE**

**PALESTINE**

**ANGELA DAVIS CONNECTS THE STRUGGLE FOR A FREE PALESTINE TO ABOLITION. DAVIS POINTS TO CONNECTIONS DRAWN BY ACTIVISTS AROUND THE EXERCISE OF MILITARIZED POLICE POWER IN PALESTINE, AND IN PLACES LIKE FERGUSON, WHERE PROTESTS AGAINST THE POLICE MURDER OF MICHAEL BROWN IN 2014 ACHIEVED SUSTAINED INTENSITY, RIGHT DOWN TO THE FACT THAT THE SAME BRAND OF TEAR GAS CANISTER IS BEING USED AGAINST PROTESTERS IN EACH PLACE.**

**SHE NOTES THAT OVER MANY YEARS ISRAELI POLICE HAVE ESTABLISHED TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS WITH U.S. POLICE, THAT THE UNITED STATES SUBSIDIZES ISRAELI MILITARY POWER TO THE TUNE OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER ANNUM, AND THAT THE SAME TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS, INCLUDING ENORMOUS, WESTERN-BASED, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS LIKE G4S ARE NOW INVESTED IN BUILDING WALLS AND CAGES FOR OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES, FROM THE WEST BANK TO THE RIO GRANDE.**

**IN SHORT, DAVIS'S WORK HELPS TO HIGHLIGHT HOW OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AND ECONOMIES THAT INCREASINGLY DOMINATE A POLITICAL LANDSCAPE DEFINED BY PERMANENT WAR AND SECURITY AGAINST "TERROR" TODAY PROVIDE ONE OF THE MAIN VEHICLES AND ALIBIS FOR ADVANCING CALCULATED ABANDONMENT AND ORGANIZED DISPOSSESSION OF POPULATIONS WHO HAVE LONG SUFFERED UNDER THE TERMS OF RACIAL HIERARCHY AND COLONIAL RULE.**

**AN IMPORTANT POINT HERE IS THAT RACISM AND COLONIALISM ARE NOT ONLY INTERWOVEN AS CONSTITUTIVE DIMENSIONS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN CAPITALIST SOCIAL FORMATIONS, BUT HAVE BEEN REWORKED AND UPDATED UNDER GLOBALIZING CONDITIONS. AS DAVIS NOTES, THIS QUESTION WAS HISTORICALLY BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY BLACK RADICALS, FROM W. E. B. DU BOIS TO THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, THAN IT IS TODAY, WHEN WE ARE LED TO IMAGINE THAT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS PRIMARILY A MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDES, THAT COLONIALISM IS PAST, AND THAT EXISTING CAPITALISM IS THE ONLY HORIZON OF REASONABLE STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE.**

**DU BOIS, WHOM DAVIS RECOGNIZES THROUGHOUT THIS WORK AS A CENTRAL INTELLECTUAL FOREBEAR, ONCE DESCRIBED COLONIES AS "THE SLUMS OF THE WORLD," THAT IS, PLACES POPULATED BY PEOPLES, UPON WHICH EXTRACTIVE ECONOMIES BACKED BY EXTREME POLICE MEASURES COULD BE GIVEN THE GREATEST LATITUDE. UNDER NEOLIBERAL CAPITALISM, THIS CONDITION IS EMERGING LESS AS AN EXCEPTION THAN AS A MODALITY OF RULE, EVERYWHERE.**

**FERGUSON AND PALESTINE IN THIS WAY ARE BELLWETHERS, CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE. ONLY BY CONNECTING STRUGGLES IN PLACES IMAGINED AS DISCRETE WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO RECOGNIZE AND CONFRONT THESE RENOVATED FORMS OF SPATIAL APARTHEID, AND THE RENEWED FORMS OF RACIAL/NATIONALIST SUPREMACY THAT INCREASINGLY HOLD SWAY IN THE SHRINKING KINGDOMS OF WESTERN PROSPERITY IN THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL, BRITAIN, AND BEYOND. TO DO SO, DAVIS WRITES, WILL REQUIRE CAPACIOUS FRAMES THAT ATTEND TO OUR SALIENT DIFFERENCES, WHILE NEVER FORGETTING THAT JUSTICE IS EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS INDIVISIBLE.**

**[WWW.PALESTINE-STUDIES.ORG/EN/NODE/212129](http://WWW.PALESTINE-STUDIES.ORG/EN/NODE/212129)**

# STOP COP CITY



**THE CITY OF ATLANTA WANTS TO BUILD A \$90 MILLION POLICE TRAINING FACILITY. IF CONSTRUCTED, "COP CITY" WOULD BE ONE OF THE LARGEST MILITARIZED POLICE TRAINING CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY: ALL BUILT BY CLEAR-CUTTING ATLANTA'S LARGEST GREEN SPACE. THE FACILITY FACES MASSIVE OPPOSITION IN ATLANTA AND NATIONALLY.**

**AFSC IS PART OF A COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATLANTA WORKING TO STOP THIS PROJECT. WE OPPOSE THE CONTINUED MILITARIZATION AND EXPANSION OF A POLICING STRATEGY THAT HARMS OUR COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS THE CONTINUED DESTRUCTION OF PROTECTED FORESTS.**

## **HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

**1. COP CITY WILL FUEL THE CRIMINALIZATION OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE AND FURTHER EXPAND THE CARCERAL SYSTEM. COP CITY WILL ALLOW POLICE NOT JUST FROM ATLANTA, BUT GLOBALLY, TO LEARN REPRESSIVE TACTICS, SO THAT PROTESTS AND REBELLIONS CAN BE EASILY CRUSHED. ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, 43% OF THE TRAINING AT COP CITY WILL BE FOR OFFICERS OUTSIDE OF ATLANTA, INCLUDING MILITARY TRAINING WITH THE INFAMOUS ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES.**

**2. COP CITY IS BAD FOR THE CLIMATE. COP CITY IS SLATED TO BE BUILT IN THE LARGEST GREEN SPACE IN ATLANTA: THE WEELAUNEE FOREST. IT WILL INCLUDE A MOCK CITY TO PRACTICE URBAN WARFARE, BURN TOWERS, BOMB SIMULATIONS, AND MULTIPLE FIRING RANGES. ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE BEEN SOUNDING THE ALARM ON COP CITY SINCE ITS PROPOSAL, CITING THE WEELAUNEE FOREST AS ONE OF FOUR "LUNGS" OF ATLANTA AND VOICING CONCERN THAT DESTROYING THE FOREST'S TREE CANOPY WILL ACCELERATE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT. THE AREA, WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY MOSTLY BLACK RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE, COULD EXPERIENCE UP TO 10 DEGREES OF WARMING.**

**3. COP CITY FACES INTENSE PUBLIC BACKLASH. IN SEPTEMBER 2021, THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVED 17 HOURS OF PUBLIC COMMENT FROM OVER 1,000 ATLANTA RESIDENTS. THOSE COMMENTS, 70% OF WHICH WERE AGAINST BUILDING THE FACILITY, WERE SUMMARILY IGNORED, AND THE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL PASSED. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS SINCE THE PROPOSAL, ATLANTA RESIDENTS HAVE TAKEN TO THE STREETS, ORGANIZING MARCHES AND RALLIES, DEMONSTRATING OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS' HOUSES, SHOWING UP TO MAKE THE RECENT CITY COUNCIL MEETING THE MOST ATTENDED IN ATLANTA**

**HISTORY, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE. IT'S CLEAR THAT ATLANTA RESIDENTS STAND IN OPPOSITION TO COP CITY, AND THE CITY IS IGNORING THEIR CONCERNS.**

**4. LAW ENFORCEMENT KILLED A COP CITY PROTESTER. THE TACTICS USED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST THE PROTESTERS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE. IN JANUARY 2023, A 26-YEAR-OLD FOREST DEFENDER BY THE NAME OF MANUEL "TORTUGITA" TERAN WAS SHOT OVER 50 TIMES BY A TASK FORCE OF ATLANTA POLICE, GEORGIA STATE POLICE, AND THE GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE FOREST FOR CONSTRUCTION.**

**THIS MARKS THE FIRST AND ONLY INSTANCE IN THE HISTORY OF U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTING THAT AN ACTIVIST HAS BEEN KILLED BY POLICE.**

**HISTORY TELLS US THAT POLICE KILLINGS OF PROTESTERS WILL CONTINUE IF OFFICERS ARE ALLOWED TO BRUTALIZE THOSE WHO FIGHT REPRESSION. ALONG WITH THE DEATH OF TORTUGITA, COUNTLESS OTHERS HAVE BEEN INJURED BY POLICE DURING RAIDS ON THE OCCUPIED FOREST.**

**5. LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ATLANTA HAS TAKEN UNPRECEDENTED LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE FACILITY. DURING PROTESTS, POLICE OFFICERS HAVE TARGETED PEACEFUL ORGANIZERS AND ARRESTED THEM ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGES OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNDER 2017 STATE LEGISLATION MEANT TO CRIMINALIZE PROTESTERS.**

**THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO TARGETED THE ATLANTA SOLIDARITY FUND, WHICH HAS BEEN HELPING ACTIVISTS AND PROTESTERS SECURE LEGAL COUNSEL AND BAIL MONEY IN THE CITY SINCE 2020.**

**IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 2023, THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL INDICTED 61 MOVEMENT**

ACTIVISTS ON RACKETEERING CHARGES.  
THOSE CHARGED INCLUDE THREE ORGANIZ-  
ERS WITH THE ATLANTA SOLIDARITY FUND.

BUILDING COP CITY IS A CONCERTED GLOB-  
AL EFFORT TO STOP MOVEMENTS FOR CHANGE  
FROM SUCCEEDING. THE CITY HAS BEEN RAMP-  
ING UP EFFORTS TO PUSH COP CITY DESPITE  
OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION FROM LOCALS.

FROM COP CITY  
TO PALESTINE,  
QUESTION WHO THE  
STATE  
LABELS A TERRORIST



CONCEPT & QUESTIONNAIRE BY

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