

Roundtable Discussions

Strategies for:

- Challenging status crimes
- Fundamentally changing the approach of the trial courts toward homelessness and poverty
- Educating decision makers and the public about the futility of our public policy on punishment
- Tackling the problems of poverty and homelessness by addressing their underlying causes

Criminalization of Youth (p.1 of 3)

- Education should be relevant to our communities (racially and ethnically)
- Develop & promote a Youth Bill of Rights
 - State youth
 - State activism: avenues for youths to express themselves; be true to yourself and your culture
- Racial Justice Report Card
- disproportional Minority Confinement Goals
 - Education, economics, juvenile justice, family system
- School funding by need as defined by student
- student involvement in hiring
- standardized Achievement test need to broaden range between failure & success
- Peer advocacy
- Don't stereotype
- Better nutrition

Criminalization of Youth (p.2 of 3)

- Experiential education (music, etc.)
- Education Incentives (bus passes, cash?, gift cards)
- Radio and TV, more media amplifying youth voices
- Police ourselves in order to promote positive images
- youth activities to open a dialogue promoting
- Empowerment strategies

6-7 2008

Criminalization of Youth (p.3 of 3)

- Solution: In short, the people need to be retrained of what we were stripped of –
- programs for children instead of incarceration –e.g. no juvenile lockups, no group homes that are interest in profit only.
- Mandatory educational centers for juvenile offenders –special needs for special circumstances –not contribute to re-offenses
- go to the communities for teachers, it is the community's responsibility to teach our children
- More enforcement for our kids when the police targets them
- Can't get money from the terminator?
- Communities can start a “Build a Nation” foundation where the “hood” puts money into our betterment? |

march
6-7
2008

Housing Strategies (p.1 of 2)

- Mobility –need to coordinate between service providers across counties (need to confront problem that housing providers are limited by rules & restrictions of a single county. Sometimes being able to connect a client to services in a sister county would help.)
- Push for private housing subsidies that comes without federal strings attached
 - Safe housing options for immigrants, people with criminal records, etc.
 - This can come from pressuring city board of supervisors to set aside \$ from city general fund
- Moving tenants towards ownership
 - Collaborative ownership options, sweat-equity
 - See Homefulness Project (brochure in POOR Mag. Table)

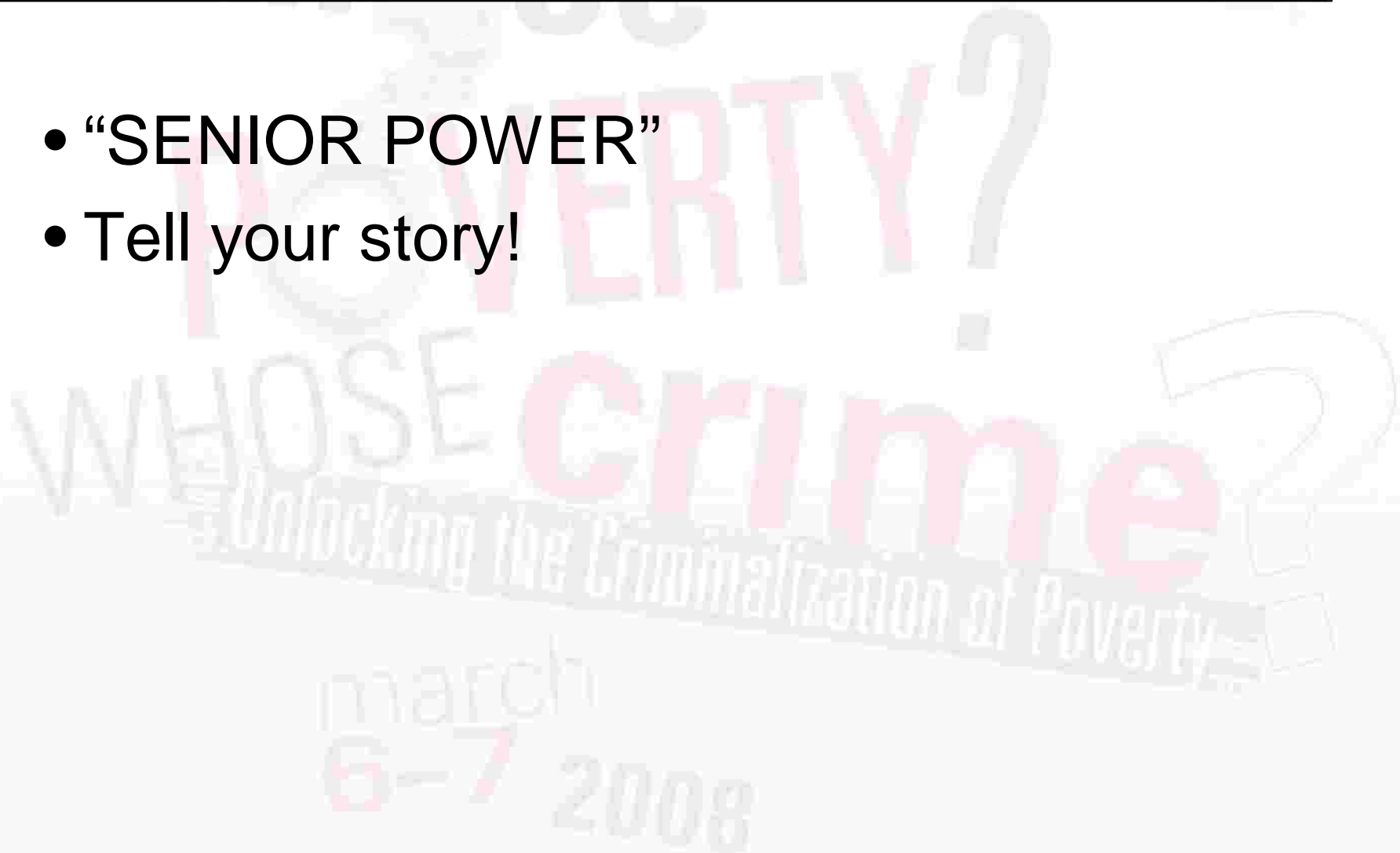
Housing Strategies (p.2 of 2)

- Lobbying
 - We cannot presume to be content with the meager amount of \$ currently put toward affordable & public housing
- Tenant Rights
 - Addressing the challenge that tenant rights often in conflict with one another
 - Look to build tenant-run leadership strategies within building; also tenant housing workshops
 - Connect economic development, housing development, and community development
 - E.g. programs for employers to hire local work-force
- SF, conduct surveys to evaluate # of empty units in public housing
 - Pressure housing authority to allow tenants to fill those units, possibly through sweat equity & making their own repairs

6-7 2008

Criminalization of Elders

- “SENIOR POWER”
- Tell your story!



Criminalization of Vets (p1 of 2)

- Educate yourselves about the costs of wars – 3 trillion dollars could be providing for the human rights of housing, education, etc.

March
6-7 2008

Criminalization of Vets (p2 of 2)

- Educate yourselves about vets and their need for legal representation and the vets Bill of Rights
- Visit Swords to Plowshares website to learn more:

www.stp-sf.org

Criminalization of Women and Families

- Collaborative share & bigger collaboration à making connections to build consensus on this issue.
- Sex workers
- Young women
- Researchers/Academy
- CBOs
- Faith community
- Schools
- Mothers who have children in juvenile justice system
- Legislators/Polycymakers
- Media –all types
- Public defenders
- Public agencies
- Advocacy groups
- SuperBabyMamas on welfare
- Economic Justice
- Reproductive Rights groups

Resources

- POOR Magazine: www.poormagazine.org
- Healthcare for the Homeless: (510) 533-4663
- Center for Young Women's Development:
(415) 703-8800
- Lifetime: (510) 352-5160
www.geds-to-phds.org

Criminalization of People with Disabilities and Addiction (p1 of 2)

- Hold mayors, supervisors, etc. to deliver services that clients want –not just politically preferred
- Macro issues –politics, economics, power issues
 - Where is our money going?
 - Stop the war!
 - Can we ever change the micro issue without macro political changes?
- Coalition building
- Police training –but limited value because bigger problem is lack of housing
- Better rehabilitation in prisons

Criminalization of People with Disabilities and Addiction (p2 of 2)

- Develop comprehensive employment strategy
- Provide legal defense at initial point of contact with the criminal justice system
- Publicize incarceration as the more expensive consequence of not promoting rehabilitation
- People power –politicians and media come from people!
- Community control
- Improve public education

Litigation to Eliminate Status Crimes

- Create your own bureau of info and statistics for CA on homelessness so we can share information on #'s of disabled, lack of housing, cost & criminalization
- Coalition building between advocates for the homeless, disabled, youth services, prison abolitionist
- proposals that hit cities in the pocketbook like requiring disability & mental health facilities in jail.

6-7 2008

Homeless Courts

- Advocate for outreach before arrest or citation to offer services/housing.
- Encourage criminal justice partners to advocate and inform the public and government about inability of criminal justice system to address homeless status crimes and advocate for more housing/services.

Media Strategies

- Criminalization of poverty as a media strategy connecting the global & local poverty dots in the media
- A journalist investigation on eugenist movement
- Expand our notions of what media is – “talking to people” –graffiti, hip hop, poetry, story telling
- WRFG.ORG
- The Bayview newspaper, Street Sheet, Street Spirit, POOR Magazine/POORNews Network as required reading for J-school at UCB
- Town Hall Meeting on Bayview Resistance
- Politicizing/educating media professionals on issues of poverty, racism, etc.
- Credited internships at POOR Magazine, the SF Bayview, and Street Sheet