

HEAL SKILLSHARE #2

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CARCERAL FEMINISM

- Definition of Carceral Feminism:
 - Coined by Elizabeth Bernstein
 - Advocating for policing, prosecution, borders, and imprisonment as the primary solution to gender-based violence
- Problems with Carceral Feminism:
 - The state itself perpetuates violence and isn't accessible to marginalized communities
 - Prisons are sites of violence
 - Gender-based violence perpetuates binarism and erases violence against non-women
 - Economic and racial inequalities are the driving force of domestic violence
 - Not prevention just punishment
- How It Shows Up In Our Work:
 - Directing energy towards the criminal justice system as the solution
 - Conflating criminal justice with healing justice
 - Looking at harm doers of children as irredeemable monsters deserving of imprisonment
 - Putting the focus on marginalized communities

DECISION MAKING

- Definition of Group Decision Making:
 - The process where the group as a whole makes a decision, most effective when the group is under 7
- Decision Making Techniques:
 - Flop: brainstorming without action
 - Delegating to an expert
 - Averaging: finding middle ground
 - Voting: majority rule
 - Listing pros and cons
 - Ranking the possibilities
- Groupthink and Consensus:
 - Groupthink is the desire to avoid dissent from the group's position so as to maintain a consensus of the group.
 - Not productive for decision making
 - Consensus is finding an established proposal that all members can support.
 - Concept comes from Indigenous circles

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Accountability is:
 - A long process
 - Being vulnerable
 - Showing up in a space where accountability is possible
 - Committing to yourself and your community
 - Taking responsibility for your actions
 - Changing and dissecting behavior to ensure harm does not occur again
 - Making amends
- Obstacles to Accountability:
 - Fearing loss or change
 - Assuming right or wrong
 - Wanting vengeance, punishing, and blaming
 - Perpetuating white supremacy
 - Protecting the ego and individualism
 - Distancing from those who have harmed
 - Feeling shame because of the harm caused
- Supporting Harmdoers:
 - Figuring out the root cause of someone's behavior
 - Staying close and checking in with harm doer
 - Reframing accountability as an opportunity
 - Understanding that it takes time
 - Being non-judgmental

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Trust is vital to make decisions and be accountable.
- Cookie cutter models don't work, personalization is where it is at.
- Relationship building helps to facilitate group decision making and accountability processes.
- Punishment through the criminal justice system is not a sustainable solution. We need to work on prevention instead.

