

How to Organize Legal Support

1-2 trainers, 60 minutes

Materials: Butcher paper and markers

Handouts: Arrestee info form, How to do Legal Support

Preparation

Before the training starts, put your name, contact info and the doomsday.legal URL up where people can see it.

Introductions (5 minutes)

- Who we are
- Our expertise
- If we are/are not lawyers

Who here has:

* Attended a KYR training?

* Given a KYR training?

* Been arrested?

* Supported an arrestee?

* Organized jail support?

We have handouts at the end, so don't feel like you have to take notes during the training.

What Could Go Wrong? (10 minutes)

In groups of 2-3, brainstorm a possible bad case scenario around people getting arrested and/or going to jail.

- Get answers from participants.
- As you write answers on the board, circle especially bad situations: people being injured by the police, targeted populations getting arrested, people having mental health crises, etc.

Worst. Action. Ever. (5 minutes)

Note: This section is important because it provides a concrete example for people to reference for the rest of the training while they think about how they might organize legal support.

- With the participants, use as many of the ideas from the above brainstorm as possible to come up with the worst action ever.
- You can leave out anything that's off-topic or extremely unlikely (i.e. someone getting killed by the cops), but try to include as much of the bad stuff as possible.
- Outline a scenario on the board like a short story, from beginning to end.
- Leave this piece of butcher paper up so people can refer to it in the next section.

Hindsight is 20/20 (15 minutes)

After "seeing" this, what legal support do you wish had been provided?

Before (write this heading on the board)

- KYR trainings so people don't touch the police or make other "dumb" mistakes
- Gather people's information so they don't get lost in the system
- Organize lawyers so folks know the risks and how to minimize them
- Research jail locations, phone #s, procedures, etc.

During (write this heading on the board)

- Legal observers to watch the cops
- A backup plan for folks in case things go wrong

After (write this heading on the board)

- A hotline for arrestees to call
- People to wait for folks coming out of jail
- Chocolate and cigarettes for folks coming out of jail
- Hookups for movement lawyers for criminal defense
- Organizing long term support and civil suits against the cops!

Tracking Arrestees (10 minutes)

Tracking arrestees in the system is perhaps the single most important thing you can do.

This is especially true for folks who are targeted by the system. Who falls into that category?

- * Trans folk
- * Queer folks
- * People of color
- * The undocumented
- * The elderly
- * Folks with serious physical / mental health issues
- * People with warrants
- * People who need to take medication

Who's missing from this list? *Make sure people have a chance to add as many more categories of targeted people as possible.*

How can you support people in jail?

- * Contact the people they want you to
- * Give them the story the arrestees want them to hear!
- * Feed their pets, water their plants, etc.
- * Help them raise bail \$ (have a plan for this!)
- * Have a lawyer to get them access to prescriptions / medical care

Q & A (10 minutes)

- *Tell folks you'll stick around to answer any questions they don't feel comfortable asking in front of the group.*
- *Answer any remaining questions.*
- *Refer folks to the contact info and website URL on the board if they have any other questions for us!*

Evaluation (5 minutes)

- Get pluses and deltas for the training.
- *Tell participants that critical (negative) feedback is the most important for us*

After the Training

- Pass out the handouts
- Stick around to answer any questions