

Queer & Trans Jail Stoppers Talking Points on Jail Expansion

Why are queer and trans people resisting Seattle's plans to build a new jail?

1. Jails and prisons are enormous sources of violence for queer and trans people.

Queer and trans people are targeted for rape and sexual assault in prisons, jails and juvenile punishment facilities regularly. Trans women are placed in men's prisons and jails all over the US, experiencing enormous violence. Queer and trans people also experience severe medical neglect in prisons, jails, and juvenile punishment programs.

2. Queer and trans people are overrepresented in prisons and jails.

Queer and trans people, especially people of color, are disproportionately poor and homeless due to job discrimination, school discrimination and family rejection. Many are discriminated against when they seek help from social services, foster care systems, homeless shelters and drug treatment facilities. Many survive by doing criminalized work, like sex work, and face profiling and harassment and brutality by police. All of these conditions result in high incidence of arrest and imprisonment of queer and trans people.

3. Issues of gender and sexual violence are being used to justify the ongoing growth of imprisonment, and we won't let them create more state violence in our names.

In recent years social movements that have pointed out the enormous amount of sexual and gender violence in our culture have found our arguments co-opted by the state to justify increased policing and imprisonment. We're now told that policing and punishment is the solution to domestic violence, sexual assault and hate violence, but we know that imprisonment does not address the root causes of these problems, does not make our communities safe, and increases our vulnerability. The prison is the worst rapist, batterer and predator of queer people, trans people and women, and we won't watch it expand in our names!

4. Imprisonment has quadrupled in the US since 1980, and targets people of color, poor people, women, and sexual/gender outsiders.

The US imprisons 25% of the world's prisoners though we have only 5% of the world's population. One in one hundred people in the US are imprisoned, and one in nine black

men between the ages of 20 and 34 are imprisoned. We won't stand by while this expansion continues in Seattle.

- 5. We want community responses to violence, drug use, and poverty that actually make us safer, not prisons and jails that ruin people's lives and expand violence.**

Seattle wants to spend \$200 million on a new jail while it closes schools and cuts social services. We want that money for real solutions to the root causes of social problems.

Stonewall was a riot against police harassment and brutality! Remember our queer roots resisting the racist, homophobic, transphobic criminal punishment system! Seattle queer and trans people say NO NEW JAIL