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*MA thesis (Peace and Conflict Studies)*

# TRANSFORMATIVE SOLUTIONS TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

# INTRODUCTION

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- ✘ ***The death penalty or castration is not going to cure society of [sexual] violence. We have to look at the roots of this violence: inequality, injustice, inequity and a very bad system of governance, where the systems you've put in place to implement the law are exploiting it for their own purpose. So what we really need is to look at the total picture.***

–Aruna Roy

- ✘ ***I am not proposing that sexual violence and domestic violence will no longer exist. I am proposing that we create a world where so many people are walking around with the skills and knowledge to support someone that there is no longer a need for anonymous hotlines. I am proposing that we break through the shame of survivors (a result of rape culture) and the victim-blaming ideology of all of us (also a result of rape culture), so that survivors can gain support from the people already in their lives. I am proposing that we create a society where community members care enough to hold an abuser accountable so that a survivor does not have to flee their home. I am proposing that all of the folks that have been disappointed by systems work together to create alternative systems. I am proposing that we organize.***

–Rebecca Farr, CARA  
member

# CENTRAL QUESTION

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- ✘ *How is a restorative/transformational vision of justice being applied to sexual violence within anti-authoritarian/social justice organizations?*

# KEY TERMS

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## ✘ Restorative Justice

- + Zehr's harms, needs, obligations
- + Braithwaite's 'reintegrative shaming'

## ✘ Transformative Justice

- + Harris's 4 conceptual connections

## ✘ Sexual Violence

## ✘ Survivor

## ✘ Perpetrator (Actor)

## ✘ Social Justice/Anti-Authoritarian Organizations

# WHY SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

- × Silent epidemic
- × Can affect anyone, anywhere, at any time
- × Personal and political

# WHY SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS?

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- × Promote laudable goals
- × Receptive audience
- × Strengthen internal culture

# EXISTING MODELS

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- ✘ Restorative Systems & Circles
- ✘ Restorative Conferencing
- ✘ Peacemaking Circles
- ✘ Victim-Offender Dialogue
- ✘ Transformative Justice (Generation Five)
- ✘ Chrysalis Collective Model
- ✘ Hollow Water

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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- ✘ Snowball sampling
- ✘ Grounded Theory
- ✘ Action Research
- ✘ Potential biases

# THEME #1

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## IDEOLOGY

*...not all is ideology, beneath the ideological mask, I am also a human person.*

–Slavoj Zizek

# THEME #2

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## SAFETY

*People often believed they were safer in the light, thinking monsters only came out at night. But safety – like light – is a façade.*

–C.J. Roberts

# THEME #3

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## ACCOUNTABILITY

*A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody.*

–Thomas Paine

# THEME #4

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## SUPPORT AND SELF- DETERMINATION

*If you've come here to help me, you're wasting your time. But if you've come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.*

–Lilla Watson

# BENEFITS

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- × Social safety
- × True accountability
- × Resource efficiency
- × Flexible, informal process
- × Personal empowerment
- × Relationship restoration

# CHALLENGES

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- × Centrality of survivors
- × Anger vs. forgiveness
- × Serving the most vulnerable
- × Safety and re-victimization
- × Potential power imbalance
- × Re-privatization of violence
- × Lack of skill and education

THANK YOU!

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**Questions?**

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