

# PSYSR

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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## Announcements

### Latest Statements from PsySR

We are excited to share with you our two new statements. We hope that these will be useful in your organizing and advocacy efforts.

[Psychologists for Social Responsibility Statement on anti-Black Racism](#)

[Psychologists for Social Responsibility Declaration of Solidarity with Palestine](#)

## Steering Committee Updates

### New PsySR APA Advocacy Working Group

We have formed a new working group dedicated to challenging APA's complicity in upholding systems of oppression.

Please reach out to our steering committee member, Maya Florsheim

([mflorsheim@wi.edu](mailto:mflorsheim@wi.edu)) for more information. Psysr working groups are open to all PsySR members.

## **Organizational sign-on: Housing is a Human Right!**

PsySR has endorsed a letter by Human Impact Partners, advocating for expanded housing access and protections in the light of the ongoing pandemic, and unprecedented impacts on people's lives.

**An "avalanche of evictions" in July:** This effort aims to support housing organizers' growing calls for expanded protections as federal unemployment payments and many eviction protections are set to simultaneously expire in the coming weeks. PolicyLink predicts this could mean upwards of 10 million evictions.

**In close partnership with Right to the City's housing justice organizations nationwide, we are calling on our health equity partners to join us in asking decision makers do everything in their power to:**

- Enact and extend moratoriums on evictions, foreclosures, and encampment sweeps. Ensure permanent refuge.
- Turn vacant units into safe homes for those who need them.
- Cancel payment requirements and suspend utility rate increases.
- Invest in quality, stable, affordable housing for all.
- The letter will be sent to state and territorial Governors in early July, with health officials CC'd, accompanied by a press release, social media, and follow-up to health workers to support local organizing campaigns.
- You can sign the letter here:

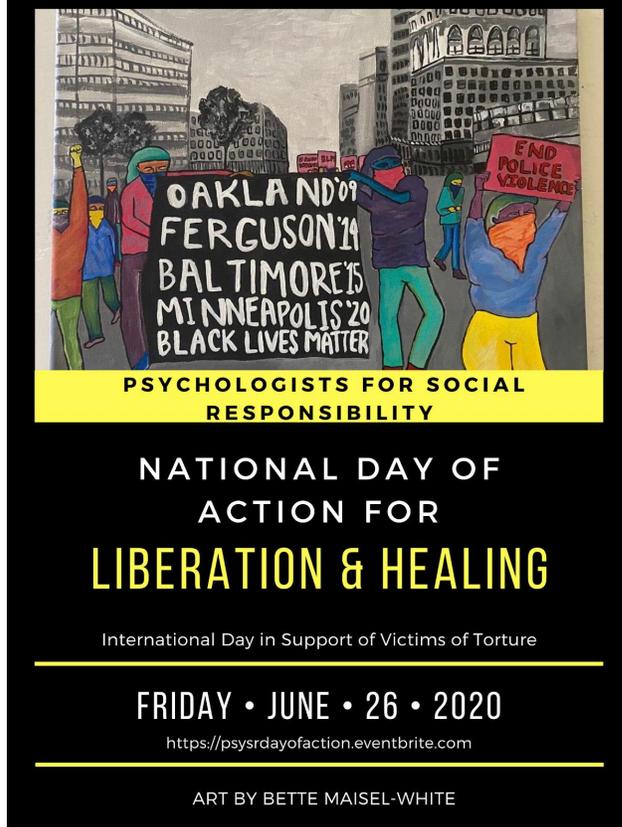
**<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/health-workers-call-for-housing-protections-during-and-after-covid-19-pandemic>**

**In addition to PsySR, organizational sign-ons include:** California Nurses Association/National Nurses United, ChangeLab Solutions, National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, National Latinx Psychological Association, Praxis Project, among several others (plus now over 500 individual health workers and counting!)

## **National Day of Action Reflections**

**Thank you!**

On Friday, June 26th, over 300 people attended the first annual PsySR National Day



of Action for Liberation and Healing. PsySR collaborated with clinicians, activists, and grassroots organizations on the front lines of the struggle for abolition and liberation to put on a series of panels, webinars, and direct actions. Together, we raised over \$1000 dollars for Bay Area Border Relief who will continue to provide vital basic resources to families impacted by the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) living in the Matamoros

refugee camp. On behalf of the organizing committee (Daniela Kantorova, Tenisha Hill, Annissa Baker, Daniella Navarrete, Monica Sanders, and Monica Noriega), thank you very much to everyone who helped make the National Day of Action for Healing and Liberation possible. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our panelists, presenters, and moderators for sharing their passion, time, and expertise with us.

If you were unable to join us for the National day of Action, please check out the recorded webinars and vigil here:

- Radical Solidarity Beyond Borders: <https://vimeo.com/433434044>
- Revolutionary Healing: <https://vimeo.com/433434031>
- Anti-Black Racism and Migrant Justice: <https://vimeo.com/433434031>
- End MPP: Public Commentary Direct Action: <https://vimeo.com/433438279>
- Defending Asylum: <https://vimeo.com/433438279>
- Black Liberation and Healing Justice: [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2566334060346919&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2566334060346919&ref=watch_permalink)
- Affirming our Ancestors: Solidarity Vigil & Speak out to Unite Black, Indigenous, Women of Color, Fighting Police Terror, State Femicide & Transcide: <https://www.facebook.com/PsySR/videos/554842581855320/>

# Upcoming Community Conversations

## Psychosocial Perspectives on Abolition: Cultural Violence and the Prisoner Reentry Industry

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

1 PM HST// 4:00Pm PDT// 6:00PM CDT // 7:00PM EDT

9:00AM CEST (July 16) // 9:00AM MEST (July 16)//1:00AM MEST (July 16)

**Presenter: Gordon Crean**

In 2018, an estimated 4.5 million people in the US were under some form of community supervision, compared to the 2.3 million people behind bars (Prison Policy Institute, 2018). The massive, expanding industry of transferring people from prison to community supervision—the prisoner reentry industry—is often touted as a “rehabilitative” alternative to the punitive policies of mass incarceration. In reality, it is largely set up to entrap criminalized people in cycles of failure, while encouraging them to blame themselves for that failure. The prisoner reentry industry perpetuates narratives of individual responsibility that attempt to blame the survivors of systems of oppression for the oppressive social conditions they face, thus justifying their continued criminalization and marginalization, while masking the structural root causes of social problems. Therefore, the dehumanizing myths surrounding reentry are a site of significant psychosocial struggle and resistance (while not always registered as such). In the current political moment of uprising and mobilization, Black, Indigenous, disability justice, queer and trans feminist legacies of transformative justice and abolitionist organizing present the path forward towards liberation and decolonization.

This community conversation will begin with a brief presentation about cultural violence and the prisoner reentry industry, then open up to a broader conversation about psychosocial perspectives on prison industrial complex abolition, as well as the roles of psychologists, critical scholars, scholar-activists, etc. in supporting abolition.

**Presenter Bio:** Gordon Crean (they/them/theirs or he/him/his) is a white settler, hetero demiguy from a class privileged background. They are a PhD student at UMass Lowell, MA, US, the lands of Pennacook peoples, where they are a mentee of Dr. Urmitapa Dutta. They co-chair the Decolonial Racial Justice Action Group and are on the steering committee of Psychologists for Social Responsibility. Their presentation for this community conversation is based on their first research paper, and they bring the perspective of a novice/beginner, as well as someone inhabiting multiple oppressor

identities.

Facebook event page:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/2123672371112575/?  
notif\\_t=plan\\_user\\_invited&if\\_id=1593665002147284](https://www.facebook.com/events/2123672371112575/?notif_t=plan_user_invited&if_id=1593665002147284)

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83390694788>

## Check Out Recordings of Past Community Conversations!

Check out recordings of past community convos!

- Topic: Decolonizing Sciences: In Science We Should Not Blindly Trust (Part 1)
  - Link: <https://vimeo.com/433435787>
- Topic: Allyship is not enough: A call for movement towards anti-racist action in and out of the therapy room
  - Link: <https://vimeo.com/426342034>
- Topic: Aloha 'Āina: Historic & Contemporary Hawaiian Patriotism, Resistance to Complicity by Proxy, & Protection of Sacred Lands
  - Link: <https://vimeo.com/424571577>
- Topic: Decolonizing Sciences: In Science We Should Not Blindly Trust (Part 2)
  - <https://vimeo.com/435200451>

## Member Submissions



From Julianna Di Miceli

I am a student at the Wright Institute in their PsyD program and throughout my time there, I've been inspired by the work of countless people towards reforming (in some case, towards abolishing) the carceral systems. Last week, I

had the opportunity to volunteer with the Anti Police-Terror Project. Me, my partner, and one of my friends (and colleagues) sat outside of Santa Rita Jail for several hours to offer supplies, food, resources,

and a supportive, listening ear to those released from SRJ. We were surprised to see so many trees and well-kept lawns framing the formidable structure that is the SRJ entrance. We posted up in the shade under some of the trees, which was welcomed on this 90+ degree day. Over the four hours while we were there, several groups of people wearing different colors of scrubs left the jail, clearly medical or behavioral/mental health professionals on the inside. They voiced their solid support as they walked by us and learned what we were there to do, sometimes offering words about their own feelings of frustration with the oppressive jail system. Two officers spoke to us over the course of our shift, both, to our surprise, supporting our purpose. We helped four releasees during our shift, and perhaps most impactful of all, listened to one black man share his experience and wisdom with us.

This man, who I will leave unnamed for safety and privacy, began with asking us about our purpose - just as many other passer-bys had before him. After hearing about our want to support releasees, he told us about waiting for his nephew to be released. The release times are unknown, a frustration that even the officers who spoke with us shared. The burden of this, though, lies on the shoulders of the loved ones and families of the releasees who are able to be there to pick them up, like this uncle. He, on some level deciding that we were people he could trust to speak freely to, told us about the time that he had spent in Santa Rita. He spoke about the treatment he received or saw others received while he was on the inside - treatment that we well know works to demoralize, dehumanize, and terrify those held captive inside of the bare, foreboding, concrete walls. We shared his joy of accomplishments he shared with us, including graduating high school despite being system-involved and being completely out of the SRJ system for the past 3.5 years. When hearing stories like these, where someone is able to succeed after experiences within the carceral system, I feel that their success is in *spite* of this purposely oppressive, traumatizing system, not because of it.

While I personally want to contribute towards the long-term work of major reform or abolition, it is important to recognize the lives *right now*, that are interfacing with these vast and damaging systems, and to support them and hopefully inspire others to do something *now* that may positively impact some individuals. One of the ways that I can do this is through continuing to volunteer with APTP, offering help to people in the moments they walk down the long, concrete ramp towards the trees and grass that are better taken care of than they were. My partner reflected on this experience, saying "My own experience was positive. I appreciated the discussions with various people being released or waiting for those being released, especially being able to discuss the conditions within the jail and how we can support people after experiencing such awful conditions." I hope that reading this piece inspires others to find a local organization that

offers on-the-ground volunteer opportunities to support people who are system-involved.

## TAKE ACTION! July 2020 Public Comment Campaign -- Deadline 7/15/2020



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PROTEST THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO U.S. ASYLUM LAW by submitting a public comment **by July 15, 2020**.

The current U.S. administration is proposing the elimination of most avenues to legally claim asylum. The ability to seek asylum from persecution is a core human right enshrined in international and domestic law (unless these proposed changes take effect).

[Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal; Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear Review](#), is a 161-page document published in the Federal Register on June 15, 2020, a Proposed Rule by DHS (Dept of Homeland Security) and EOIR (Executive Office for Immigration Review).

**The proposed rules** are **open to comment** until **July 15, 2020**. We are asking that these rules be withdrawn in their entirety. Please join us to vigorously oppose these rules on the grounds that they are unlawful and inhumane.

Instructions and links can be found at:  
[bit.ly/BABRasylum](https://bit.ly/BABRasylum)

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Instagram

Twitter

