

Readings on Abolition

From abolitionistfutures.org:

- Introductory Texts:
 - Mariame Kaba (2020) '[So You're Thinking about Becoming an Abolitionist](#)' [4 pages]
 - Angela Davis. (2003) 'Introduction: Prison Reform or Prison Abolition?; [Are Prisons Obsolete?](#) New York: Seven Stories Press, P. 9-21 [12 pages]
 - Critical Resistance. (no date) [What is Abolition?](#) [1 page]
 - Prison Research Education Action Project (1976) '[Diminishing / Dismantling the Prison System](#),' from [Instead of Prisons: A Handbook for Abolitionists](#). [4 pages].
 - Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP). (1979) [Editorial from the first issue of The Abolitionist](#).
 - Prison Research Education Action Project (1976) '[Nine Perspectives for Prison Abolitionists](#)' [Instead of Prisons: A Handbook for Abolitionists](#).
 - Oonagh Ryder (2018) [What does Justice Look like Without Prisons?](#) Novaramedia.com [7 pages]
 - David Scott / Open University / BBC Ideas (2020) [What would a world without prisons look like?](#) [Video - 5min]
 - Rachel Kushner (2019) [Is Prison Necessary? Ruth Wilson Gilmore might change your mind](#). New York Times 17 April 2019. (9 pages) [Non-NYT/reposted version here](#).
 - Hajera Begum (2020) [Rethinking Our Justice System: Abolition in the UK](#). Amaliah.com (5 pages)
 - [Ruth Wilson Gilmore Makes the Case for Abolition](#). The Intercept Podcast. (Part 1: 54 min, Part 2: 31 min.) Transcript also available from link. Highly recommended.
 - Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2005) [From Military Industrial Complex to Prison Industrial Complex](#): Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore in conversation with Trevor Paglen. Recording Carceral Landscapes Project.
 - Mick Ryan and Joe Sim (2007) [Campaigning for and campaigning against prisons: excavating and reaffirming the case for prison abolition](#). In: Jewkes, Y. (ed.) Handbook on Prisons. Cullompton, Devon: Willan Publishing, pp.696-718.
 - Julia Sudbury (now Julia Chinyere Opara) (2000) [Transatlantic Visions: Resisting the Globalization of Mass Incarceration](#). Social Justice 27 (3), pp.133-149.
 - Ware, Syrus and Joan Ruzsa and Giselle Dias, Giselle. (2014) It Can't Be Fixed Because It's Not Broken: Racism and Disability in the Prison Industrial Complex. In: Ben-Moshe, L., Chapman, C. and Carey, A. C. (eds.) Disability Incarcerated: Imprisonment and Disability in the United States and Canada. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.163-184.
 - Witlock, Kay (2016) [Prison Reform Misdirection: 5 Caveats About Private Prisons and Mass Incarceration](#) Beacon Broadside.
- What's Wrong with Reform? What are Non-Reformist Reforms?

- Berger, Dan and Mariame Kaba and David Stein (2017). [‘What Abolitionists do.’](#) Jacobinmag.com [5 pages]
- Murakawa, Naomi & #BlackLivesMatter (2015) [Liberals, Guns and the Roots of the U.S. Prison Explosion](#) (2015). [Video] The Laura Flanders Show. *Note: For the purpose of the abolition versus reform discussion, the first 14 minutes are key, but if you have time, the first 21 minutes are recommended.
- Ben-Moshe, Liat. (2013) [The Tension Between Abolition and Reform](#). In: Nagel, M. E. and Nocella, A. J. (eds.) The End of Prisons: Reflections from the Decarceration Movement. Amsterdam: Value Inquiry Book Series, pp.83-92.
- Kaba, Mariame (2014) [‘Police “Reforms” You Should Always Oppose’](#) Truth-Out. [1 page].
- Abolitionist Futures (2020) [Reformist Reforms vs Abolitionist Steps for Policing](#) [1 page]
- John Moore (2018) [Less eligibility: Why prison reform fails.](#)
- Sara Chitseko (2020) [Abolition not Reformation](#). 4Frontproject.org (2 pages)
- Maya Dukmasova (2016) [‘Abolish the police? Organizers say its less crazy than it seems’](#). Chicago Reader.
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2012) [‘Don’t reform prisons. abolish them.’](#) [Video] Remarks at CT Coalition to Stop Indefinite Detention.
- Micah Herskind (2020) [‘Three Reasons Advocates Must Move Beyond Demanding Release for “Nonviolent Offenders”’](#) Medium.com [9 pages]
- Victoria Law (2011) [Protection without Police: North American Community Responses to Violence in the 1970s and Today](#). Upping the Anti.
- Ru & Adam / London Campaign Against Police and State Violence (LCAPSV) (2020) [From Minneapolis to London: Who Polices the Police?](#)
- S Lambie (2014) [The marketisation of prison alternatives](#). Criminal Justice Matters No 97, September, pages 14-15.
- John Moore (2009) [Penal Reform: A history of failure](#). Criminal Justice Matters. No 77, September, pages 12-13.
- Feminist, Queer and Anti-Racist Approaches to Abolition
 - Critical Resistance and INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence (2008) [Statement on Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex](#) [3 pages]
 - Richie, Beth. (2014) [‘How Anti-Violence Activism Taught Me to Become a Prison Abolitionist’](#) FeministWire.org. [2 pages]
 - Sudbury, Julia (now Julia Chinyere Opara) (2006) [‘Rethinking Antiviolence Strategies: Lessons from the Black Women’s Movement in Britain’](#) in Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology p. 13-24. Available from [12 pages]
 - Bassichis, Morgan and Alexander Lee and Dean Spade. (2011) [‘Building an Abolitionist Trans and Queer Movement with Everything We’ve Got’](#). In: Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex, Oakland: AK Press, p.15-19 & 33-37. [10 pages]
 - S Lambie (2021) [The false promise of hate crime laws](#) AbolitionistFutures.com [4 pages]

- Dean Spade & Reina Gossett (2014) [No one is Disposable: Everyday Practices of Abolition](#) [videos]
- Oonagh Ryder and Mo Mansfield (2018) [“Just Paint the Walls Pink”: Gender, Prison and Carceral Feminism](#). Lockdown podcast.
- Lydia Caradonna (2020) [I don’t want my rapists to go to prison](#) [content note: descriptions of rape]
- Joshua Briond (2017) [Navigating justice for sexual abuse survivors, when you're a prison abolitionist and a survivor](#). Afropunk.com.
- Isabel Cristo (2020) [Policing Doesn’t Protect Women](#). The New Republic.
- Law, Victoria (2014) [Against Carceral Feminism](#) JacobinMag.com
- S Lamble (2011) Ten Reasons to Dismantle the Prison Industrial Complex through Queer/Trans Analysis and Action. [Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex](#).
- Beth Richie (2012) [Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation](#). New York and London: New York University Press.
- Cassandra Shaylor (2009) Neither Kind Nor Gentle: The Perils of 'Gender Responsive Justice'. In: Scraton, P. and McQuilloch, J. (eds.) [The Violence of Incarceration](#). London & New York: Routledge, p. 145-163. [18 pages]
- Molly Smith and Juno Mac (2018) [Revolting Prostitutes: The Fight for Sex Workers' Rights](#). (2018) Verso.
- Policing, Anti-Racism and Abolition
 - [Defund the Police](#) [Video by Project NIA] [4 min]
 - Mediocre Dave (2021) [Policing by Consent](#) Abolitionist Futures. [8 pages]
 - Sarah Uncles (2020) [The slow pace of urgent change to prevent deaths in police custody](#). Open Democracy. [7 pages]
 - Adam Elliot-Cooper (2021) Excerpt from [Chapter 6: Futures of Black resistance: disruption, rebellion, abolition](#). Black Resistance to British Policing. Manchester University Press, p.172–183. [12 pages]
 - [Should I call the Police? Steps to ask yourself before calling the police](#) [2-pages] [US version for now, but replace with UK version when done]
 - Kaba, Mariame (2020) - [Yes. We Mean Literally Abolish the Police](#). New York Times 12 June 2020 [2 pages]
 - Alex Vitale (2020) [The answer to police violence is not reform: Its defunding. Here's Why](#). [3 pages]
 - Koshka Duff and Tom Kemp (2020) [Would 'Defund the Police' Work in the UK?](#) NovaraMedia.com
 - Koshka Duff & Cat Sims (2021) [Abolishing the Police](#) (An Illustrated Guide).
 - Gargi Bhattacharyya et al (2021) [Chapter 2: Knife Crime, Prevention and Order](#), Empire's Endgame: Racism and the British State. Pluto Press. [10 pages]
 - Connor Woodman (2020) [Why do the police exist?](#) Novara Media [5 pages]
 - David Whitehouse (2014) [Origins of the police](#). libcom.org
 - John Moore (2021) [Protecting the property of slavers: London's first state funded police force](#). AbolitionistFutures.com

- Remi Joseph-Salisbury and Laura Connelly (2019) [Diversifying the police won't end institutional racism](#). Red Pepper Magazine.
- Lauren O'Neill (2020) [What would happen if we defunded the police?](#) Vice.com
- [Racial Capitalism and Prison Abolition](#) (2020) Illustrated Zine.
- Megan McElhone (2021) [Knife Crime Prevention Orders: Punitive, not preventative](#). AbolitionistFutures.com
- MPD150 (2020) [10 actions ideas for building a police-free future](#)
- Andrea Ritchie, Mariame Kaba and Woods Ervin (2020) [Defund the Police Toolkit](#). InterruptingCriminalisation.com (24 pages)
- Mimi E. Kim, Megyung Chung, Shira Hassan & Andrea J. Ritchie (2021), [Defund the Police - Invest in Community Care: A Guide to Alternative Mental Health Crisis Responses](#). InterruptingCriminalisation.com (63 pages)
- Critical Resistance (2020) [Abolition of Policing Workshop](#) CriticalResistance.org
- Alex S Vitale (2017) [The Myth of Liberal Policing](#) The New Inquiry.
- UK Black Lives Matter (2021) [Our Platform](#) ukblm.org
- Abolitionist Futures (2021) [Cops in Culture Series](#)
- Transformative Justice and Abolition
 - Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective (2014) '[Transformative Justice and Community Accountability](#)' [1 page]
 - Barnard Centre for Research on Women / Project NIA (2020) [The modern roots of transformative justice](#). [8 min video]
 - Creative Interventions Project (2020) [What is our bigger vision? \(Section 1, page 16-17\)](#). Creative Interventions Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Stop Interpersonal Violence. [2 pages]
 - GenerationFive (2017) 'Community Response and Accountability & Transformation of Community and Social Conditions that Create and Perpetuate Violence' in [Ending Child Sexual Abuse: A Transformative Justice Handbook](#), p. 56-61. [6 pages]
 - Kai Cheng Thom (2020) [What to do when you've been abusive](#). Truthout. (Also published in Beyond Survival Book) [12 pages]
 - [TransformHarm.org](#) [Resources Hub on ending violence from transformative justice perspectives]
 - Miriam Kaba and Shira Hassan Kaba (2019) [Fumbling Towards Repair: A workbook for community accountability](#). AK Press.
 - Gaurav Jashnani, RJ Maccani and Alan Greig (2011) [What does it feel like when change finally comes? Male Supremacy, Accountability & Transformative Justice](#). In: Chen, C.-I., Dulani, J. and Piepzna-Samarasinha, L. L. (eds.) The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities. Brooklyn, NY: South End Press, pp.216-234. [22 pages]
 - Chrysalis Collective (2011) [Beautiful, Difficult, Powerful: Ending Sexual Assault Through Transformative Justice](#). In: Chen, C.-I., Dulani, J. and Piepzna-Samarasinha, L. L. (eds.) The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities. Brooklyn, NY: South End Press, pp.188-205. [18 pages]

- Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (2020) [Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement](#). AK Press
- Aisha Shahida Simmons (2019) [Love WITH Accountability: Digging Up the Roots of Child Sexual Abuse](#). AK Press
- Communities Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) (2008) 'Taking Risks: [Implementing grassroots community accountability strategies](#)' *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Partner Abuse in Activist Communities* [zine], p. 64-79
- Mimi Kim (2011) [Moving Beyond Critique: Creative Interventions and Reconstructions of Community Accountability](#). *Social Justice* 37 (4), pp.14-35.
- E. L. Kelly (2011) [Philly Stands Up: Inside the Politics and Poetics of Transformative Justice and Community Accountability in Sexual Assault Situations](#). *Social Justice* 37 (4), pp.44-57.
- Ruth Morris (2000) [Stories of Transformative Justice](#). Toronto, Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Everyday Abolition
 - Barnard Center for Research on Women / Project NIA (2020) [Everyday Practices of Transformative Justice \[video\]](#). Featuring Shira Hassan, Martina Kartman, Rachel Herzing, Mia Mingus, Priya Rai, Lea Roth, and Sonya Shah. [14min]
 - S Lamble (2021) [Practicing Everyday Abolition](#). In: *Abolishing the Police*. Edited by Koshka Duff & Illustrated by Cat Sims. Dog Section Press, p. 147-160. [13 pages]
 - Dean Spade (2020) [Three Key Elements of Mutual Aid](#). *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During this crisis and the next*, p. 9- 20.
 - Mia Mingus (2020) [Pods and Pod-Mapping Worksheet](#). In: *Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement*, Edited by Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha. Oakland, AK press,p. 119-125. [6 pages]
 - Ann Russo (2019) Chapter 6: [Everyday Responses to Everyday Violence](#). *Feminist Accountability: Disrupting Violence and Transforming Power*. New York: New York University Press, p. 132-142. [10 pages]
 - [Good Night Out](#)
A project to help nightlife and festival spaces to better understand, respond to, and prevent sexual harassment and assault, through specialist training, policy support and an accreditation programme.
 - [DIY Space for London: Accountability Handbook](#)
This handbook provides a good model for setting up safer spaces and accountability processes for social centres and venues.
 - [Hollaback! Bystander Interventions](#)
Hollaback offers training and resources on how to safely intervene in situations of harassment.
 - [Fireweed Collective: Crisis Toolkit](#)
Great resources on how to prepare for and respond to crisis, particularly around mental health needs.

- [Audre Lorde Project: Safer Party Toolkit](#)
The “Safe Outside the System” project is based in New York but provides some great resources that can be used more widely, such as the safer party toolkit, wellness and safety planning, safer home toolkit.
- SWARM: [How to support victims of domestic violence without calling the police.](#)
- [Creative Interventions Toolkit](#)
Practical guidance and resources to stop interpersonal violence without relying on police.
- Further Reading/Other Abolitionist Reading Lists:
 - [TransformHarm.org](#)
 - [Interrupting Criminalisation](#)
 - [Black Perspectives: Prison Abolition Syllabus](#)
 - [Abolishing Prisons and Police: Five Readings](#)
 - [Prison Industrial Complex Essential Reading](#)
 - [No One is Disposable Prison Abolition Reading List](#)
 - [Resource Guide on Prisons, Policing and Punishment](#)
 - [Transformative Justice Reading List](#)
 - [Toronto Transformative Justice list](#)
 - [Thinking Through the End of Policing](#)
 - [Alternatives to Policing](#)
 - [What to do instead of calling the police - Resource List](#)
 - [Critical Resistance - Addressing Harm, Accountability & Healing](#)
 - [Critical Resistance - Abolish Policing Resources](#)
 - [Bay Area Transformative Justice Readings & Resources](#)
 - [Queer Challenges to the politics of inclusion - Resources on Prison](#)
 - [Reading Towards Abolition: A reading list on policing, rebellion and the criminalisation of blackness](#)
 - [New to Abolition Study Group Guide](#)

You can also check out...

- <https://aaww.org/a-reading-list-for-abolitionist-imagination-and-practice/>
- <https://operation4mag.com/2021/03/17/abolition-reading-list/>
- <https://scalawagmagazine.org/2022/06/abolition-reading-list/>
- <https://abolitionjournal.org/studyguide/>
- <https://abolitionnotes.org/books>
- <https://www.radicalhistoryreview.org/abusablepast/reading-towards-abolition-a-reading-list-on-policing-rebellion-and-the-criminalization-of-blackness/>
- <https://www.bostonreview.net/reading-list/abolition-isnt-only-about-police/>

And, of course, look through all the material we have at Interference Archive in person, to see *how* people are advocating for abolition!