

BUILDING
A MOVEMENT



**“Building a movement
is a culmination of all
of our resistance efforts.
Building a movement
revolves around
relationships, and strong
relationships take
time to build.”**

What is a social justice movement?

Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights, protections and opportunities. In its plainest form, a movement is a group of people working together for a common social, political or cultural goal. Movements can focus on an injustice, an opportunity for change or even a promotion of a theory or concept.

Why is a social justice movement an important part of resisting digital policing?

Resisting digital policing aims to allow us to protect ourselves and mitigate the harm that digital policing causes to our communities, until the day that we can abolish these systems of harm all together.

Building and being part of a movement strengthens our ability to resist digital policing. Just as the reach of policing spans borders, so too must our solidarity and action.

To build a movement we work together not as individuals and groups, within our own areas of specialism, interest, or strength, but as a collective, a coalition, a unified people, towards the same goal. Movement building is a key part of mass mobilisation which works to strengthen and advance our resistance work.

Solidarity and resistance is an active and continuous journey, that ebbs and flows, it twists and turns but it is active and continuous, and the movement is how we refresh, recharge, reach our goals.

In this toolkit, we have talked about tools of resistance, just as resistance work takes time, care, and dedication, so too does building a movement. While we generally engage in resistance work as individual organisations engaged in specific resistance work, building a movement means working together with others who are also working towards the same goals.

Movement building takes more time, more resources, more reach, and that means we need more people. Our strength is in our unity, and our unity comes from relationships. So let's have a look at some of the ways that we can do this work...

STRATEGIC COALITIONS IN LOCALISED ORGANISING

While a lot of resistance work happens on a local basis, and of course is done strategically, many resistance groups can find their efforts, (rightly) focused on the immediate issues that their communities are facing. But this can often mean that there are many different groups working on specific issues in a particular area. And sometimes this work can become siloed.

Strategic Coalitions in Localised Organising allows us to pull away from siloed organising and work together in coalition.

Building local coalitions allows us to work together, build solidarity, raise awareness, and strengthen our efforts. Coalitions allow us to work in our priority areas towards a collective goal. To build strong local links to build momentum, and movements can play a key part in our success.

To build a strong coalition it is important to ensure that those involved agree on values, and take time to build relationships, and understand each others work. When you do this you are able to then hold strategic conversations and make non-hierarchical decisions on how you can work together towards the same collective goal as well as work in solidarity by sharing resources, engaging in knowledge sharing and building collective power as part of a movement.



NATIONAL COALITION BUILDING

National coalitions take time, energy, resource, dedication, a lot of dialogue and a lot of work. And while we know that when engaged in this survival work we do, we may have less time for building long term, widespread relationships, we believe that they are a powerful tool and asset that cannot be overlooked.

Coalitions allow us to bring in people from across the different sectors, with different experiences, different interests, different specialisms, and create the perfect place for people to draw on these to work together towards the same goal and in support of each other. They allow us to hold more power, and apply more pressure, they allow us to share resources, they allow us to mobilise on a mass scale, and they allow us to embed practices of care by having more people to share the labour.

While the state focuses on dividing us, and weakening our resolve, national networks allow us to unify on a larger, longer, and stronger scale.

National coalition building sounds exactly like what it says on the tin, **building relationships to work in coalition on a national scale towards the same collective goal(s)**.

National coalitions can be integral to movement building, because what we know about digital policing, is that not only is it affecting people on their

door steps, it is affecting people on their doorsteps everywhere.

Resisting digital policing affects us as individuals, as communities and as a populations as a whole, and so building coalitions that work to resist digital policing on a national scale is a strong way to build momentum and collective power.

Like with coalition building and local community organising, shared values, shared principles, shared aims and goals, are key, and so is communication, trust, and relationship.

INTERNATIONAL COALITIONS

International coalitions can start from personal relationships, they can start from solidarity actions, they can blossom from social media campaigns, and they can be thrust forward following emergencies that need response. How they start, is less important than how they are built- the same tactics and tools apply, aligned values and principles, agreed goals, a desire to be in mutually respecting and trusting relationship, and active solidarity. These are the simple foundations that can create sparks that light fires which change lives, and legislation. Which empower us, create safer communities, change political landscapes, and allow us to thrive.

Dream with us friend, and take that step to build global resistance and liberation.

Here is it again, that word, coalition, and that's because we truly believe there is so much to be gained from the more people we have in relationship.

The policing of our communities is global, they are marketed on a global scale, and **so our resistance must also be global.**

We only have things to gain by working on an international level with those who are also working to dismantle the systems of policing.

International Coalitions allows us to learn, to exchange, to build, to dream, to understand, to empathise, to be in active solidarity, and the beauty and potential of the

power of an international movement is limitless.

These things of course take time, and may start small, but just as we aim to dismantle the systems of oppression brick by brick, so to will we build new ways of the world which allow us to engulf ourselves in systems of love and liberation.

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE OR GROUPS ARE ENGAGED IN SIMILAR WORK?

WHERE IS THE WORK TAKING PLACE?

WHAT SPECIALISM ARE NEEDED TO BUILD A COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT?

WHAT VALUES AND PRINCIPLES MUST GROUPS AND PEOPLE BE ALIGNED WITH?

WHAT SKILLS GAPS DO WE HOLD?

HOW CAN WE APPROACH OTHERS TO EXPLORE WORKING TOGETHER?
(you could use an actual geographical map for this)

HOW CAN WE START TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL WORK AS PART OF A COLLECTIVE EFFORT?

COALITION MAPPING TEMPLATE

WHAT INFORMATION DO WE NOT HAVE?

WHO AND WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS?

HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE AND BUILD?

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE NEED TO BUILD THE MOVEMENT?

WHO HAS ACCESS TO RESOURCE?

**WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE
OR GROUPS ARE ENGAGED
IN SIMILAR WORK?**

**WHERE IS THE WORK
TAKING PLACE?**

**WHAT SPECIALISM ARE NEEDED TO
BUILD A COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT?**

**WHAT VALUES AND PRINCIPLES
MUST GROUPS AND PEOPLE
BE ALIGNED WITH?**

**HOW CAN WE APPROACH OTHERS
TO EXPLORE WORKING TOGETHER?**

**HOW CAN WE START TO DISCUSS
INDIVIDUAL WORK AS PART
OF A COLLECTIVE EFFORT?**

**WHAT INFORMATION
DO WE NOT HAVE?**

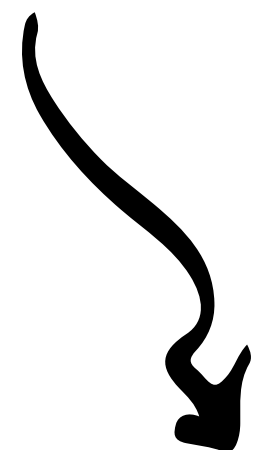
**WHAT SKILLS GAPS
DO WE HOLD?**

**HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER
TO SHARE AND BUILD?**

**WHAT RESOURCES DO WE NEED
TO BUILD THE MOVEMENT?**

**WHO HAS ACCESS
TO RESOURCE?**

**WHO AND WHAT IS
MISSING FROM THIS?**



PRINT ME!

COMMUNITY-CENTRED STRATEGIC LITIGATION

“Because it centres a community, community-centred strategic litigation aims at empowering its members and the organisations which defends its interests, it aims at building power within the community to enhance the capacity not only to react to and protect from current harms by the means they deem appropriate but also to imagine how to prevent those harms from reoccurring.

As is the case for strategic litigation in a more general sense, CCSL aims for collective change and not only for individual impact. Nonetheless, because it is led by the impacted community/communities at stake, the frontier between the individual and collective is not hermetic, those two notions – in the best-case scenario – are in dialogue. It uses the legal instrument as one of many methods of collective mobilisation in a wider strategy to bring about change.”

■ A season of Digital Rights for All: the case for community-centred strategic litigation

MOVEMENT LAWYERING

Laurence Meyer,
Co-director of **Weaving Liberation**

“Doing movement lawyering means to use and subvert the legal tool in service of movement building. This means that the most important word here is movement. How will the litigation, the lawyering support power-building, engagement with the topic with a wider audience, provide temporary concrete remedies to the communities harmed, help understand and denounce the limits of the law, highlight how systems of oppressions are too often embedded in judicial systems etc.? Who does the litigation serve? How is it part of a wider strategy of social justice change? How can it possibly harm the communities, the movements impacted by the issue at stake? In short, Who and Why are we doing this for and with? It also means recognising that a legal victory is never the only goal and sometimes can be in the contrary detrimental to movement building- even when a positive decision from a court is given”

CASE-STUDY THE MANCHESTER 10 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In 2022, ten young Black men were convicted, four for conspiracy to murder and six to conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm. In their statement prior to the trial verdict the organisation Kids of Colour stated: ‘There has been no murder. There has been harm committed by a small minority, which has been admitted to. There is no victim at the centre of this case. While we do not seek to minimise the harm caused, as defence teams have argued, there was no intention or agreement to murder, and that has been denied by all. Two have pleaded guilty to the GBH count.’

All of the ten young Black men convicted had lost a friend who was murdered. The four convicted for conspiracy to murder were convicted based on

being part of a Telegram group, created following the death of their friend. As stated in a guardian article ‘none of the four had any weapons, nor took part in any violent acts or ‘scoping missions’ to locate individuals to be targeted for violence.’ They were condemned to 8 years in jail.

Kids of Colour followed the process and put in place actions to challenge the idea that this trial, using the problematic legal ground of joint enterprise, could bring any justice to the harm that was committed while also highlighting how the joint enterprise legal ground was used to criminalise young Black men just because of the music they listened to, the friends they had and their reactions to losing a friend on a Telegram chat few hours after learning about it.



In addition to organising de- 73
monstrations and sharing what
was happening in the court on social
media—hereby challenging the narra-
tive put in place to portray the group as
members of a gang – they organised a
community support campaign, asking
community members what they would
offer to these young men if the sentence
was suspended to ensure accountability
and mentoring, among other things.

‘In June 2022 we asked you to offer
your skills, expertise and care to 10 boys
facing prison sentences, to show that as a
city, we wanted suspended sentences, and
healing-centered approaches to youth
violence. Over 500 of you contributed,
and your commitments were incredible.’
They received 517 responses, from
individuals and organisations, ranging
from attending monthly accountability
meetings, regular phone calls, access to
networks to ensure employment, to loss
and grief support, childcare support, and
access to non-educational activities such
as music or sport. This community sup-
port showed concretely how different,
multifaceted answers to harm could be
put in place, outside of the prison system.
The report was shared during the trial by
the defendant lawyer to strengthen the
legal argument for suspended sentences.
It made abundantly clear how the judi-
cial system wasn’t fit to repair harm and
provide healing, while also making other
pathways to justice tangible in a collec-
tive imagining effort.