

June, 2020

ZINE

ABOLISH THE POLICE NOW

THE FUTURE IS OURS

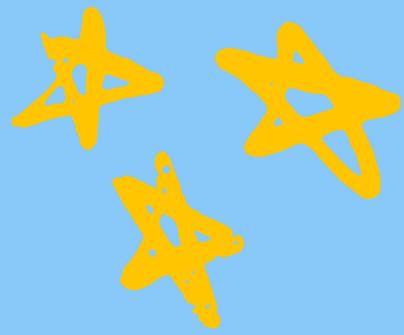
Calling for justice!

“IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT POLICE”

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHERE ALMOST EVERY SOCIAL PROBLEM-FROM NOISY NEIGHBORS TO BROKEN TAILLIGHTS-HAS BECOME A POINT OF POLICE INTERVENTION. THE RESULT IS AN EPIDEMIC OF HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE.

BUT WHAT IF WE FOUND OTHER WAYS TO SOLVE OUR ISSUES? WHAT IF WE ROLLED BACK POLICE POWER, AND ABOLISHED THE INSTITUTION ENTIRELY?

HERE YOU ARE INVITED TO THINK AND ACT WITH OTHER VISIONARIES, AND FIND WAYS TO ACHIEVE A POLICE-FREE WORLD.



what's

DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE?



distributive justice happens when **society's resources are spread out fairly**, giving all communities and individuals a fair shot.

according to John Rawls (1971), **inequality in society is only acceptable** when it allows the **poorest of us to be better off**

(for example, paying doctors more could make everyone healthier!)

policing in the U.S. is **UNJUST.**

when we invest in police
militarization, we take funds away
from people who could help **fix
the root causes of violence.**

a better world is possible!

what would a police-free future
look like for you?

community control

arts funding

robust
public
health

childcare

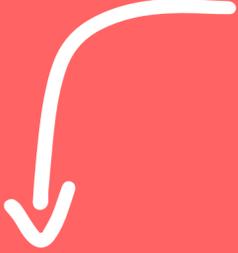
reparations



fair pay for teachers

DEFUND THE POLICE?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO MAKE POLICE ACCOUNTABLE?



Buy body cameras?

- Increase police funding to buy these cameras
- Increase the scale of policing as they can turn them off



Implement community policing?

- Increase police funding to hire new cops
- Decrease safety as police is not focused on keeping people safe
- Increase scale of policing to hire more cops, especially in black and brown communities



Do more trainings?

- Increase police funding to develop and run trainings
- Decrease safety as police violence and harm is not a cause of lack of training
- Increase scale of policing as police will go to any kind of problem, ex. mental health

Create more rules?

- Police handle the law after the fact to justify the way they decided to restore the order
- 

WHAT IS ABOLITION

WHEN WE TALK ABOLITION

Abolition: the action or an act of abolishing a system, practice, or institution.

Abolitionism historically refers to the movement to end the transatlantic slave trade and to set all enslaved people free.

The word abolition has taken on new meaning since the eras of emancipation of the late 19th century, Jim Crow & segregation of the early to mid 20th century, and Mass Incarceration from the late 20th century on to today.

Abolition today is “a political vision with the goal of eliminating imprisonment, policing, and surveillance and creating lasting alternatives to punishment and imprisonment”.

This definition comes from Critical Resistance, one of the nations leading prison abolitionist organizations founded in 1997 to build a mass movement to dismantle policing and the prison industrial complex!

**ABOLITION IS BOTH A PRACTICAL
ORGANIZING TOOL AND A LONG TERM GOAL**

Critical Resistance

WHAT DO YOU MEAN

WHEN WE TALK ABOLITION

we mean no longer giving power, resources, or legitimacy to institutions of policing and incarceration

Abolition will be a necessarily distributive practice. Defunding the police means investing in life affirming resources and relationships.

New York City spends more on policing than it does on the Departments of Health, Homeless Services, Housing Preservation and Development, and Youth and Community Development combined.

in the 2020-2021 Los Angeles city budget, \$3.14 billion out of \$10.5 billion will go to the LAPD.

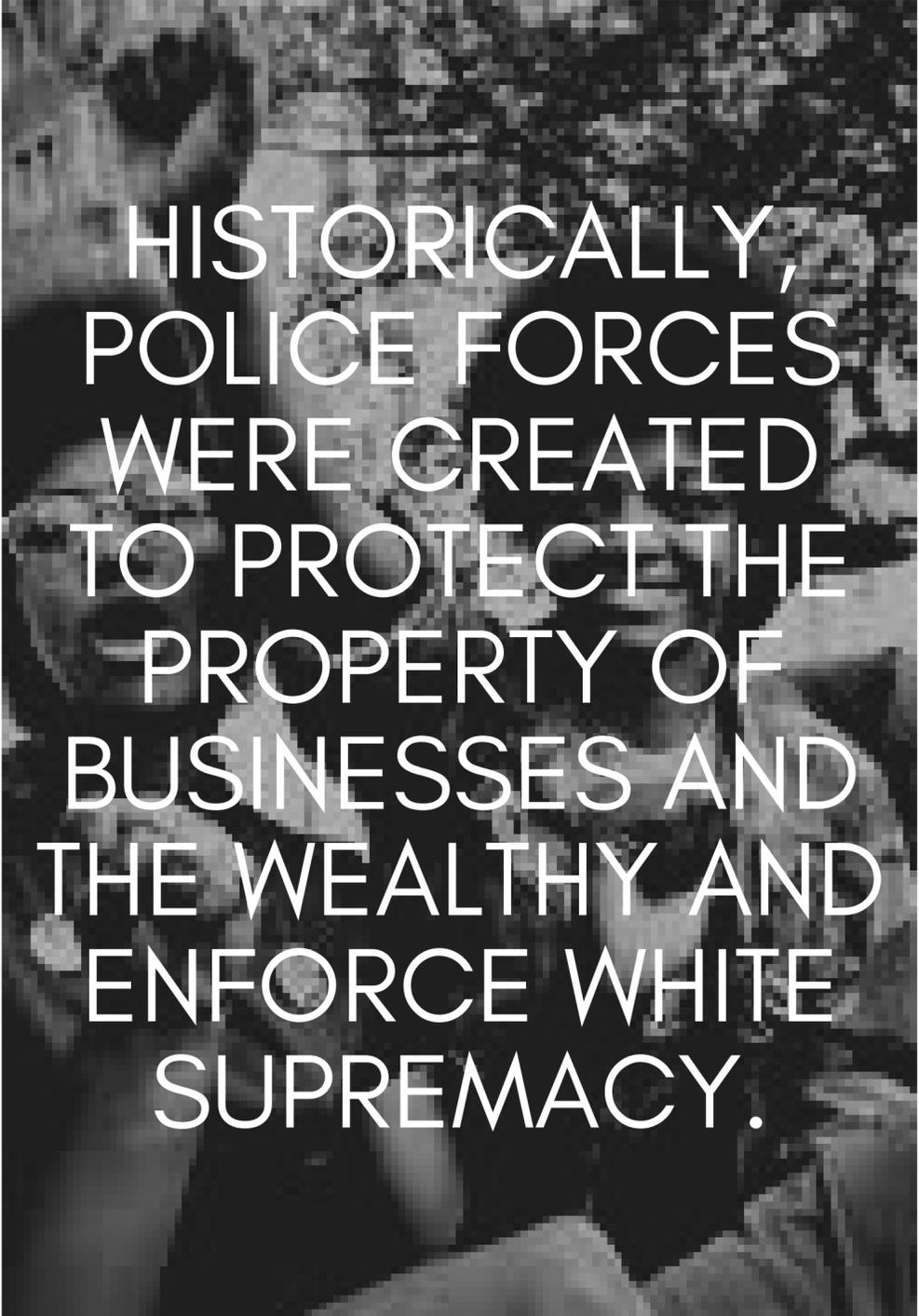
"We demand that resources be redirected away from policing and incarceration and toward a new vision of public safety that prioritizes equity, healthcare, housing, jobs and education".

-Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)

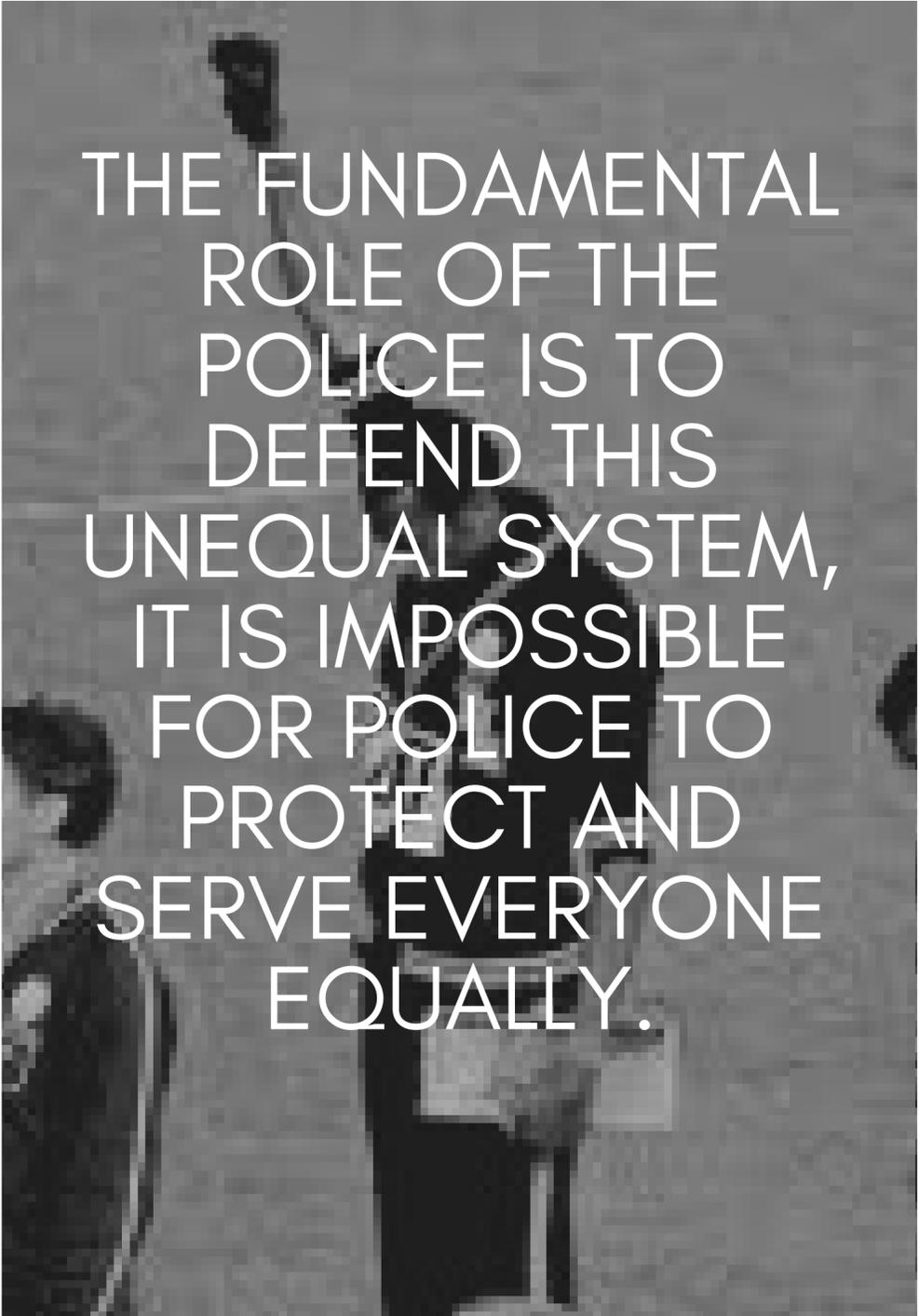
THIS IS ABOUT REVOLUTION

The police rarely focuses on workplace abuses by bosses or “white collar” crime by the wealthy. Instead they protect commercial areas, and to a lesser extent, the property of the middle classes. Crucially, the most widespread form of oppression in capitalist society is not policed at all: our exploitation on the job, where the value we create for employers is stolen as profits. Exploitation of this kind is considered entirely normal and lawful, a crime hidden in plain sight.

ABOLISH THE POLICE.



HISTORICALLY,
POLICE FORCES
WERE CREATED
TO PROTECT THE
PROPERTY OF
BUSINESSES AND
THE WEALTHY AND
ENFORCE WHITE
SUPREMACY.



THE FUNDAMENTAL
ROLE OF THE
POLICE IS TO
DEFEND THIS
UNEQUAL SYSTEM,
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR POLICE TO
PROTECT AND
SERVE EVERYONE
EQUALLY.

PLEA BARGAIN

THE UNITED STATES

OVER
95%
OF ALL
CRIMINAL
CASES
RESO-
LUTIONS

A plea bargain is a pre-trial arrangement between the prosecution and a defendant where the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge or an agreement for less punishment for the same charges. It is an agreement between the parties.

PROBLEMS

- **Governments don't want to spend the money** to take every criminal defendant to trial. They rely on the fact that a large proportion of defendants will opt for a plea deal.
- **The criminal system assumes** from beginning to end that people who agree to plead guilty are actually guilty.
- People agree for plea bargains **under pressure**.
- **It seems to be unconstitutional**, as it takes away the defense's constitutional right to a trial by jury.
- Judges are predominately **white and male**.

IMPACT

- Even if you are innocent, but agreed to a guilty plea, you still have to **pay a fine or be imprisoned** for a crime you did not commit. You will also **have a criminal record that cannot be erased**.
- As a result of being imprisoned people **lose their jobs, get sick, being traumatised, separated from their families**.

PLEA BARGAINS



ABOLISH THE POLICE

ABOLISH THE POLICE IS NOT PRIMARILY
A NEGATIVE STRATEGY.

IT IS ABOUT RE-ENVISIONING
OUR FUTURE.

IT IS ABOUT CREATING NEW SERVICES
AND INSTITUTIONS.

IT IS ABOUT HAVING MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELLORS WHO CAN RESPOND TO
THOSE WHO ARE IN CRISIS WITHOUT
ARMS.

IT IS ABOUT SHIFTING PUBLIC FUNDS
TOWARDS EDUCATION - HOUSING -
RECREATION.

ALL OF THESE SERVICES HELP TO
CREATE
SAFETY AND SECURITY

**BECAUSE SAFETY THAT SAFEGUARDES
BY VIOLENCE WAS NEVER SAFETY.**

ERIC GARNER - JOHN CRAWFORD III - MICHAEL BROWN - EZELL FORD
DANTE PARKER - MICHELLE CUSSEAU - LAQUAN MCDONALD - GEORGE MANN
TANISHA ANDERSON - AKAI GURLEY - TAMIR RICE - RUMAIN BRISBON - JERAME REID
MATTHEW AJIBADE - FRANK SMART - NATASHA MCKENNA - TONY ROBINSON - ANTHONY HILL
MYA HALL - PHILLIP WHITE - ERIC HARRIS - WALTER SCOTT - WILLIAM CHAPMAN II
ALEXIA CHRISTIAN - BRENDON GLENN - VICTOR MANUEL LAROSA - JONATHAN SANDERS
FREDDIE GRAY - JOSEPH MANN - SALVADO ELLSWOOD - SANDRA BLAND
ALBERT JOSEPH DAVIS - DARRIUS STEWART - BILLY RAY DAVIS - SAMUEL DUBOSE
MICHAEL SABBIE - BRIAN KEITH DAY - CHRISTIAN TAYLOR - TROY ROBINSON
ASSHAMS PHAROAH MANLEY - FELIX KUMI - KEITH HARRISON MCLEOD - JUNIOR PROSPER
LAMONTEZ JONES - PATERSON BROWN - DOMINIC HUTCHINSON - ANTHONY ASHFORD
ALONZO SMITH - TYREE CRAWFORD - INDIA KAGER - LA'VANTE BIGGS
MICHAEL LEE MARSHALL - JAMAR CLARK - RICHARD PERKINS - NATHANIEL HARRIS PICKETT
BENNI LEE TIGNOR - MIGUEL ESPINAL - MICHAEL NOEL - KEVIN MATTHEWS - BETTIE JONES
QUINTONIO LEGRIER - KEITH CHILDRESS JR. - JANET WILSON - RANDY NELSON
ANTRONIE SCOTT - WENDELL CELESTINE - DAVID JOSEPH - CALIN ROQUEMORE - DYZHAWN
PERKINS - CHRISTOPHER DAVIS - MARCO LOUD - PETER GAINES - TORREY ROBINSON - DARIUS
ROBINSON - KEVIN HICKS - MARY TRUXILLO - DEMARCUS SEMER - WILLIE TILLMAN
TERRILL THOMAS - SYLVILLE SMITH - ALTON STERLING - PHILANDO CASTILE - TERENCE
CRUTCHER - PAUL O'NEAL - ALTERIA WOODS - JORDAN EDWARDS - AARON BAILEY
RONELL FOSTER - STEPHON CLARK - ANTWON ROSE II - BOTHAM JEAN
PAMELA TURNER - DOMINIQUE CLAYTON - ATATIANA JEFFERSON - CHRISTOPHER WHITFIELD
CHRISTOPHER MCCORVEY - ERIC REASON - MICHAEL LORENZO DEAN - BREONNA TAYLOR
G E O R G E F L O Y D

Know their names

**BLACK PEOPLE KILLED
BY THE POLICE IN THE US**

HOW TO BE ANTIRACIST?

CALL TO REORGANISE AND RESTRUCTURE
POST-SLAVERY SOCIETY IN ORDER TO
GUARANTEE THE INCORPORATION OF
THOSE WHO HAD BEEN FORMERLY
ENSLAVED.

PHOTO © AJ ALMY, BRIDGING THE DIVIDE," IT CAPTURES A LONE
ACTIVIST NAMED VINCENT HARDAEOUS WITH HIS ARMS SPREAD OUT,
STANDING BETWEEN POLICE WITH BATONS AND SHIELDS AND
PROTESTERS YELLING, WHILE HE PLEADS FOR BOTH SIDES TO STOP.

POWERED BY THE PEOPLE

THE BLACK PANTHERS' PARTY PROGRAM



THE DEMANDS:

- WE WANT FREEDOM. WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY.
- WE WANT DECENT HOUSING FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS.-
- WE WANT EDUCATION FOR BLACK PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES EVERYONE OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY.-
- WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE.
- WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK PEOPLE HELD IN FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND CITY PRISONS AND JAILS.
- WE WANT HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE AND PEACE.

BLACK PANTHERS, COOPERATIVES AND REVOLUTIONARY EXPANSION

COOPERATIVES CAN BE USEFUL FOR A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, WHEN THEY SERVE AS AN ECONOMIC BASE FOR THE MOVEMENT, A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS TYPE OF APPLICATION IS THE WAY THE BLACK PANTHERS USED COOPERATIVES TO BOLSTER THEIR MOVEMENT.

FROM HUEY P. NEWTON "ON THE RELEVANCE OF THE CHURCH (1971)":

"THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, WITH ITS SURVIVAL PROGRAMS, PLANS TO DEVELOP THE INSTITUTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE A CLOTHING FACTORY WE ARE JUST ERECTING ON THIRD STREET, WHERE WE WILL SOON GIVE AWAY ABOUT THREE HUNDRED TO FOUR HUNDRED NEW ARTICLES OF CLOTHING EACH MONTH. AND WE CAN DO THIS BY ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL. WHAT WE WILL DO IS START TO MAKE GOLFING BAGS UNDER CONTRACT TO A COMPANY, AND WITH THE SURPLUS WE WILL BUY MATERIAL TO MAKE FREE CLOTHES. OUR MEMBERS WILL DO THIS. WE WILL HAVE NO OVERHEAD BECAUSE OF OUR COLLECTIVE (WE'LL "EXPLOIT" OUR COLLECTIVE BY MAKING THEM WORK FREE). WE WILL DO THIS NOT JUST TO SATISFY OURSELVES, LIKE THE PHILANTHROPIST, OR TO SERVE, OR TO SAVE SOMEONE FROM GOING WITHOUT SHOES, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS PART OF THE CAUSE OF OUR PROBLEM, BUT **TO HELP THE PEOPLE MAKE THE REVOLUTION. WE WILL GIVE THE PROCESS A FORWARD THRUST.**"

Voter suppression is designed to demoralize the electorate

to make people believe
that it doesn't matter,
that the system is
rigged.

It doesn't matter what
you do. Your vote
doesn't count. That is a
false narrative,

**because the last thing they want is people
voting.**

Dr. Carol Anderson



A POLITICIAN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS THEIR POLICY!

A form of voter suppression is the miseducation around the impact of voting, and the power of knowing the policies that are being put forward.



We must educate ourselves on who is running locally, and how their policies directly affect our lives, and the consequences they'll have on future generations.



When voting, you need to ask yourself: what is the plan for your community and how does it aligns with your lived experiences/values.



Systemic change happens when black folxs unify to create a cooperative sustainable list of demands from our elected/appointed officials.



Local, state, and national policy reform is the start for radical change.



Get Involved in Your Community!

Create space to...



Reflect on your lived experiences to acknowledge how it impacts your perspectives/values



Normalize political talk by having open and honest conversations w/ loved ones



Interact with diverse resources: media, books, academic sources



Learn about elected/appointed officials in your district-- start w/ local and expand to federal



Attend town hall meetings (in-person and virtually)

Make your voice heard

As a constituent you have power to determine who gets into office and whether those officials get to stay there.

1. Talk with your leaders:

- Contact your local representatives to express your concerns about your community
- Express dissent with legislative officials voting decisions

2. Join engagement initiatives:

- Confirm that the organization is amplifying marginalized voices and aligns with your values/ethics
- Attend protest, rallies and marches



Vote Vote Vote

- Learn your states voting plans
- Think about voting not only as an expression of your beliefs but also as a choice with consequences



Contribute

- Get organized
- Volunteer
- Make donations
 - Start w/ one hour of your pay
- Protest Smart



ADAPTED FROM: HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS
NYTIMES

YOU MAY write me down in history
with your bitter, twisted lies.

**But still, like dust,
I'LL RISE**

**Does my sassiness
upset you?** Why are you upset
with a clown?

WALK like I've got
OIL WELLS

Pumping in my living room.

Just like moon and like sun,
With the certainty of tide,
Just like the hopes springing high,

STILL I RISE

Did you want to see me broken?
Sweat bead and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Wounded by the painful cries,

Does my sexiness upset you?

Does it come as a surprise

That I DANCE

like I've got **DIAMONDS**

At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
Up from a past that's rooted in pain

**I'M A BLACK OCEAN, LEAPING AND WIDE,
WELLING AND SWELLING I FEAR IN THE TIDE.**

Leaving behind sights of terror and fear
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I RISE

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave

I RISE, I RISE, I RISE

**Does my
haughtiness offend you?**
Don't you take it awful hard

'Cause I
LAUGH

like I've got **GOLD MINES**

Diggin' in my own back yard.

YOU MAY Sleet me with your words,
cut me with your eyes

**YOU MAY KILL ME WITH
YOUR HATEFULNESS,**

But still, like air,

I'll rise.

A decorative graphic featuring a large grey circle overlapping a purple circle, with a purple diagonal line passing through them. In the top left and bottom right corners, there are black and purple zigzag lines. A black diagonal line is also present in the top right corner.

THANKS FOR READING!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION OF THE JUSTICE FUTURE?

Please share your thoughts!

A decorative graphic featuring a large grey circle overlapping a purple circle, with a purple diagonal line passing through them. In the top left and bottom right corners, there are black and purple zigzag lines. A black diagonal line is also present in the top right corner.