

when they SEE US VOICE



EPISODE 5 TOOLKIT & RESOURCE PACKAGE

“The Politics of Policing”





About #WTSUV

At a critical time in American history with a tumultuous census, a national election and an atmosphere of both heightened activism and racist backlash, *When They See Us Vote* is a limited series talk that seeks to engage and educate the many people who are becoming politically conscious and active in this moment with an analysis of how we build resilience and Black political power at the voting booth and beyond. The show is co-hosted by Bree Newsome Bass and Ajamu Dillahunt. The accompanying toolkit can be used to deepen individual understanding around the issues discussed and serve as a guide for hosting conversations and study groups.

EPIISODE SYNOPSIS

- Ajamu and Bree speak with Omisade Burney-Scott, Curator and Creator of the Black Girls' Guide to Surviving Menopause and a Founding Tribe Member of SpiritHouse
- They discuss the impact of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other cases of Black people being harmed or killed by police
- They also examine the importance of healing and transformative justice

QUESTIONS:

- What are some ways to reduce conflict and violence in our communities and improve public health and safety without the use of police forces? Why is healing our traumas an important part of Black liberation?
- When addressing systems of oppression and injustice, why is it necessary to focus on what we are advocating *for* as much as we focus on what we are advocating against?
- How would you define freedom?

DID YOU KNOW?

The amount of money spent on policing in the US over the past 40 years has tripled while drastic budget cuts have been made to education, youth programs, arts and culture, parks, libraries, housing services and more.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/05/defunding-the-police-us-what-does-it-mean>

• NOTES

KEY QUOTE

“Police are an extension of a punitive system that uses state sanctioned violence to oppress people... Harm happens in our community, violence happens in our community but the idea that police are the remedy for the things that happen in our community is a false statement. It’s not true.”

- Omisade Burney-Scott

KEY TERMS

- **Patriarchy** - a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it
- **Transformative Justice** - a practice of developing alternatives to the criminal justice system as a way of addressing interpersonal violence that involves providing support and safety to those who are harmed while identifying and altering the conditions that allow such harms to occur
- **Harm Free Zone** - a movement founded by SpiritHouse supporting a community-centered vision that helps repair the damage of racism, and the oppression of poor people of color by providing tools and trainings to both strengthen and develop capacity to prevent, confront and transform harm.
Source: SpiritHouse <https://www.spirithouse-nc.org/harm-free-zone>
- **Community Self-Defense** - collective efforts to secure the physical safety of a community that are organized by members of that community
- **Intergenerational Trauma** - the ways in which trauma experienced in one generation affects the health and well-being of descendants of future generations

NEXT STEPS

- Read **The Journey Continues** by Mariame Kaba
- Read **Casting Off the Shadows of Slavery** by Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Read **Healing Justice Is How We Can Sustain Black Lives** by Prentis Hemphill
- Read **Harm Free Zone General Framework** by Critical Resistance
- Read **What Does 'Defund the Police' Mean?** by Sam Levin
- Watch and discuss **American Denial**
- Find out what groups and organizations in your local community are doing work around conflict resolution, police abolition and community self-defense. Learn what things you can do to become involved or support their efforts

Omisade Burney-Scott

EPISODE 5 - GUEST

Omisade Burney-Scott is a Black southern 7th generation native North Carolinian feminist, mother and healer with decades of experience in nonprofit leadership, philanthropy, and social justice. She is a founding tribe member of SpiritHouse and previously served as a board member of The Beautiful Project, Village of Wisdom, and Working Films. Omisade is the creator of The Black Girls' Guide to Surviving Menopause, a multimedia project seeking to curate and share the stories and realities of Black women and femmes over 50. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, the proud mother of two sons, and resides in Durham.



THE #WTSUV TEAM



BREE NEWSOME BASS

is an award-winning activist and artist best known for her historic act of civil disobedience in 2015 when she scaled a 30-ft flagpole at the statehouse grounds in South Carolina to lower its confederate flag in protest following the racially-motivated shootings at Emanuel AME church in Charleston. Bree currently resides in North Carolina where she works as an artist while organizing for housing justice. She is a nationally-recognized public speaker on topics of racial and economic justice as well as the intersection of art and activism.



AJAMU DILLAHUNT

is the Outreach Coordinator at the North Carolina Justice Center in Raleigh, N.C. Before joining the Justice Center in 2004, Ajamu served as President of the Raleigh Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) for 18 years, where he was also Director of Research and Education for the North Carolina Council of the APWU.



NATALIE BULLOCK BROWN

is an award-winning and Emmy-nominated producer, a Teaching Assistant Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies at North Carolina State University, and a producer on award-winning filmmaker Byron Hurt's upcoming PBS documentary, *Hazing*.

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