

## **What We Can Do To Oppose Psychiatric Profiling**

Express our outrage in writing and demonstrations to federal and state politicians that we are outraged at psychiatric profiling and we will remember this at election time.

Sign-on letters to seek allies and publicize our message.

Organize a national day of action against psychiatric profiling and discrimination - wherever you are get out on a street corner a few people with signs and post your photos.

Could include teach-ins and speak outs against inpatient and outpatient torture, teach-ins about exactly what the law says on these issues (old and new laws), harm reduction approach to psych drugs, etc.

"First Amendment Festivals" - public events where we speak about taboo subjects and support each other to do so. Suicidality, creative images and writing dealing with violence, how we express our pain, grief and unpretty emotions especially about violence perpetrated against us and in managing life transitions?

Open up discussion about thoughts of violence that we didn't act on or did, what leads us to make these choices?

Raise awareness about human rights treaties and standards that are being violated by profiling laws.

Make connections with other groups that are fighting profiling and discrimination: prison abolition/ formerly incarcerated people, immigrants rights groups, groups against racial profiling and stop & frisk fishing expeditions, etc.

Expect solidarity. Many people share our concerns and don't buy the political line that people labeled mentally ill are the ones who commit violent acts.

Educate ourselves about all the ways that people can be profiled and locked up for who they are rather than what they did - besides forced psychiatry, there are the youth detentions including for "status crimes" like not going to school, racialized enforcement of drug laws and other laws, immigration laws, "three strikes" laws with mandatory long-term sentences for petty crimes, "sex offender" laws that penalize a wide range of nonviolent conduct (and use civil commitment) etc.

Black Triangle as a symbol, was used by Nazis to designate "asocial" people and

included people labeled with mental illness/mental disability, homeless, alcoholics, "work-shy," prostitutes, lesbians, draft dodgers and pacifists. Good company!

Create "universal precautions" for gun safety, the way we did with HIV/AIDS prevention. If you feel endangered in any situation be aware of anything that could be used as a weapon and take precautions. Don't pick up a gun or other weapon in anger.

For Martin Luther King Day focus on our relationship to nonviolence, and King's affirmation of "creative maladjustment". We are a nonviolent community, many of us were traumatized by violence, we are being wrongly profiled as violent, forced psychiatry is violent, we are protesting nonviolently for civil and human rights. We celebrate our "creative maladjustment" to a society that turns neighbor against neighbor.

There's a difference between the vernacular "crazy", the experience of disability, and the diagnostic labeling. Is it ok to use the word "crazy" about something we don't like and find to be incomprehensible and wrong?

Coming out campaign - come out as a person who has been involuntarily committed or threatened with commitment, who is law-abiding/non-violent/responsible, and who is concerned about being profiled. (Contact [ComingOutCampaign-owner@yahogroups.com](mailto:ComingOutCampaign-owner@yahogroups.com))

Profiling and scapegoating happen in our families, workplaces, schools and communities. Name and object to it when it happens. Avoid situations where we will be profiled or scapegoated.

Research ADA and constitutional law arguments profiling laws including the NICS database and reporting of people labeled as mentally ill. Do not accept anything in current U.S. law that conflicts with our dignity, self-respect and human rights. (ADA and constitutional law need to be changed if they fall short.)

Research persecution as a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. (NB U.S. is not a party to that treaty though.)

Human rights reporting - psychiatric profiling has been included in a report to the UN Human Rights Committee as a violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We will have a chance to talk with the Committee in Geneva in March 2013, and further work will take place later in the year.

Use the logo and insignia of Stop Psychiatric Profiling, see website <http://stoppsychiatricprofiling.org>.

Submit information and photos about your activities, position papers, and news about profiling laws, to be included in <http://stoppsychiatricprofiling.org>. (Use the "Contact" link on the website)

Keep track of legislative hearings, proposals, laws related to profiling, including what is happening now in response to gun violence. Testify at hearings and/or protest them when they exclude us or go ahead with profiling.

Analyze and comment on bills, laws, executive orders related to profiling.

Draft generic letter to the editor that can be adapted and sent around to local newspapers as needed.

Connect with groups in other countries who are fighting psychiatric profiling and guilt by association in response to isolated acts of violence by individuals.

We do not give up any part of our community to profiling. No psychiatric profiling is acceptable however limited in scope.