

# INTRODUCTION

## ⇒ WHO IS INCITE! WOMEN OF COLOR AGAINST VIOLENCE?



INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence is a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and their communities through direct action, critical dialogue and grassroots organizing. Nationally, INCITE!'s work is coordinated by a collective of women of color from across the country who work to support local grassroots organizing activities that challenge all forms of violence against women of color and their communities. INCITE! is a national network of local chapters and affiliates in over 10 cities, and a broad base of individual members and supporters across the country and transnationally.

## ⇒ WHY THIS TOOLKIT?

INCITE! created this toolkit to support the work of our local chapters, affiliates, and allies in raising awareness around and challenging an often invisible form of violence against women of color in the U.S.

When we think about police brutality, we tend to think primarily about the experiences of young men of color perceived to be heterosexual, and not about police brutality women and trans people of color experience daily.

When we think about violence against women, we tend to think about interpersonal and community violence, like domestic violence and sexual assault, and not gender-based violence by law enforcement agents. As a result, very little information and very few resources on police brutality and other forms of law enforcement violence against women of color and trans people of color exist at the national level. The marginalization of a gendered political analysis of state violence also de-prioritizes the work of developing community alternatives for safety, support, healing, and accountability from domestic violence, sexual violence, homophobic/transphobic violence, and other kinds of gender-based violence within our communities.

To support women of color and trans people of color survivors of police brutality, as well as individuals and groups who are working to raise awareness of and fight police brutality against women and trans people of color, we wanted to bring together as much information as possible, as well as resources and organizing tools and ideas developed by groups across the country, in one place. It is intended as an educational resource for activists and organizers, and provides some examples of organizing tools and strategies.



Art by Cristy C. Road, [croadcore.org](http://croadcore.org)

## ⇒ WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY “WOMEN OF COLOR & TRANS PEOPLE OF COLOR?”

Recognizing that police brutality and other forms of law enforcement violence often serve as tools for policing and enforcing gender and sexual conformity along with power relations based on race, class, immigration status and ability, this toolkit focuses on the experiences of people of color who experience gender-based state violence. When we say “women of color and trans people of color” we mean people of color who experience law enforcement violence and who identify as women, transgender, queer, Two-Spirit, lesbiana/lesbian, bisexual, bulldaggers, aggressives, dykes, gay, butch, genderqueer or gender non-conforming, whose experiences are generally marginalized by movements resisting state violence.



Please visit [www.incite-national.org](http://www.incite-national.org) for more info!