IN Equality

who

IN Equality is a leadership coalition within the Native-led organization Oyate Hotanin (Voice of the People). We engage individuals with first-hand experience of the criminal justice system in leading the call for police, court, and corrections reform and we seek nothing less than the complete transformation of criminal justice practices in our community. We currently represent the Native, African American, and Hmong communities who have been bearing the brunt of the system's disproportionately-harsh response and we are working to reach other communities subjected to these injustices, as well.

why

We envision a reality where Native, African American, people of color, and those in poverty do not fear police and criminal justice, but rather feel we are stakeholders in problem solving processes. We see a world in which historic trauma is responded to, rather than compounded. We know that to correct racial disparities and secure lasting change those most affected must take a lead in asking for and shaping the remedies that provide a path to equitable outcomes. We believe that as these activities move forward, the community heals — and social and political mobilizing builds collective power.

what

We are developing a new approach to infuse community wisdom and experience and community-framed solutions to transform the criminal justice system. We are convening those directly impacted to gather input, build awareness, heal wounds, and define progress and accountability. We are pushing existing stakeholders, systems and leaders to embed our voices into all decisions and practices across the criminal justice system. And we are waking up public awareness to the widespread, highly racialized impact and harm of current criminal justice system.

how

We do this work through 1) Capturing and elevating community voice through Community Conversations and Healing Tribunals. 2) Cultivating community leadership and influencing outcomes in the juvenile and adult criminal justice system by working with stakeholders like the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative committee. 3) Raising community awareness of the widespread impact and harm of current criminal justice practices through public art, like Flower Power, that sparks connection, conversation, and healing.