

# COLOR OUT CASH BAIL

A political education coloring  
book on ending pretrial detention  
in Virginia and the South



# ABOUT the BOOK

 @coloroutcashbail

**See Us Free: Coloring Our Way Out of Cash Bail** is an interactive and creative political education tool, created and printed in 2020. We hope this coloring book will engage people within and new to our movement on the intricacies of money bail and pre-trial detention in Virginia and the South, as well as SONG's larger vision of prison abolition and queer liberation and the strategies we can utilize to get there. The coloring pages were designed by Virginian, Southern, and Queer and Trans artists. Information was gathered from several kindred organizations with the aim to invite folks into the work of liberation through art and joy.

*This project was paid for by SONG's Member Initiated Project program. Southerners on New Ground (SONG) is a home for LGBTQ liberation across all lines of race, class, abilities, age, culture, gender, and sexuality in the South. We build, sustain, and connect a southern regional base of LGBTQ people in order to transform the region through strategic projects and campaigns developed in response to the current conditions in our communities. SONG builds this movement through leadership development, intersectional analysis, and organizing. Learn more at their website [www.southernersonnewground.org](http://www.southernersonnewground.org).*



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# the ORGANIZERS

**LAURA CHOW REEVE**  
(she/her)

Laura Chow Reeve is a queer mixed Chinese femme writing and drawing in Richmond, VA. She is currently writing a novel, studying Transformative Justice practices, dreaming about abolitionist futures, and supporting movement organizations through graphic recording.

*Laura is the artist for the Defund the Police and the COVID-19 coloring pages in this book.*

**MICKY JORDAN**  
(he/him)

Micky Jordan is a Black queer and genderqueer activist born in Richmond, VA. He is a movement graphic designer who loves the power of visuals. He currently does Communications work for SONG.

Micky loves art, movies and dreaming about building a safer, beautiful, more affirming world for trans and queer people of color to not just survive in, but thrive in.

**JASMINE LEEWARD**  
(they/them)

Jasmine Leeward is a community organizer and future film maker who uses the power of culture, history, and community to talk about power, class, and the concept of home.

In Richmond, they use multiple forms of storytelling to help people see each other better. They are a member of Southerners On New Ground (SONG).

# BAAL



# PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

IMAGINE IF YOU WERE  
ACCUSED OF A CRIME AND  
IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED



"MONEY BAIL" IS THE AMOUNT YOU  
NEED TO PAY IN ORDER TO BE FREE  
BEFORE YOUR TRIAL. IF YOU CAN'T  
AFFORD TO MAKE BAIL, THEN YOU'LL  
REMAIN LOCKED UP IN A CAGE



ASIDE FROM MENTAL STRAIN, YOUR  
INCARCERATION COULD RESULT IN  
YOU LOSING YOUR JOB, HOME, OR  
EVEN CHILDREN LONG BEFORE YOUR  
TRIAL DATE

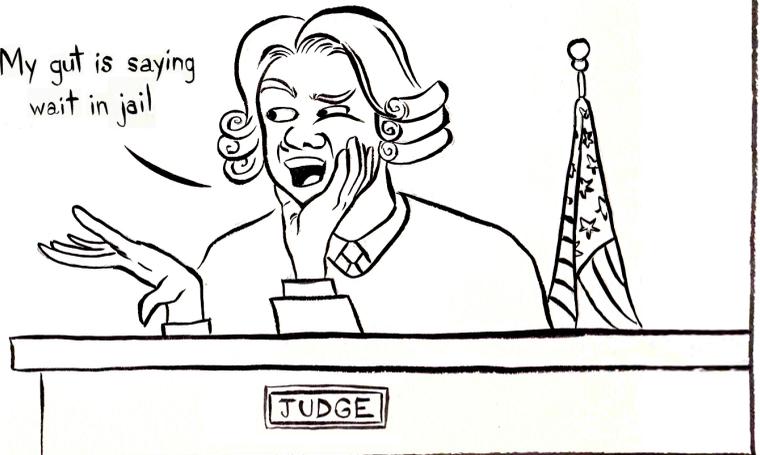


SIMPLY PUT, THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM  
CRIMINALIZES POVERTY AND COMMUNITIES  
OF COLOR ARE PUNISHED THE MOST

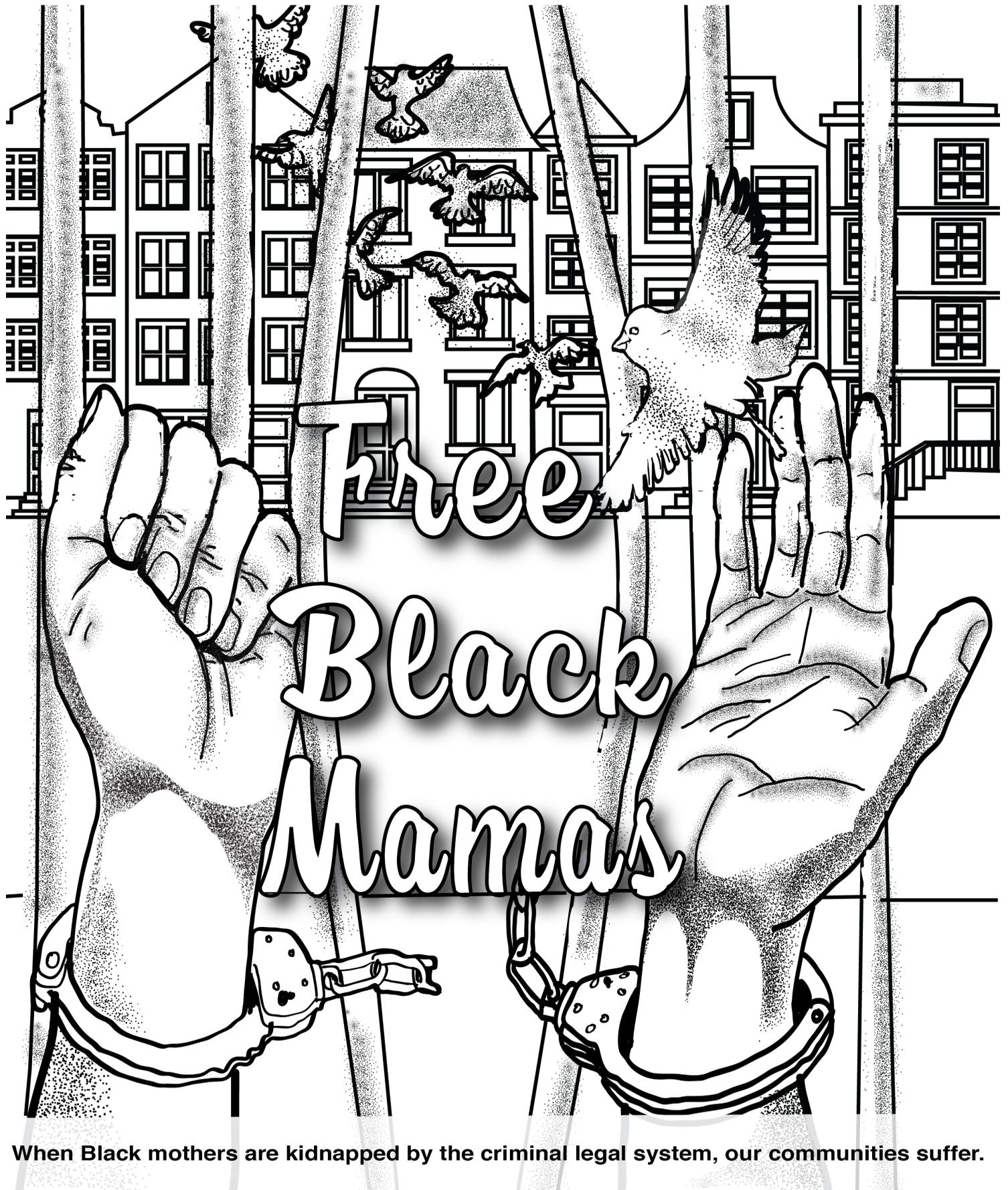


IN SOME CASES, BAIL COULD ALSO BE DENIED SO EVEN  
IF YOU COULD AFFORD TO POST BAIL WITH THE HELP OF  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS, A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE COULD DECIDE  
TO KEEP YOU IN DETENTION FOR ANY OFFENSE - EVEN MISDEMEANORS

My gut is saying  
wait in jail



Black Mama's Bail Out Action has aimed to protect our families,  
to intervene on this malicious money bail system that locks up our loved ones since 2017



When Black mothers are kidnapped by the criminal legal system, our communities suffer.



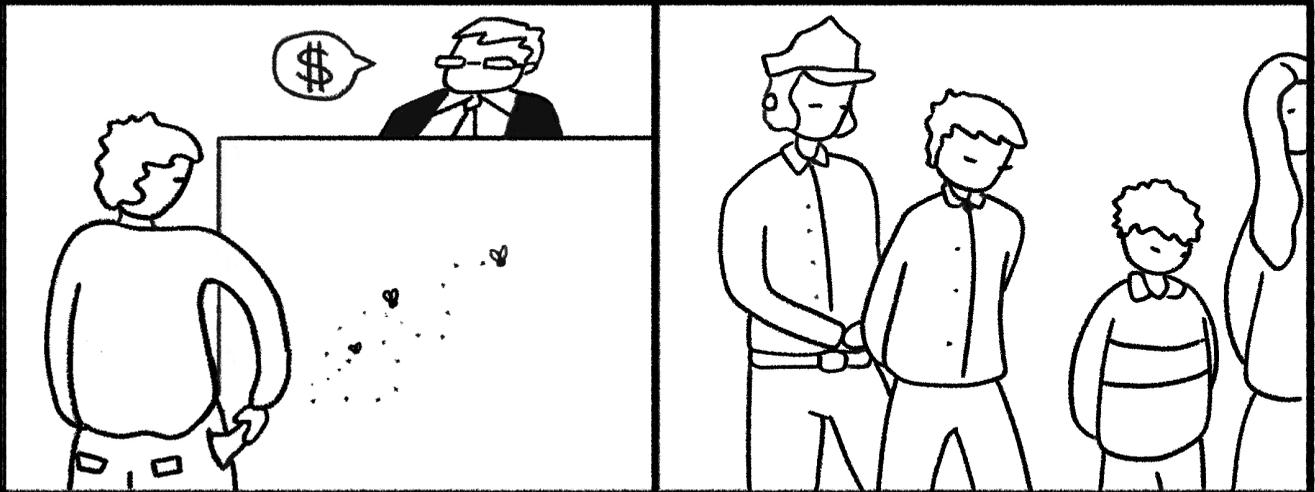
WE  
ARE  
one step  
CLOSER  
than

WE  
WERE  
yesterday

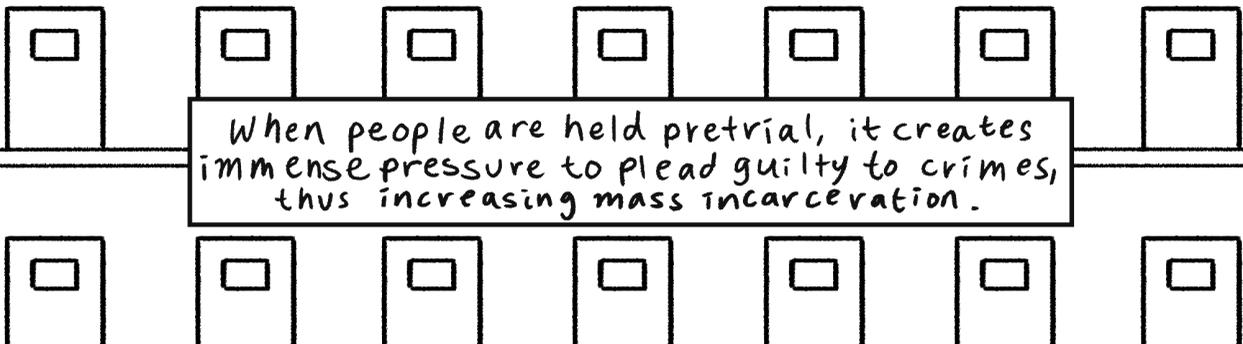
...if no one hasn't  
told you i love you...  
I LOVE YOU

♥ ALEAH BROWN ♥  
Richmond, VA #FREEBLACKMAMAS

Virginia jails **28,000** People between the  
hold ages of 15-64



Of those, around **13,000**  
are being held pretrial.  
**46%** of people in our  
jails aren't there because  
they were convicted  
of any crime.



When people are held pretrial, it creates  
immense pressure to plead guilty to crimes,  
thus increasing mass incarceration.

THOUGH BLACK VIRGINIANS MAKE UP ONLY ABOUT 20%  
OF OUR STATE'S POPULATION



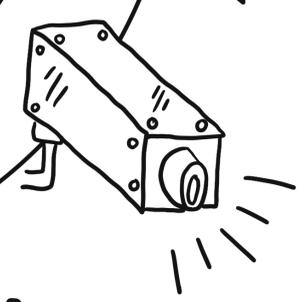
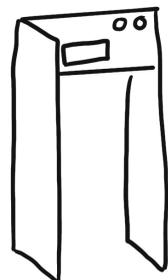
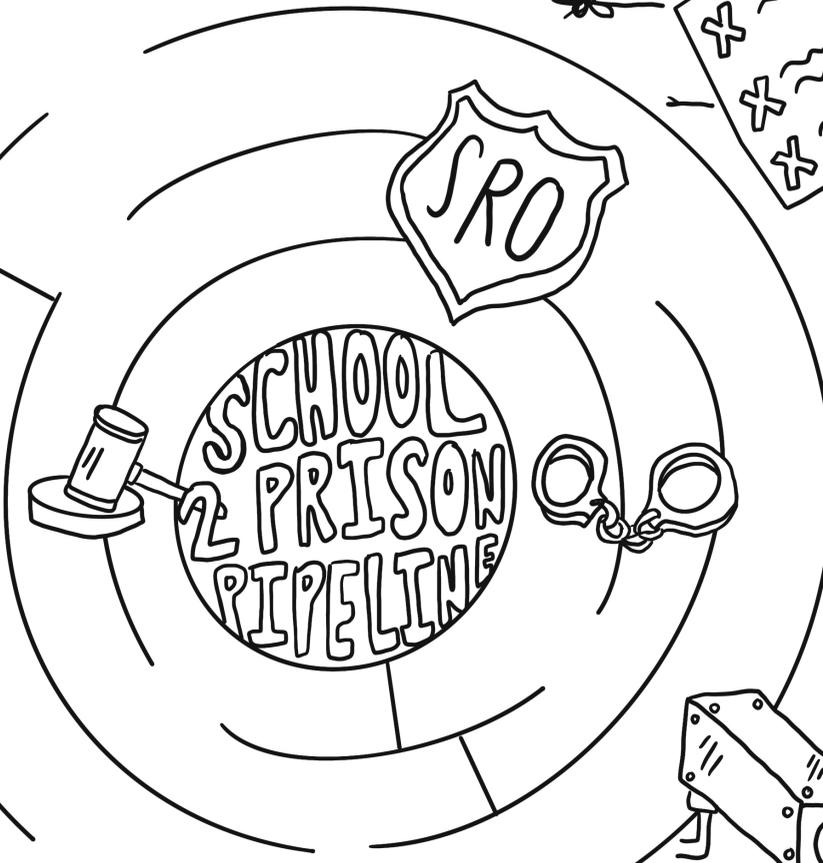
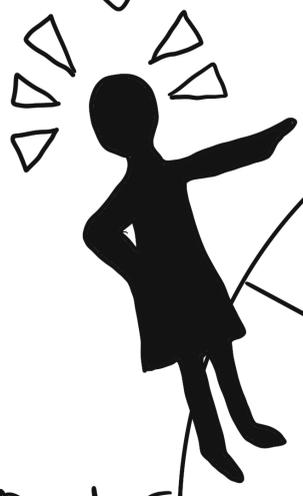
THEY ARE 43%  
OF VIRGINIA'S JAIL POPULATION

*We Cannot Discuss The History Of  
Prisons In Virginia*

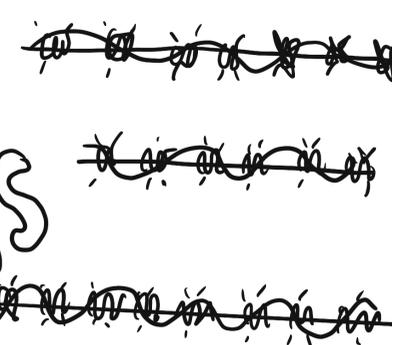


*Without Discussing The History Of  
Slavery In Virginia*

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE  
BEING PUSHED OUT OF  
SCHOOL



21% OF YOUTH  
IN VA. ARE BLACK  
YET MAKE-UP 57%  
OF SUSPENSIONS



What To Do Instead Of



INCARCERATION



Housing For All

Mental Health Support

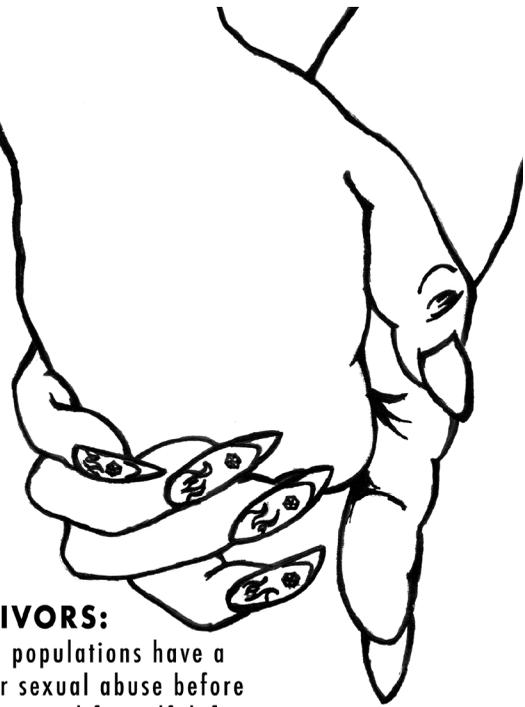
Universal Health Care

Accountability Not Punishment

Basic Needs Are Met

That these resources are available to all and access is not contingent upon incarceration!

# END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SURVIVAL



## PRISONS CRIMINALIZE SURVIVORS:

As many as 94% of some women's prison populations have a history of domestic violence, physical, or sexual abuse before being incarcerated— including those imprisoned for self-defense. 84% of girls in juvenile detention have experienced family violence. Sexual violence by police and prison guards is systemic— 79% of women in federal and state prisons have reported physical abuse, and transgender people are abused in prison at rates nearly 10 times those for prisoners in general.

## PRISONS ARE RACIST:

About 67% of women in prison in the U.S. are women of color. African American women's incarceration rates for all crimes increased by 800% since 1986. Girls of color who are victims of abuse are disproportionately more likely to be criminalized. Among Black transgender people, nearly half (47%) have been incarcerated at some point.

## PRISONS ARE REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE:

1.3 million children have mothers who are in jail, prison, or on probation. Not only are the majority of people in women's prisons mothers when they enter prison, but many of these people are also the primary caretakers of their children at home.

Info from Survived and Punished  
[survivedandpunished.org/quick-statistics](http://survivedandpunished.org/quick-statistics)

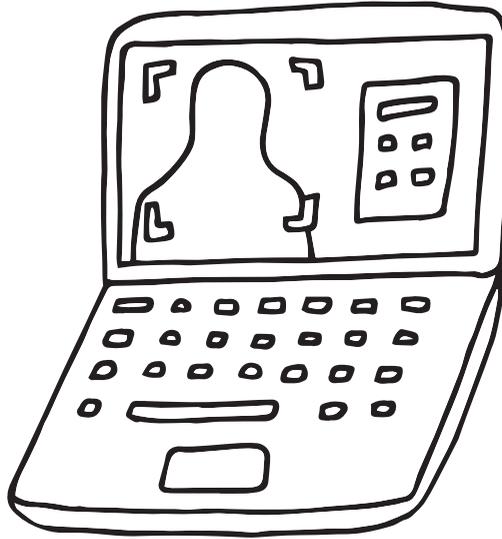
# PRISONS DON'T KEEP US SAFE



# END E-CARCERATION

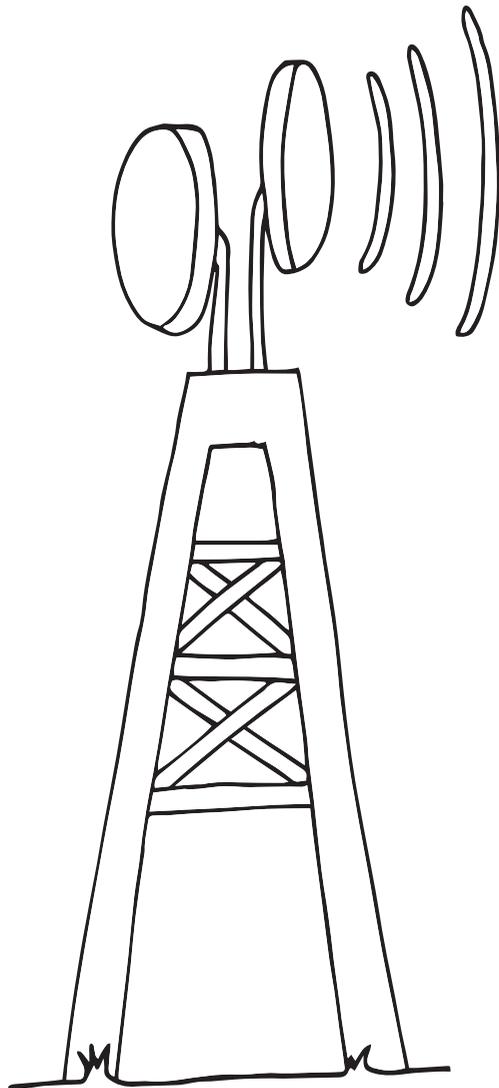
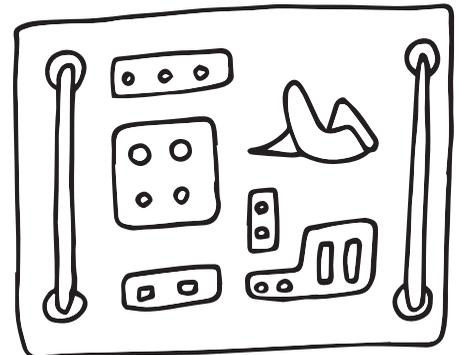
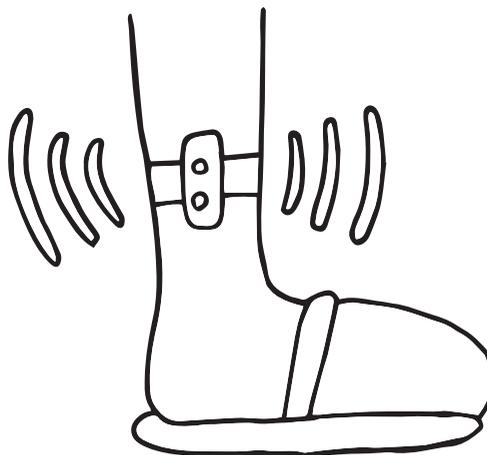
E-CARCERATION IS THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEPRIVE FOLKS OF THEIR FREEDOM - FROM MOVEMENT TRACKING DEVICES TO FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE.

FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE



STINGRAY DEVICES

ANKLE MONITORS



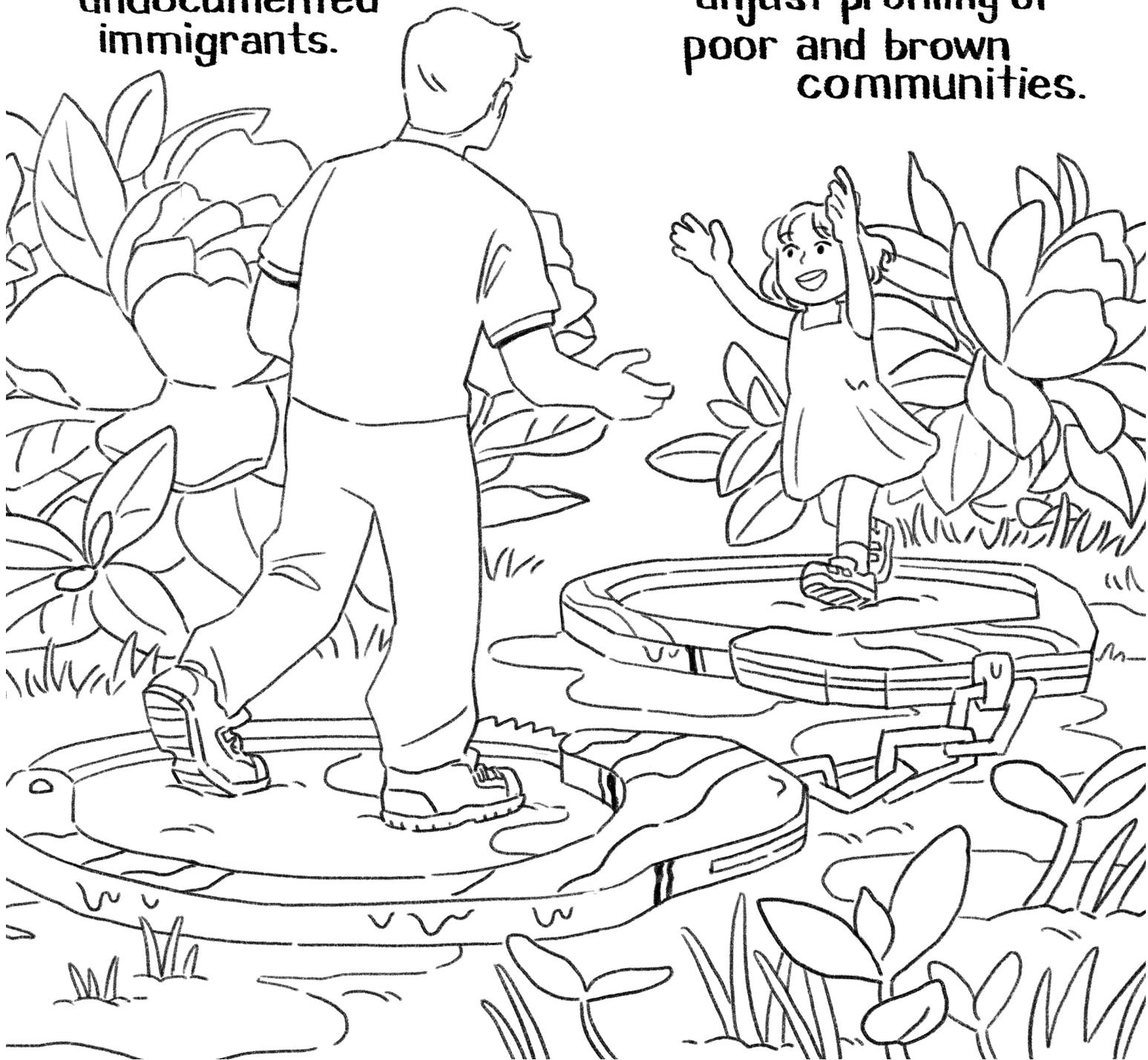
CELL PHONE TOWERS

# MELT ICE

ICE collaborates with local law enforcement through information sharing and detainers that lead to deportations.

Local jails receive funding for detaining and incarcerating undocumented immigrants.

This encourages unjust profiling of poor and brown communities.



...and with their collective love, warmth, and a Molotov cocktail, the comrades were able to melt the ICE monster.





★ LAW ENFORCEMENT IN VIRGINIA CAN ISSUE A **SUMMONS** IN LIEU OF **ARREST** FOR ALL MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES.

ONCE ARRESTED AND TAKEN BEFORE A MAGISTRATE, PEOPLE CAN BE HELD **WITHOUT BAIL** FOR ANY OFFENSE IN VIRGINIA — **EVEN MISDEMEANORS.**

↳ THIS IS THE **MOST COMMON** BAIL OUTCOME IN VIRGINIA, EVEN MORE SO THAN **SECURED BOND**, AKA "MONEY BAIL"

### ON SECURED BOND:

VIRGINIA NOT ONLY ALLOWS SECURED BOND FOR **ALL** OFFENSES, IT IS **REQUIRED** IN CERTAIN CASES. MANY PEOPLE TRAPPED IN JAIL BECAUSE OF UNAFFORDABLE SECURED BONDS ARE FACING CHARGES FOR WHICH THEY SHOULD BE IN **TREATMENT — NOT JAIL.**

for example...

SOMEONE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION WHO IS CHARGED WITH SIMPLE POSSESSION (AND HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONVICTED OF SIMPLE POSSESSION) WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE GIVEN SECURED BOND.

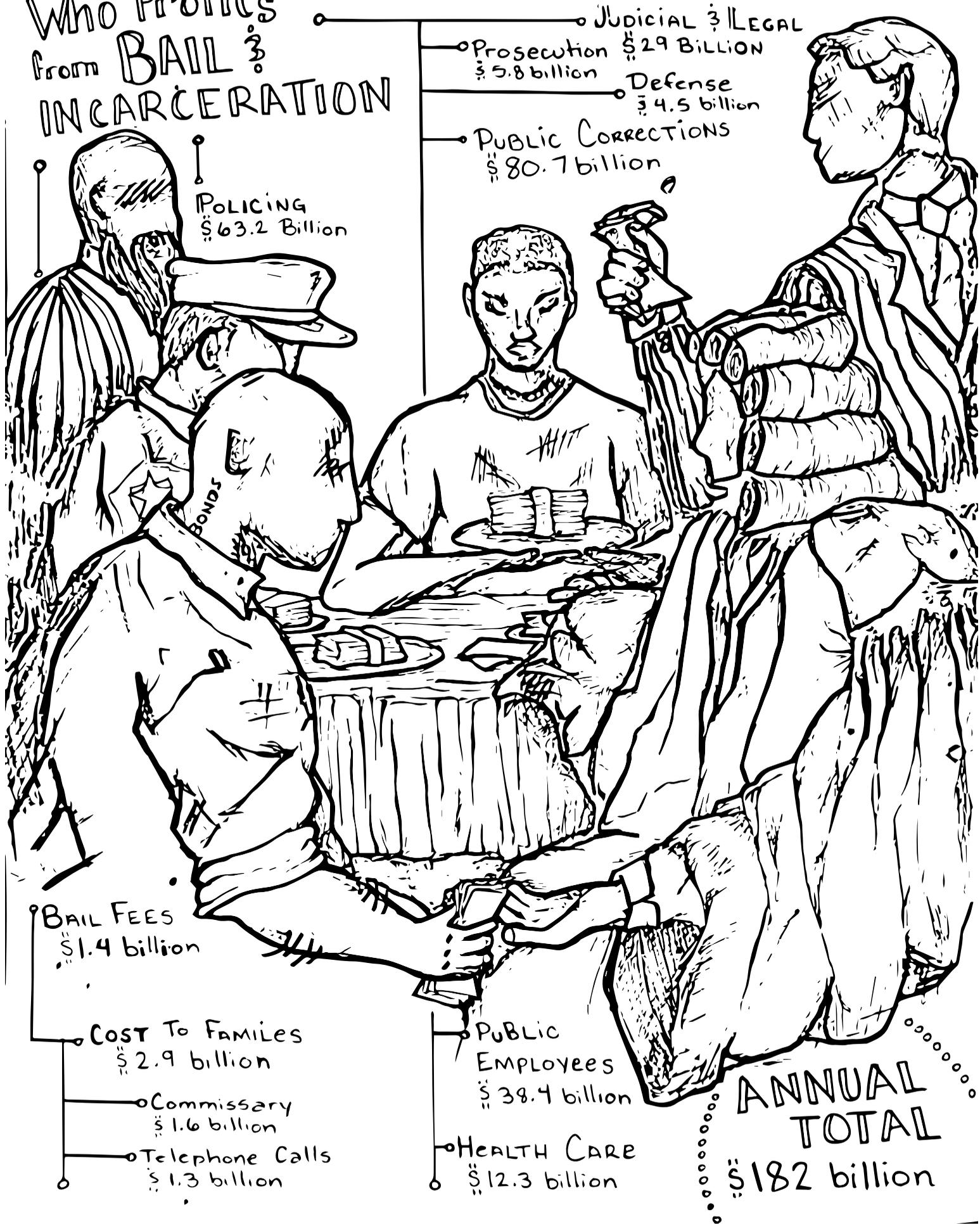
★ WHEN SOMEONE IS HELD IN JAIL PRETRIAL, IT IS EXTREMELY **UNLIKELY** THEY WILL HAVE A **LAWYER** AT THEIR VERY FIRST APPEARANCE IN COURT!

THE ACCUSED IS LEFT TO ANSWER THE JUDGE'S QUESTIONS **WITHOUT LEGAL COUNSEL** AND TO TRY TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES.

**\* SOME JUDGES WON'T TALK ABOUT BAIL AT THAT FIRST HEARING, EVEN IF THE ACCUSED PERSON STUCK IN JAIL TRIES TO BRING IT UP!**



# Who Profits from BAIL & INCARCERATION



MY SON  
IS ESSENTIAL  
TO ME! ♥

THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC  
IS A DIRE THREAT  
TO SOME OF OUR  
MOST VULNERABLE  
POPULATIONS -  
PEOPLE LIVING IN  
CAGES

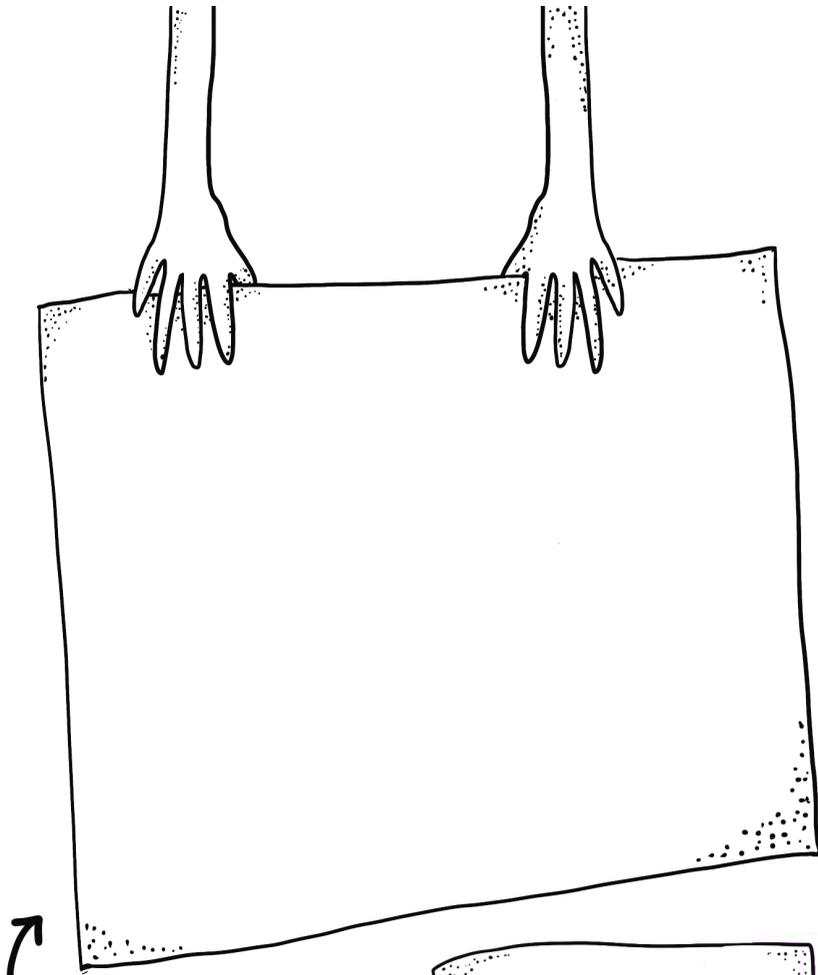
REDUCING THE  
NUMBER OF  
INCARCERATED PEOPLE  
MUST BE A PART OF THE  
STRATEGY TO KEEP  
COMMUNITIES SAFE



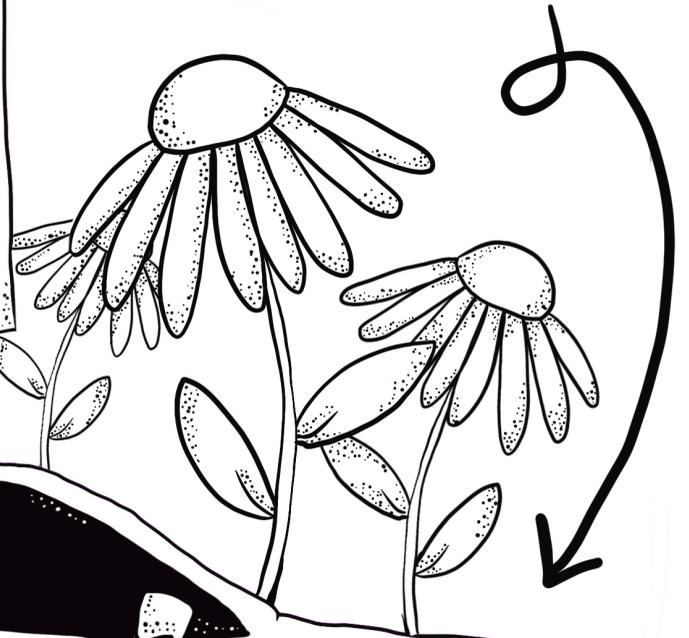
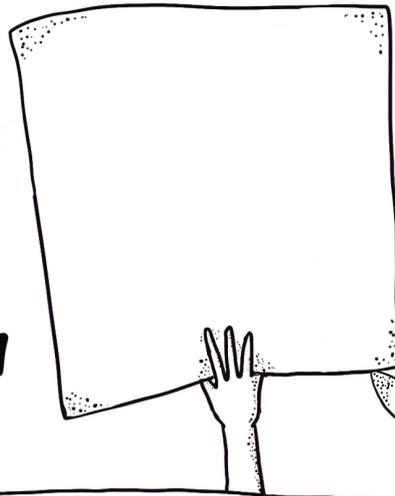
DOUG'S MOM

RICHMOND, VA

IN RESPONSE  
TO THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC  
COMMUNITIES  
DEMAND JAILS  
#FreeOurPeople  
WITH CAR RALLIES



CREATE YOUR  
OWN PROTEST SIGN



DIVEST FROM VIOLENT INSTITUTIONS

DEFUND the POLICE

IS AN

ABOLITIONIST

DEMAND!

community

INVEST IN RESOURCES that ACTUALLY PREVENT VIOLENCE & KEEP US SAFER!

A  
Community  
Needs

universal income:  
guaranteed annual minimum  
income for all

transformative justice:  
"a political framework +  
approach" to responding  
to violence that aims to  
reduce harm and  
lessen the  
recurrence  
- Mia Mingus

mutual aid:  
method of raising  
and exchanging  
resources and services  
to meet the needs  
of others

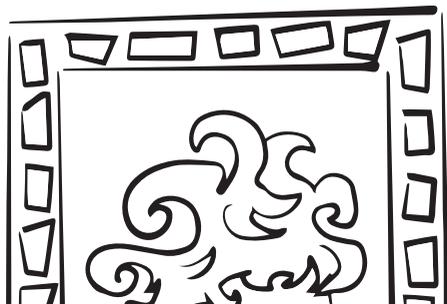
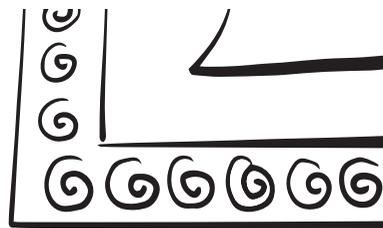
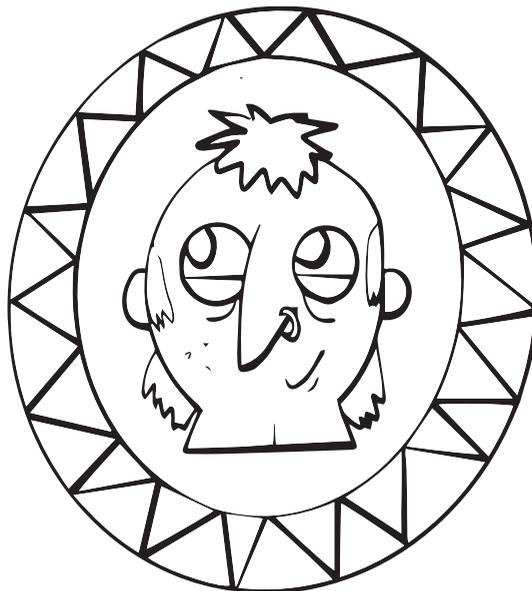
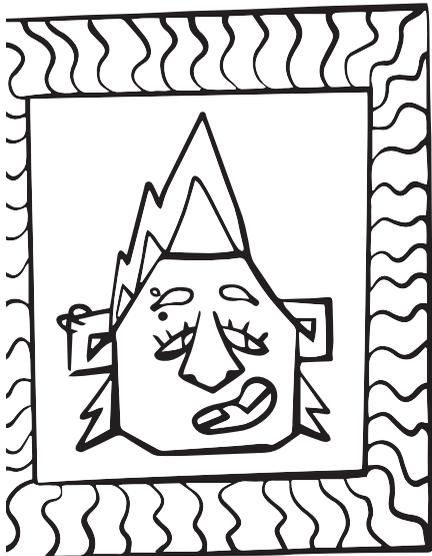
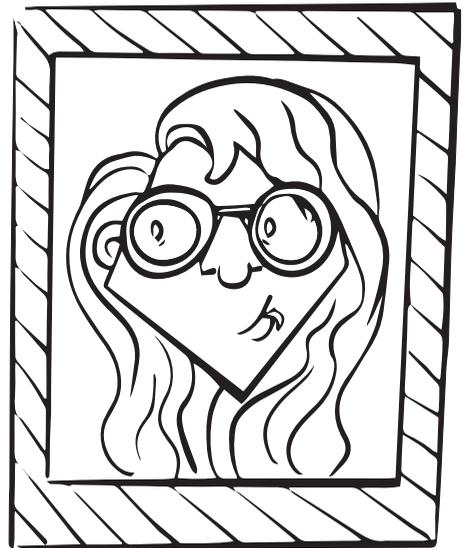
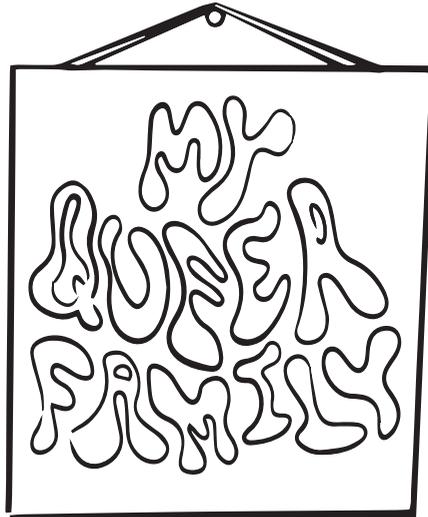
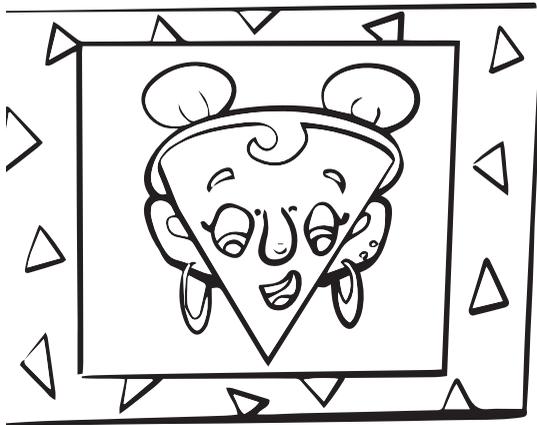
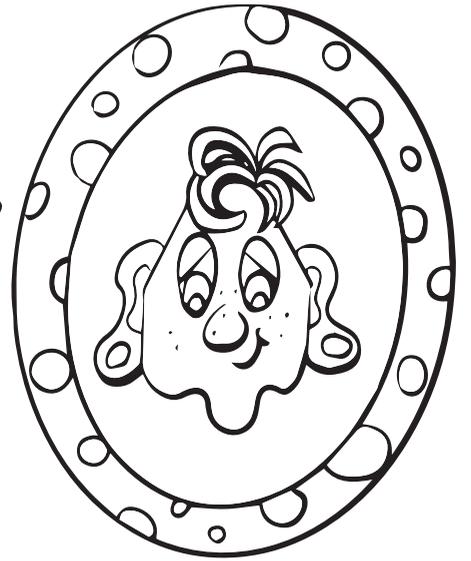
harm reduction:  
various practices  
that leads to safer,  
less detrimental  
consequences for the  
use of drugs and  
alcohol

community care:  
collective support and  
response that centers  
community and relational  
reciprocity as a form of  
self-care and radical  
empowerment

cost of living adjustment  
or allowances:  
increasing living wages to  
offset the increases in  
costs of living

Instead of  
PRISONS





"They have learned that resistance is actually possible. The holds are beginning to slip away."

**GEORGE JACKSON**

YOU HAVE TO ACT  
AS IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO  
RADICALLY TRANSFORM THE WORLD



AND YOU HAVE TO DO  
IT ALL THE TIME  
'ANGELA DAVIS

"Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings."

**ANGELA DAVIS**

*Let's dream*

*Of a world*

*Without chains*



*Art 120*



**Virginia Bail 101** ([www.justice4all.org/civil-rights-racial-justice/pretrial-justice-reform](http://www.justice4all.org/civil-rights-racial-justice/pretrial-justice-reform)): The Civil Rights & Racial Justice Program (CRRJ) at the Legal Aid Justice Center fights to decriminalize poverty in Virginia while dismantling systems of racial injustice. In the courts, CRRJ is currently focused on how Virginia's bail practices harm low-income communities and communities of color.

**National Bail Out** ([www.nationalbailout.org](http://www.nationalbailout.org)): The National Bail Out collective is a Black-led and Black-centered collective of abolitionist organizers, lawyers and activists building a community-based movement to support our folks and end systems of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration. We are people who have been impacted by cages — either by being in them ourselves or witnessing our families and loved ones be engaged. We are queer, trans, young, elder, and immigrant.

**Black Mamas Bail Out Action** ([www.southernersonnewground.org/our-work/freefromfear/black-mamas-bail-out-action](http://www.southernersonnewground.org/our-work/freefromfear/black-mamas-bail-out-action)): SONG is a member of the National Bail Out, a formation of over a dozen community based organizations that is responsible for the Black Mama's Bail Out along with subsequent bail out actions and strategies to end money bail and pretrial detention.

**Survived and Punished** ([www.survivedandpunished.org](http://www.survivedandpunished.org)): Survived & Punished is a prison abolition organization. S&P believe that prisons, detention centers, all forms of law enforcement, and punitive prosecution are rooted in systems of violence, including racial, anti-trans/queer, sexual, and domestic violence.

**History of Lumpkin's Jail** ([www.smithsonianmag.com/history/digging-up-the-past-at-a-richmond-jail-50642859](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/digging-up-the-past-at-a-richmond-jail-50642859)): "Archaeologists knew that Robert Lumpkin's slave jail stood in one of the lowest parts of Richmond, Virginia—a sunken spot known as Shockoe Bottom. From the 1830s to the Civil War, when Richmond was the largest American slave-trading hub outside of New Orleans, "the devil's half acre," as Lumpkin's complex was called, sat amid a swampy cluster of tobacco warehouses, gallows and African-American cemeteries. This winter, after five months of digging, researchers uncovered the foundation of the two-and-a-half-story brick building where hundreds of people were confined and tortured. Buried under nearly 14 feet of earth, the city's most notorious slave jail was down a hill some eight feet below the rest of Lumpkin's complex—the lowest of the low."

**How the School-to-Prison Pipeline Works** ([www.teenvogue.com/story/how-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-works](http://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-works)): "Over the past 20 years, advocates, students, educators, and researchers have coined the term "school-to-prison pipeline" (STPP) to describe how harsh school disciplinary policies and law enforcement policies intersect to feed young people into the criminal punishment system. This is part of a national trend that criminalizes rather than educates students — and one that disproportionately targets black students — as "tough-on-crime" policy has resulted in millions of mostly black and brown people winding up behind bars."

**Ending 287(g) Nationwide** ([www.ilrc.org/ending-287g-nationwide](http://www.ilrc.org/ending-287g-nationwide)): The 287(g) program allows designated local law enforcement officers to enforce civil immigration laws. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the 287(g) program led to more than 7,000 deportations in 2018.

**Ending E-Carceration** ([www.challengingecarceration.org/what-is-e-carceration](http://www.challengingecarceration.org/what-is-e-carceration)): E-Carceration is the use of technology to deprive people of their liberty. Electronic monitors combined with house arrest represent the most obvious and likely the most punitive form of E-Carceration.

# the ARTISTS

NADD HARVIN

 @naddthenomad

As a young black gnc person, art has always been a place to explore my creativity. Nadd's perceptions of reality, and a way of expressing myself in a medium other people value and understand. Tomato Studios is a collaborative idea inspired by their unfulfilled need and desire for a creative space while on their artistic journey. They want to provide that space for anyone who wants to explore their creativity all while prioritizing accessibility, freedom, respect, and growth. *[History page]*

**Patreon:** [www.patreon.com/tomatostudios](http://www.patreon.com/tomatostudios)

RAELYN WILLIAMS

 @raylihn.k

Raelyn Williams (she/her) is an art lover with a passion for art as social change. She lives in Richmond, Virginia working towards the abolition of youth prisons and ending patriarchal violence. She dreams of the world rooted in healthy communities and self love. *[School to Prison Maze page]*

AARON DAVIS

 @aarondavistattoos

Aaron is an Atlanta-based tattoo artist and illustrator specializing in a style he coined, called Afro-Americana. His work centers around helping black people feel happy about in the skin they are in. *[What to Do Instead of Incarceration pages]*

FATIMA AMIR

 @of\_frostandmice

Fatima is a multimedia artist specializing in film, photography and graphic design. Their work is rooted in storytelling and documenting the histories and culture of queer black folk. *[Who Profits page]*

ALBERT MASPONS

 @all\_purpose\_fabuloso

Alby is a Cuban American illustrator and designer living in Miami, FL. He believes in embracing queerness, being radically soft, and creating chosen families as a means to empowerment. *[Bail & Pre-Trial Detention page]*

CHIOMMA HALL

 @chiommani

Chiomma Hall (she/her) is a freelance illustrator based in Atlanta, GA. After graduating with a B.A. in Art History from Auburn University, she moved to Atlanta to continue her education and fulfill her creative dreams. Through a series of trial and error, she draws from the intersections of her identity to partake in dialogue of community, love and friendship as a black queer woman. *[Aleah Brown page]*

**Shop:** [etsy.com/shop/chiommani](https://etsy.com/shop/chiommani)

SYDNEY CORDOBA

 @spit.city

Spit City is the working alias of Sydney Cordoba, an illustrator and animator based in Richmond, Virginia. Their work often revolves around themes of identity, dreams, and existentialism. *[VA Bail page]*

DEVYN KHALEEL FARRIES

 @khaleelartt

Devyn-Khaleel S. Farries (they/she), also known by the penname "khaleel," is a Philadelphia based multidisciplinary artist. Devyn-Khaleel seeks to create art that brings Black queer and trans bodies to the front; the "Black queer default." *[Black VA page]*

CYNTHIA YUAN CHENG

 @cynthiaycheng

Cynthia is a freelance illustrator and cartoonist based in Los Angeles, CA. She loves to create warm, hopeful comics & illustrations that explore relationships, identity, and personal experience. *[Melt ICE page]*

**Website:** [cynthiaycheng.com](http://cynthiaycheng.com)

SIERRA WEBB

 @vwoom

Raised in Newport News, Virginia and currently residing in Richmond, Sierra has been pursuing art for as long as she can remember. They find inspiration in film, video games, and perhaps most prominently, people. Sierra hopes to branch out into other mediums in the future, but asserts that digital art is where she's happiest. *[Front & Back cover]*

# the ARTISTS

MELISSA DUFFY

 @melissatheduffy

Melissa Duffy (she/they) is an Illustrator, comic artist and printmaker based in Richmond, Virginia. They are a proud member of Richmond's own Studio Two Three and believe in the power of community to affect real and lasting change. *[Know Your Rights page]*

**Website:** [melissatheduffy.com](http://melissatheduffy.com)

TING TRAN

 @artofting

Ting, is an Atlanta-based (Mvskoke land), self taught artist. Her art is primarily inspired by revolution & revolutionaries, liberation for all colonized people, socialism, LGBTQ+ movements, the working class, and the fight against white power, imperialism, and capitalism. She enjoys juxtaposing powerful imagery and figures with soft color palettes, elements of surrealism, and her love for all things cute-and-cuddly to communicate the beauty of revolution. *[ICE Monster page]*

**Website:** [artofting.com](http://artofting.com)

MYLLASA RIGGINS

 @like.thecountry

Myllasa is an exhibited creative and local groundskeeper often found actively involved toes down with work that connects closely to the community with present themes including total equity and holistic liberation. They are currently in SC, doing all the things. *[A Community Needs page]*

JEN STEVENS

 @jenstevens7

Jen (She/They) is a mixed race queer artist and community organizer living in Charleston, South Carolina. Jen currently organizes with the Girls Rock Camp Alliance, an international network of youth-centered arts and social justice organizations. When not organizing with the dreamy folks at the GRCA, Jen can be found reading about the Enneagram (they're a Type 1), creating spreadsheets in Google Drive, or taking photographs of doors. *[E-Careration page]*

**Website:** [seejencreate.com](http://seejencreate.com)

JESSICA BOGAC-MOORE

 @momonaart

Hawai'i born and raised illustrator who creates picture books, fine art, and comics that tackle subject matters of bodily experience; exploring race, sexuality, and gender. Jessica holds a BFA in Illustration from California College of the Arts. Their work has exhibited locally and recognized on a national level at Scholastics, in Stacked Deck Press coloring books, and in educational culture based animations. *[Dream of a World w/o Chains page]*

MOLLY FAIR

 @mollyfdoom

Molly Fair is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice explores the possibilities of radical cultural transformation. As a member of Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, she has worked on numerous campaigns with grassroots organizations to produce graphics addressing issues including climate justice, prison abolition, and survivor support. She edited Justseeds' coloring book "Be the Change." *[Gender Violence page]*

**Website:** [justseeds.org/artist/mollyfair](http://justseeds.org/artist/mollyfair)

AYEOLA OMALARA KAPLAN

 @ayeolaomalara

Ayeola is an afrofuturist, post-black abolitionist artist who engages with art as a means for self discovery and healing. She believes art is one of the most important remedies to our society plagued by capitalism, patriarchy, and racism. She creates exciting and spiritually inspired paintings focusing on the human body and portrait. *[Liberation/Angela Davis page]*

**Website:** [ayeola126.wixsite.com/arts](http://ayeola126.wixsite.com/arts)

LUCE ROCHWERGER

 @goldenix

Luce (they/them) is a Jewish queer and trans artist. Luce is committed to illustrating the beauty of humanity, in even the most mundane places. *[Queer Family page]*

TARIKA CAMPBELL

 @truly\_tc

*[Free Black Mamas page]*



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