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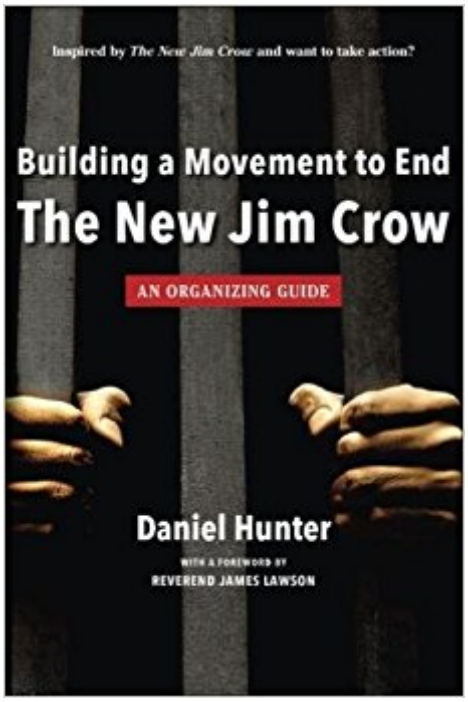
Building A Movement To End The New Jim Crow: An Organizing Guide



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Synopsis

Expanding on the call to action in Michelle Alexander's acclaimed best-seller, The New Jim Crow, this accessible organizing guide puts tools in your hands to help you and your group understand how to make meaningful, effective change. Learn about your role in movement-building and how to pick and build campaigns that contribute towards a bigger mass movement against the largest penal system in the world. This important new resource offers examples from this and other movements, time-tested organizing techniques, and vision to inspire, challenge, and motivate.

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Customer Reviews

If you read The New Jim Crow, and were left with the feeling that something must be done about this appalling situation, but had no idea where to turn or how to start, this book is what you need. Daniel Hunter knows movements, and knows how to build them. This is not a book about theories or problems; it is a book about getting down to the job of taking action. Illustrated with stories of people from all walks of life who have decided to do something about mass incarceration, it leaves you hopeful that change can actually be possible

As an editor of Prison Health News, I really enjoyed this booklet and highly recommend it. It gives very clear examples from current organizing being done by people in prison, formerly incarcerated people, and undocumented immigrants who got arrested in order to organize from inside. What I

love is that it’s giving credit where credit is due, while offering usable examples for people to model their organizing on and take to the next level. I also love the way it pushes new activists to think about long-term strategy and a vision for transforming the system as a whole, not just begging for little reforms here and there.

This booklet is wonderful: short, accessible and packed with powerful stories that illustrate the principles of grounded, effective organizing. It’s not the same paint-by-numbers organizing book -- "first, analyze the problem; then, cut the issue; then, do a power map..." -- that we’ve all read so many times. While reading it I thought of so many groups with whom I could share a chapter, or where we could do a short read-around on campaigns before reflecting on our recent work. Also, Daniel lists SO MANY kinds of real-life prison organizing victories! It’s hard to feel hopeless after reading this book.

Daniel Hunter is one of those writers who knows how to tell an engaging story and how to explain the bigger meaning of the story. That’s what he does in this guide for those who want to end our discriminatory incarceration system, making links between different movements so we can stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

Want to be part of the movement for racial justice? Get this book. Read it. Share it. Then take action with people you already know or people you find.Whether you are a long-time fighter for social justice, or have recently been moved by skyrocketing incarceration, the deaths of Troy Davis and Trayvon Martin, imprisonment of Marissa Alexander, or events in Ferguson, "Building a Movement" is written for you. If you are fighting for other issues, like a $15 minimum wage or climate justice, this book is for you."Building a Movement" begins with succinct descriptions of what a social change movement is, and what it takes to grow one. Then it describes sample campaigns, gives step-by-step guidance to identify a target and build a campaign, and provides tools for developing strategy and tactics.This is a book for right now, about a grievous inequity within a larger system of racial injustice. There is every reason to change mass incarceration and the system that spawns it. This book shows we, the people, how.PS: Donâ ™t think people have enough power to crash the system? Read the vision on page 34!

Truly outstanding resource. When I was supporting new organizers in Ferguson who were looking for something to read, I wish this was out. Now I’m going to circle back and make sure many of

them get this amazing resource. It seems designed for organizers doing the work: short and focused on application.

Daniel Hunter brings people of good will just what we need: a set of practical tools and a common language that will work across class and race lines that too often divide us. He presents the tools themselves in a clear way -- it’s possible to lift them and use them whenever we want -- but he illustrates them with vivid stories that make us want to use them. Who wouldn’t want to be as effective as the people using these tools are? To me the unexpected bonus of the book is that the tools and language can be used for all kinds of causes, well beyond the anti-incarceration movement.In the early ’sixties Marty Oppenheimer and I wrote A Manual for Direct Action expressly for the civil rights movement and it was widely used there. What we didn’t count on was that the book would be picked up and used by other movements not focused on racism. Our book contained a lot of practical new information that just made sense. That’s even more true of Daniel Hunter’s book. If everyone who wants a better world keeps this book handy, the effect will be transformational!

As an activist and adult ally to young people organizing to end the school to prison pipeline, I have eagerly been anticipating the publication of this book. Using powerful stories, Daniel Hunter describes with clarity and brilliance how to take an active and effective role in the movement to end mass incarceration. Readers will access tools and strengthen their belief in the possibility that their developing skills can effect transformational change. Daniel lifts up the role of the incarcerated in this movement and calls us to follow the lead of returning citizens as we "storm the castle". We are all called to play our role if this new manifestation of slavery is to be abolished. This is an invaluable resource.

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