

**RACISM is global, systemic caste
(racial-class) oppression.**

Systemic Racism

- **Power + Propaganda**
- systemic abuse of power & the violation of basic universal human rights.
- economic exploitation
- military, police & civilian violence
- criminalization & imprisonment
- production & distribution of weapons & addictive substances
- control of information / education resources
- internalized racism to ensure the cooperation of the oppressed & other members of society

Systemic Racism discourages the poor, including working class white people, from effectively fighting for economic justice, democracy & peace in the USA and around the world.

Propaganda & Prejudice

Racial propaganda is skewed or false information regarding culture, religion, or physical features. It is internalized in the minds of people raised & living in a racist society. This propaganda causes prejudice - judging others based upon stereotypes encouraged by propaganda.

Building the Beloved Community Issue Committee shifts the focus of the racial justice movement

- from a focus on anti-racism to achieving racial justice
- from identifying institutional racism simply as prejudice plus power, to recognizing systemic racism as structural abuse of power plus propaganda
- from national to grassroots led initiatives.

We work to

- replace the criminal (in)justice system with restorative justice.
- promote the use of tax money for human needs: food, jobs, adequate income, housing, health care, education, small local businesses, a free press, democratic political and economic systems, instead of war..



***Justice is the way to
Peace...***

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US Section**

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

**Building the Beloved
Community Issue
Committee**



“Racial justice requires a complete transformation of US systems, institutions & relationships.”

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The Building the Beloved Community Issue Committee provides a safe space to explore the history and nature of systemic racism, the connections between oppressions, and the struggles for racial justice. Since racial justice requires a complete transformation of US systems, institutions & relationships, we recognize that our work requires patience and appreciation of accomplishments during the journey. We work within WILPF and our local communities to create the Beloved Community.

To promote Building Beloved Communities, the BBC offers **educational & organizing activities** including workshops, written materials, a website, & committee membership. We also identify and support local & national legislative & litigation initiatives regarding racial-economic justice. **We are mobilizing a coalition of diverse organizations to work for the creation of a racially just nation and world.** We are seeking people & organizations who are working on racial-economic justice & peace or who want an opportunity to get involved. We invite you to join our coalition.

Understanding The Beloved Community

Josiah Royce, founder of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, coined the term “The Beloved Community.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the term and expanded its meaning.

The Beloved Community is a realistic, achievable goal that can be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence.

Like Dr. King, WILPF seeks to create a global Beloved Community in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. Poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it.

We are creating a community where racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict.

The Beloved Community is not devoid of interpersonal, group or international conflict. Instead, we recognize that conflict is an inevitable part of

human experience. We believe that conflicts can be resolved peacefully, and adversaries can be reconciled through a mutual, determined commitment to nonviolence. No conflict need erupt in violence. And all conflicts in The Beloved Community will end with the reconciliation of adversaries

This definition of The Beloved Community was adapted from The King Center. For an expanded explanation of Dr. King’s vision, please see:

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/prog/bc/>

Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

BBC Website:

<http://www.wilpf.org/bbc>

