CULTIVATE CAUCUSES

A zine to help guide 2019 Biennial Retreat attendees on participating in & reflecting on retreat caucuses and aspiring accomplices working groups.

#CultivateRetreat

"Love isn't about what we did yesterday; it's about what we do today and tomorrow and the day after." - Grace Lee Boggs

VIRGINIA SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION ALLIANCE vsdvalliance.org
“But love is really more of an interactive process. It’s about what we do, not just what we feel. It’s a verb, not a noun. So many people think that it’s enough to say what they feel even if their actions do not correspond to what they are saying.”

— Bell Hooks
WAIT! WHAT’S A CAUCUS?

The Action Alliance supports opportunities for people who share an identity as part of a historically oppressed or marginalized community to build power, talk about how oppression impacts them, discuss conflict, and cultivate compassionate connection within a safer space.

THESE ARE THE WAYS I WANT TO TAKE ACTION IN MY COMMUNITY, AGENCY OR ORG:

I WANT TO BUILD ON THE CONNECTIONS I MADE IN THIS WAY:
ASPIRING ACCOMPlice REFLECTION AFTEr

AN ASPIRING ACCOMPlice IS:

________

THE RETREAT

This year’s Biennial Retreat is a space where we hope to continue cultivating relationships by providing spaces where we can breathe life into one another, share stories, give and receive support, discuss tough moments, and build positive energy together.

- People of Color
- People with Disabilities
- Poor & Working Class People
- Queer & Trans People
- Queer & Trans People of color
- Survivors

these ARE THE LESSONS i want to TAKE AWAY FROM THIS EXPERIENCE:

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Each caucus will be held **TWICE** during time slots that do not overlap with any workshops. Retreat participants can choose to attend one caucus TWICE or two different caucuses.

We recognize that people can and do hold multiple identities and that ideally people would not have to choose only one or two of those identities to be in community. Because of schedule and space logistics, this year we cannot provide as much fluidity & flexibility as we wish. However, the Action Alliance is committed to continuing these conversations.
ASPIRING REFLECTION

These are the ways I’ve been an ally/accomplice in the past year:

When I’m uncomfortable it feels like this:

Caucuses are facilitated by Action Alliance staff or governing body members who hold those identities & are apart of those communities.

For retreat participants who do not identify with any of the listed offered caucuses or for those who do not wish to caucus, please turn to page 10 of this zine to learn more about the Aspiring Accomplices Working Group sessions.

Caucuses will be held on Wednesday from 2-4pm & Thursday from 2:45-3:45pm.

- People of Color → MSH 302
- People with Disabilities → MSH 147
- Poor & Working Class People → MSH 330
- Queer & Trans People → MSH 337
- Queer & Trans People of color → MSH 154
- Survivors → MSH 102
CAUCUS

Before

What are my initial feelings about attending a caucus?

How do my different identities impact my relationship with clients, co-workers, funders, colleagues?

During Caucuses,

the Action Alliance will also provide a space for people to build their capacity to be active allies and aspiring accomplices, which is a lifelong process of learning to leverage privilege and building relationships based on trust, consistency, accountability, and action with marginalized people and communities.

This space will work through tough and possibly uncomfortable questions. Feeling uncomfortable is an important part of unlearning oppressive habits, and we are asking participants to join us in our continued unlearning. While the goal of this workshop is not to walk away with all the answers, we hope folks can take away ideas of what action they can do in their communities, agencies, & organizations.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ASPIRING ACCOMPlice

"AS ACCOMPlices WE ARE COMPelled TO BECOME ACCOUNTABLE & RESPONSIBLE TO EACH OTHER, THAT IS THE NATURE OF TRUST."

- Indigenous Action Media

REFLECTION

What do I need from the movement in order to thrive?

How do my different identities impact my relationship to the work we do?
CAUCUS REFLECTION [AFTER]

An impactful moment from my Caucus group(s):

I want to build on this experience and work in this way:

I will take away from this experience:

In an ideal world, Caucus spaces at the Action Alliance would look like this in the future:

Lessons to bring back to my community, agency, or organization: