

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

# CULTIVATE CAUCUSES

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

#Cultivate  
retreat



VIRGINIA SEXUAL & DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE ACTION ALLIANCE  
[vsdvalliance.org](http://vsdvalliance.org)

This zine  
belongs to:

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# KEEP IN TOUCH

Write down names +  
Contact info here!



"BUT LOVE IS REALLY  
MORE OF AN INTERACTIVE  
PROCESS. IT'S ABOUT  
WHAT WE DO, NOT  
JUST <sup>•</sup>WHAT WE FEEL.  
IT'S A VERB, NOT A NOUN.  
SO MANY PEOPLE THINK  
THAT IT'S ENOUGH TO <sup>•</sup>  
SAY WHAT THEY FEEL  
EVEN IF THEIR ACTIONS  
DO NOT CORRESPOND TO  
WHAT THEY ARE SAYING."

- bell hooks ①

# 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



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

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I WANT TO BUILD ON THE CONNECTIONS I MADE IN THIS WAY:

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# ASPIRING } ACCOMPLICE } REFLECTION } AFTER

AN ASPIRING ACCOMPLICE IS:

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THESE ARE THE LESSONS I WANT TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS EXPERIENCE:

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# @ 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.

- 6 - caucuses will take place. Some of these caucuses have been held before and others are new. Decisions on caucuses were made based on responses to a question asked on this year's registration page.

- People of color
- People with Disabilities
- Poor & Working class people
- Queer & Trans people
- Queer & Trans people of color
- SURVIVORS ③

# SOME Logistics

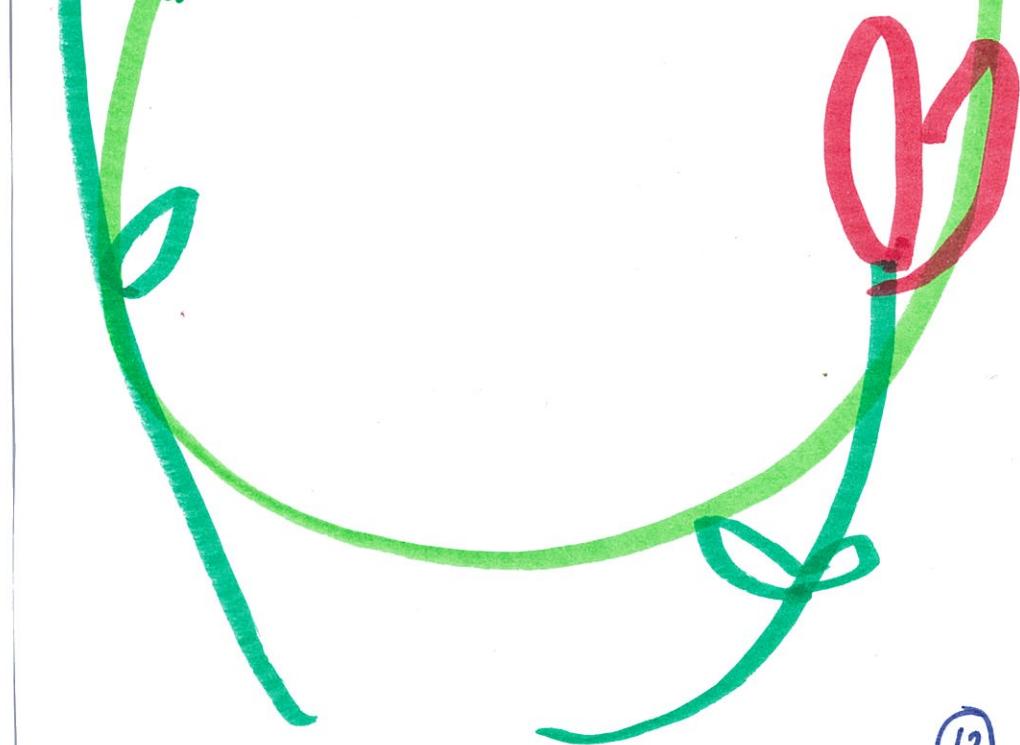
Each caucus will be held TWICE during time slots that do not overlap with any workshops.

- RETREAT PARTICIPANTS CAN
- CHOOSE TO ATTEND ONE CAUCUS
- TWICE OR TWO DIFFERENT CAUCUSES.

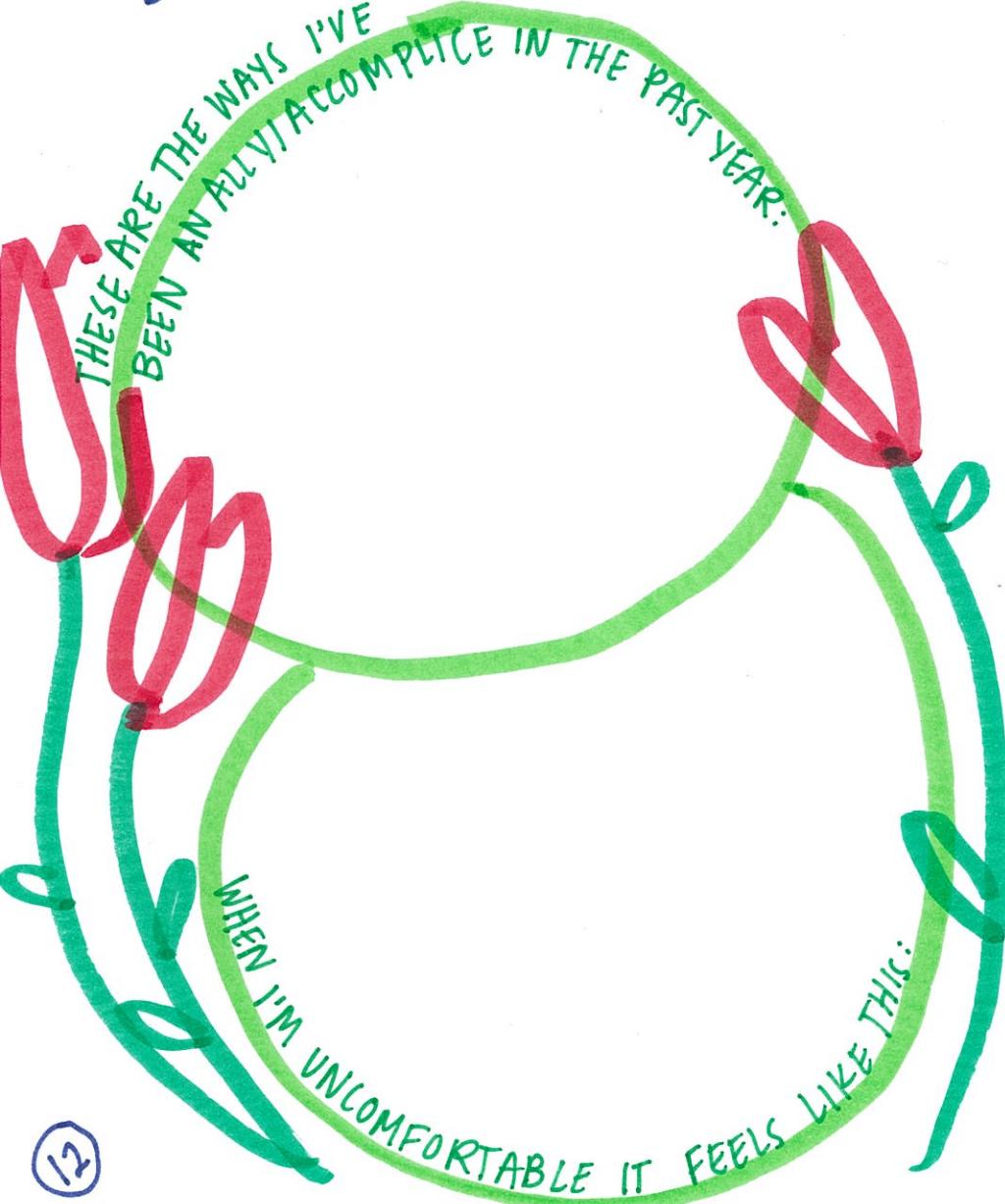
WE Recognize that people can and do hold multiple identities and that ideally people would not have to choose only one or two of those identities to be in community. Because of schedule and space logistics, this year we cannot provide as much fluidity & flexibility as we wish. HOWEVER! the Action Alliance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

# ACCOMPlice [BEFORE]

THESE ARE THE WAYS MY PRIVILEGE SHAPES MY EXPERIENCES IN THIS MOVEMENT AND IN MY COMMUNITY:



# ASPIRING REFLECTION



→ Caucuses are facilitated by Action Alliance staff or Governing Body members who hold those identities & are a part 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 3-4 pm~~  
~~& 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 life long process of learning to **leverage privilege** and building relationships based on trust, consistency, accountability, and action with marginalized people and communities.

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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, & orgs.

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 would I like  
these sessions to get out

What would I like  
these sessions to get out

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

How do my different identities  
impact my relationship to the work that  
we do?

# CAUCUS REFLECTION

[AFTER]



An impactful moment from my Caucus group(s):

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I will takeaway from this experience:

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

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

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

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