



## R A D C H A T T E R

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*Welcome to our bimonthly member newsletter: Radchatter!*

*This is a space where we provide updates on SWAA initiatives, relevant news, upcoming events, and recommendations for what to read, watch or listen to out there in the radical sphere.*

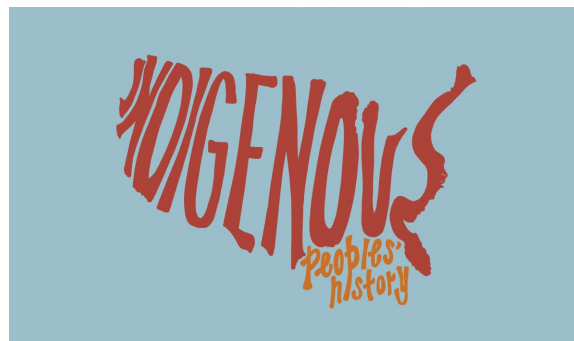
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## Remembrances to Honor this Month!



Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

Find a [PFLAG Chapter](#) near you for vigil information.



Celebrated annually during the month of November, Indigenous People's Month is intended to honor the vibrant culture and customs of Indigenous Peoples. The First Nations Development Institute have [4 Reasons to Rethink Your November](#), which encourages the practice of dispelling myths and reclaiming

# Election 2024: *We're over it, too.*



This special **Radchatter** issue wants to address the biggest albatross in November 2024: your well-being. Regardless of the outcome, we still have work to do...and we also need a break.

**[Vote4MentalHealth](#)** has information practicing self-care during election season.

**Need immediate help?** Text **ELECTION** to the Crisis Text Line at **741741**.

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## Upcoming SWAA Events

*Upcoming events, in-person or virtual that will be held in September!*

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Are you still **reeling from the election**, and its lead up and aftermath?

Are you curious what we can **learn from social movements** as we confront this moment in history?

Do you want to **find solidarity and community** with other radical workers in social services?



Then join us for SWAA's virtual  
**#RadChats**

**TOPIC: WHAT NOW?  
POST ELECTION DISCUSSION  
FOR RADICAL SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Thursday, November 21st at 8 PM ET**

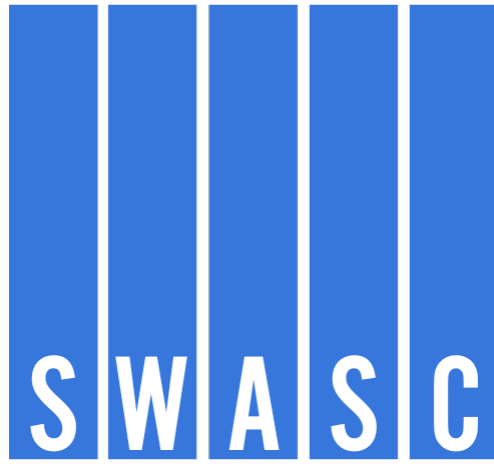


#RadChats are hour-long open ended conversations hosted by SWAA members. These sessions are not recorded. This month, we'll discuss our current political moment and then talk about policy priorities for radical social work - and how to advocate for them.

**TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER, VISIT  
[SOCIALWELFAREACTIONALLIANCE.ORG](https://socialwelfareactionalliance.org)**



**[Register for the #RadChat here.](#)**



**SOCIAL WORKERS AND ALLIES  
AGAINST SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**

At our October open meeting, SWASC was happy to host guest speaker Justyna Rzewinski, a social worker who recently left her post on Rikers Island, and went public with her story of the egregious use of solitary confinement with mentally ill people. If you missed it, you can view a [video recording on YouTube](#) of our meeting, as well as learn more about her experience [here](#).

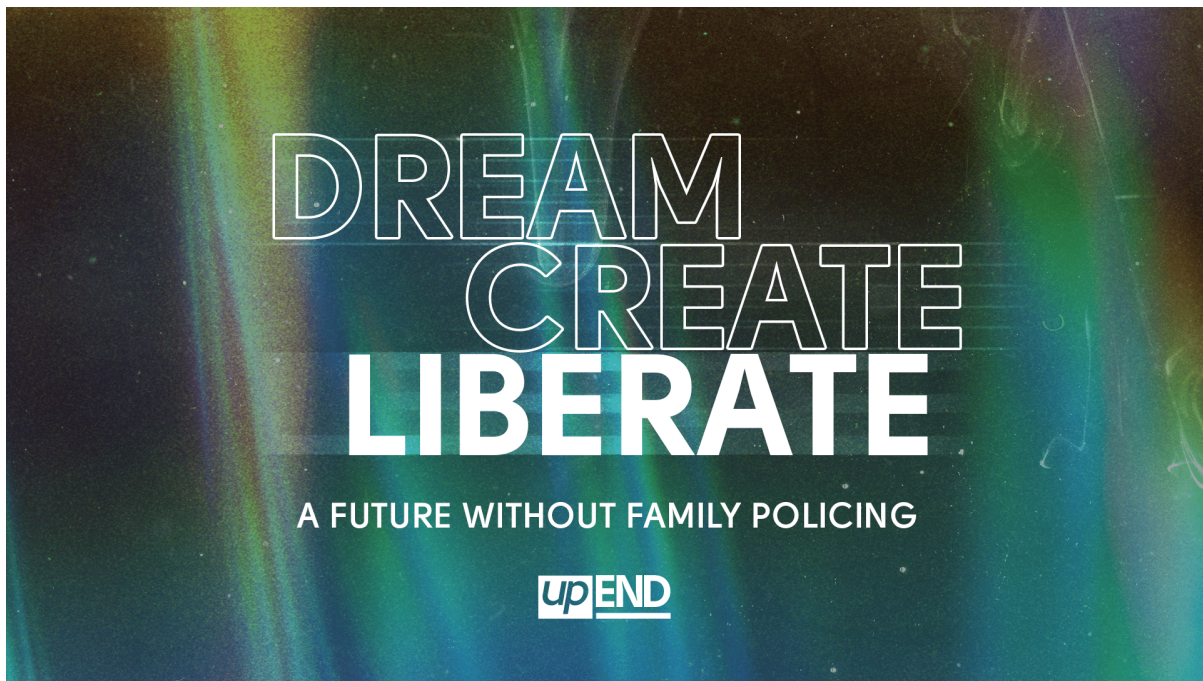
Relatedly, we are restarting our work to pass a piece of NY state legislation that would curtail the abuse of incarcerated people and empower social workers and other healthcare professionals. We are also looking forward to launching our first series of CE webinars for licensed professionals. The first one is tentatively scheduled for December; you can find more info [here](#).

If you'd like to be added to our email list for our monthly meetings or quarterly newsletter, contact [swasc999@gmail.com](mailto:swasc999@gmail.com)

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## **Flashback News**

*Recent events that may be of interest*



## upEND Movement Annual Convening

*October 9-10*

upEND's annual Convening gathers abolitionist thought leaders, professionals working in the system, and those impacted by family policing to imagine a radically different future where families are supported instead of separated.

At their 2024 Convening "**In Solidarity,**" they expanded their strategy to connect the family policing abolition movement to other struggles for our collective liberation. upEND moderated a conversation with activists working against prisons, immigrant detention, family policing, and more. Here is one of the sessions on building solidarity across movements toward liberation.

Watch it [here](#)

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### **Re-cap of our October 10th #RadChat: What are Policy Priorities for Radical Social Work?**

During this **#RadChat**, we examined the moment we are in as radical social workers given the upcoming election and the moment we are in politically. Do current policy proposals further economic, social, environmental, and racial justice? Or, do they further the neo-liberal agenda? Do they address the root causes of oppression and suffering?

National Steering Committee member and Co-host Stephen Monroe

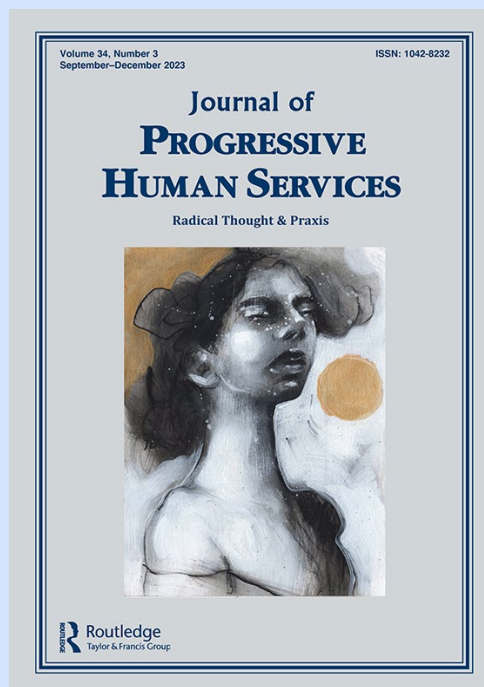
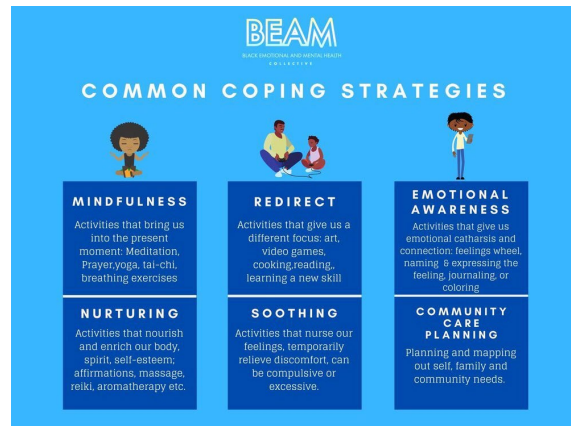
("Zak") Tomczak (he/him), Professor of Social Welfare Policy and Community Organization at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Department of Social Work gave us a **framework for analyzing radical policy priorities**.

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## BEAMing with Wellness: Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective

### Black Healing Remixed

The **Podcast** is where ancestral wisdom meets today's modern complexities. It is the front porch, the kitchen island, and that perfect seat on the couch – A place where we can come together and connect with honest talks. Join us as Yolo Akili Robinson and Natalie Patterson explore, in full truth, what it means to be healing in real time. There will be Black joy, laughter, tears, and wellness tools. The podcast shows us how our healing journeys can be imperfect and messy, but also very beautiful.



**The *Journal of Progressive Human Services: Radical Thought and Praxis* covers political, social, personal, and professional problems in human services from a progressive perspective and has a long-standing affiliation with the [Social Welfare Action Alliance \(SWAA\)](#). Members of SWAA can now purchase a discounted print/online subscription to the journal for \$30. Contact [societies@tandf.co.uk](mailto:societies@tandf.co.uk) and include the name of society (SWAA) to subscribe.**

***If you're interested in being a reviewer for the JPHS, contact Flower Noble at [jphsflower@yahoo.com](mailto:jphsflower@yahoo.com)***

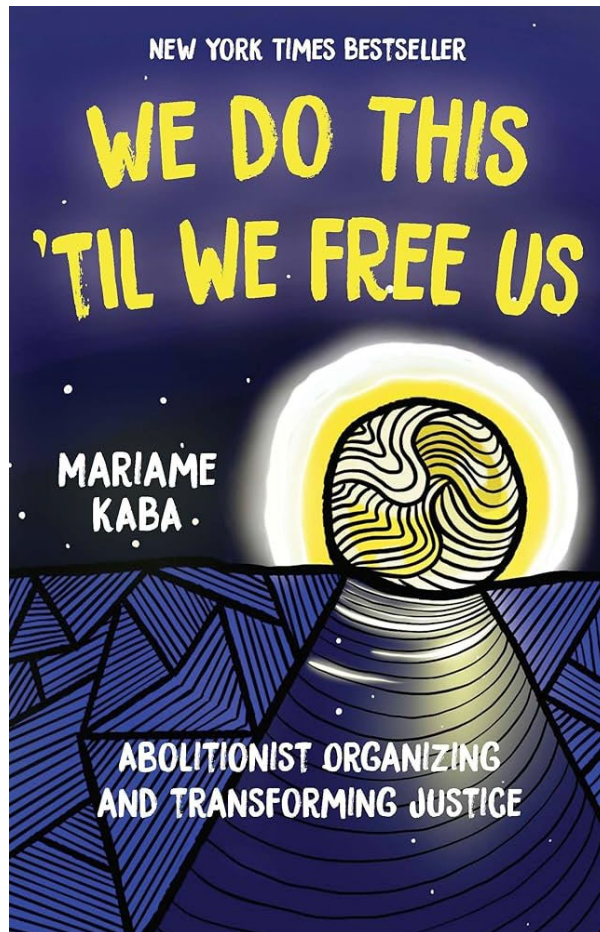
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# RadWork

*Welcome to our recommendations section! Where you can read, listen or watch people and organizations who align with our principles of social justice, peace and coalition building with progressive social movements.*

## November Book Recommendation

*Recommended by SWAA Member Heather G.*



“Organizing is both science and art. It is thinking through a vision, a strategy, and then figuring out who your targets are, always being concerned about power, always being concerned about how you’re going to actually build power in order to be able to push your issues, in order to be able to get the target to actually move in the way that you want to.”

What if social transformation and liberation isn’t about waiting for someone else to come along and save us? **What if ordinary people**

**have the power to collectively free ourselves?** In this timely collection of essays and interviews, Mariame Kaba reflects on the deep work of abolition and transformative political struggle.

With a foreword by Naomi Murakawa and chapters on seeking justice beyond the punishment system, transforming how we deal with harm and accountability, and finding hope in collective struggle for abolition, Kaba's work is deeply rooted in the relentless belief that we can fundamentally change the world. As Kaba writes, "Nothing that we do that is worthwhile is done alone."

**Purchase the book [here](#).**

## How SWAA members can get involved

**CONNECT** - If you are interested in connecting with other members and perhaps starting an affinity group or chapter your area, email [nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org](mailto:nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org). A SWAA steering committee member will reach out to you to discuss options.

**WRITE** - SWAA is always interested in opinion pieces or brief articles about radical social work. Email the above address with your ideas!

**EDUCATE** - Our education committee welcomes ideas for future webinars or #RadChat topics. If you have ideas for a panel, conversation, etc., we'd love to hear about them! Email [nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org](mailto:nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org)

**GUIDE** - Finally, if you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of the national steering committee, reach out via email and someone will connect with you.



**Social Welfare Action Alliance**

Contact: [nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org](mailto:nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org)

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