



## Our Principles

We operate from a set of values or Principles in our Transformative Justice work and our organization. These principles are intended to act as a guide for all of generationFIVE's work and the application of Transformative Justice. They are critical to assuring that Transformative Justice stays aligned with its core intentions and aligns with social justice and liberation. These principles also help us assure that Transformative Justice response and prevention work does not recreate the oppressive dynamics of public systems.

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## Transformative Justice Principles

Transformative Justice Principles include:

- o [Liberation](#)
- o [Shifting Power](#)
- o [Safety](#)
- o [Accountability](#)
- o [Building Collective Action](#)
- o [Honoring the Diversity of our Communities, Cultures, Histories and Experiences](#)
- o [Sustainability](#)

Click on each item to learn more!

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## generation FIVE principles

Along with Generation FIVE Transformative Justice principles we hold a number of other principles in our organizational practices and values. We use these to continue to align and orient our work.

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## Ending child sexual abuse requires ending other forms of oppression and violence

Child sexual abuse is a form of violence that is an outflow of systems of oppression, intersecting with other injustices. In addressing child sexual abuse we need to be prepared to address other forms of intimate and community violence that may occur along side the abuse. If we want to end child sexual abuse, we have to participate in movements and organizing that also address larger systems of oppression. When we make child sexual abuse a problem of the individual, we fail to understand the root causes of the issue and then are ineffective in changing the social conditions that make child sexual abuse so widespread.

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## Our vision for change requires individual, community, and political transformation towards healing and liberation

So often we work on political issues without supporting healing from and transformation of histories of violence and oppression. These histories and experiences can then get re-enacted within our communities even when we are committed to a future different from our past. For us this means not needing to react out of our histories but instead building the ability to act with a positive vision for our lives, relationships, community and the world. This is not an end point but a process. Personal healing so often isolates an individual and their experiences from the setting in which they are living. As individuals and community we are never actually separate from social and cultural context in which we live. This integration of personal and social context is essential for healing and for broader change. Healing happens most powerfully through relationships that support our transformation. And social justice organizing can be a powerful healer of violence and oppression when the healing work and the social justice work are consciously interconnected.

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## True justice in cases of child sexual abuse and other forms of violence requires that we transform social conditions.

If we respond to violence by engaging public systems, that reinforce oppressive dynamics, or by taking revenge, then we are not acting within our commitment to social justice and we are also not preventing future violence. The isolation and community disintegration created by public systems furthers the conditions in which child sexual abuse continues to happen. If we use vigilantism, then we are often using the same systems of male violence and dominance that help cause child sexual abuse. The actions of someone who abuses reflect the conditions of the society or community that they are part of—they are a reflection of the practice, norms, values, and power abuses that our communities and societies participate in to greater and lesser degrees.

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## Integration of anti-oppression practices

If our analysis, structure, strategies and programs do not actively challenge oppressive dynamics, practices and structures then they are likely to collude or actively perpetuate them. Generation FIVE is committed to internal and external organizational practices and relationships that seek to challenge and prevent oppressive dynamics and promote healing and liberation practices. Accountability is an over-used and under-practiced concept in social justice work. We believe that transformation cannot happen without individual and collective accountability practices and processes. Supporting others in being accountable is an investment and demonstrates a belief in their potential transformation. Accountability is not just being accountable for an act of violence or oppression; it is a commitment to challenging and preventing violence and oppression as well as dismantling privilege and entitlement.

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## Innovation, evaluation, reinvention

Though we have learned from and built on the work and experience of the liberation struggles and transformative practices that have come before us, we do not know how to build communities or a world without child sexual abuse. We have to explore, test, analyze and innovate to discover the best strategies and approaches. Generation FIVE takes very seriously the process of developing Transformative Justice-informed strategies and programs, trying them, seeking feedback and then reinventing based on that experience and feedback. Our work is a constant process of strategic and conscious experimentation.

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## Adult Accountability

We hold adults, not children, as fundamentally responsible for ending child sexual abuse. Many prevention efforts focus on educating children about “safe touch,” “harmful touch” and telling. Adults are only usually educated in the reporting laws and what to do after abuse happens. While these classes can empower children and raise awareness about potential harm, they do not address the inevitable power imbalance between adults and children. Leaving “telling” up to children means the abuse already happened and doesn’t truly work toward prevention or further our vision for change. Ultimately, children cannot prevent adults from abusing them. It is up to adults to intervene in and prevent child sexual abuse.

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## In close...

We have also found over and over again that it is necessary to develop a strong emotional capacity to organize around child sexual abuse. It is completely normal to have intense emotional responses to the issue. Grief, rage, helplessness, as well as hope, power and transformation are all deeply felt part of this issue. When we develop this emotional strength and skills, there is a lot of possibility for change, meaningful connection and more effectiveness in our organizing work. Our commitment is to support the development of resilience and emotional capacity alongside political analysis and effective community change work.