CYCLE OF SOCIALIZATION

THE BEGINNING

We are born into a world with the mechanics of oppression already in place. We have no consciousness, no choice, no blame, no guilt. There is no information or limited information or misinformation about social identity and power. Bias, stereotyping, prejudice, habits tradition and a history of oppression already exist. We inherit them without our permission.

FIRST SOCIALIZATION

We are socialized by people we love and trust, and taught to play our roles and follow rules. They shape our self-concepts and self-perceptions as well as how we see others. They shape our dreams, our values, our expectations, and our future roles.

We get mixed messages, feel confused, and guilty for not understanding.

THE CONTINUATION

We do nothing and the cycle continues. We choose not to make waves. We live with or promote the status quo. We fail to challenge, question, or think about what's wrong with this picture.

THE CORE

Ignorance
Confusion
Fear
Obliviousness
Insecurity

RESULTS

This socialization leads to bad outcomes for those with and without power:

Misconceptions, dissonance, silence, stress, collusion, inequality, anger, guilt, hate, self-hatred, self-destructive behaviors, violence, crime, and internalization of patterns of power for the future.

Something makes us begin to think, to challenge, to question the system.

We begin to see that something is wrong with this picture.

DIRECTION FOR CHANGE - MOVEMENT TOWARD LIBERATION

INSTITUTIONAL AND CULTURAL SOCIALIZATION

We are consciously and unconsciously bombarded with messages about who should have power and who should not by all the institutions we encounter: education, religion, medicine, law, criminal justice, government, social services, and business. We are brainwashed by our culture: media, language, patterns of thought, holidays, and song lyrics.

ENFORCEMENTS

A system of rewards and punishments keeps us playing by the rules.

Those who stay in line are sanctioned, while those who don't are punished, persecuted, stigmatized, or victimized by discrimination.

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