



NWTRCC Youth Advisory

Summary Report

November 2020

Make up of Group: *Gender:* 9 Women/ 2 Non-binary people/ 1 Man; Race : white, black, Hispanic, Filipino-American, Vietnamese-American; Geography: East Coast, West Coast, Midwest;

Groups involved with: 350 Eugene, American Civil Liberties Union, Anakbayan IE, AYPAL, BAY-Peace, Black Lives Matter, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, Campaign Workers Guild, Citizen Action of New York, Chicago Housing Initiative, Critical Resistance, DC Center for Immigrant Justice, DreamActivist DC, DSA LA Housing and Homelessness Committee, Eugene De-Escalation Collective, Eugene Jail Support, GABRIELA Oakland, Immigrant Youth Coalition, Lane County Mutual Aid Network, Los Angeles Tenants Union, Neighborhood Anarchist Collective, People's Action Institute, Queer-related orgs, State Innovation Exchange, Sunrise Corvallis Steering Committee, UCLA Labor Center, Urban Peace Movement, ViệtUnity South Bay, Women Sound Off, Working Families Party

General Outreach Questions

1. Why do you join the groups that you join?

Resonated with my own concerns and passions. Invited to join. Wanted to make change in the world collectively.

2. What are your goals for the groups that you are already in?

Breaking down barriers. Strengthen solidarity work, create pathways for people to develop relationships and empowerment with others. Healing structural violence.

3. How do you network or create relationships?

Build 1-on-1 relationships. Put ideology out there at meetings/online then check for positive responses and connect. Create events for members and organizations to take action together. Show up for other organizations.

4. What kinds of platforms do you use for organizing? Provide an example?

People feel safer with Signal (can have disappearing messages). Instagram/Facebook to post events, calls to action, & group updates (some recruiting). Personal phone calls, robo-calls to larger numbers utilizing smart phone and its many apps. Live stream events with the hope they will go viral. Venmo and Cash App for fundraising.

Comments on NWTRCC Materials:

Favorite Materials: WTR At a Glance, Newsletter, How & Why Brochure, Website

NWTRCC Mission Statement: Use more urgent/emotional language, move history to last paragraph, explain WTR, add more links – especially when mentioning other –isms (great to see intersectionality), include pie chart graphic on this part of website, very succinct, clear objectives, please explain how you see intersectionality, acknowledge possible different consequences of WTR for POC

WTR At a Glance: Information overload but in a GOOD way. I actually kept reading past my ten minute timer. Info helpful, comprehensive and I think this is definitely the first resource a person who is interested in learning more about NWTRCC should examine. Defining War Tax Resistance and what a war tax resister is was extremely helpful. I feel like I resonated with each one of them, especially Commitment, Integrity and Courage. I really also liked the next section about why people resist, I had no idea that there were so many different forms of resisting and I really appreciated that this document did not sugar coat the very real possibility of getting in trouble with the law. Engaging, accessible, good resource for everyone, liked bullet-points, liked the history, **BUT** could be even more organized by topic, tax form info was confusing, add something on intersection with citizenship status, add more about war at home. Some of the info could be stated with more conviction. *Many* folks wanted have a different picture on the cover.

Newsletter: The look, colors, & photos are great. Good varied content. Draws me in. Good connections with racial justice & other social justice issues. Like stories of real people, like updates about IRS, Good at showing sense of community; very good at showing how mission statement about WTR connections to other causes is legitimate. **BUT** needs articles by POC. Would be helpful to have an explanation of “counseling notes.”

Why & How Brochure: Easy to read, like the image of hand breaking gun apart, well laid out, cool photos, good summary of what a person needs to know. “I LOVE the introduction” – compelling and criticizes both political parties; informative, concise, good explanation of consequences and straightforward, **BUT** can be daunting and overwhelming, feels like a very individual action, should be longer and more detailed, photos of people are not diverse, seeing stories would be good, more clarity on how to resist and more info about how tax money could be used, resources and support section too text heavy—use bold to highlight certain parts (e.g., WTR is a direct way to take control).

NWTRCC Website:

- General: All necessary info easily accessible, clear menu, great logo; **BUT** not exciting, dated look, could use better color scheme, provided this as a good example of bold website: <https://www.antipoliceterrorproject.org/about> and thinks black, white, and red are good colors for us. Or at very least use a brighter blue.
- Climate Crisis Page: Like the call to action links, loved quote on top, good graphics, good info and facts, good critique of green alternatives for military; **BUT** design/format of

page are dated, add pie chart to this page, too image heavy (use bigger fonts, smaller pics), "Other Resources" should be a little more separate from rest of page, need greater connection of the climate crisis and the effects on black and brown folks, touch on militarized forced resource extraction from other countries, Butterfly quote is "green capitalism," Coleman Smith quote would better at top,

- Redirection Page: Inspiring, good balance of pics and text, nice history, good table of contents for newcomers, GREAT first paragraph; **BUT** a suggestion: intro paragraph, table of contents, pics all in one place like a slideshow. it's sparse at points, the idea of what has been accomplished seemed missing, provide more robust examples, more on connections between alternative funds and groups they give money to, provide penalty fund stories, focused on middle-class and no discussion of greed / why some folks have wealth

Facebook: Use primarily for getting info on a specific event, not general info. Mostly for folks 50+. No one chose to look at our Facebook page. They chose to look at our other resources.

Blog: A new post each month is great, maybe once a week if really interesting material, Not regularly read by younger folks. No one chose to look at our blog.

Twitter: Can be challenging platform to communicate with others. Our page is very consistent with posts, posts are informative, good info, like links to quick resources. Account looks legitimate with a healthy amount of followers, inviting, bio is concise and straight to the point. **BUT** why is name not NWTRCC for account? Not much engagement with posts, captions are often bland—need some punch, need to signal boost with other orgs, some photos blurry and difficult to read, greater connection to current events, more on redirection. Needs to be more engaging, should retweet posts that are related to your cause to help people find you, You could tweet a Q&A forum where folks ask questions (might need greater follower base for this), instead of links to website, have twitter threads that provide details on a topic

Instagram: "Valuable" for posting events, rapid response, & livestream events. NWTRCC posts have great people pics and art work that makes your group seem approachable. **BUT** the about section could be clearer, better call to action and explanation about posts, artwork had a lot of white people, use more infographics to explain current issues.

Youtube: Good for seeing a group's actions & events. Not highly utilized by their groups and no one chose to look at our page.

Podcast: YAC definitely had folks who really like podcasts, but also folks who never listened to pod casts. Great to hear a personal story, made WTR seem "a lot more doable," "I LOVE the podcast," great intro with good amount of info, good interview questions, like hearing from younger folks, **BUT** production value could be better, speed of interview a little slow, could be more conversational

Palm Cards:

- Tank Card: digestible and straight to the point, good amount of info, liked the QR code, great balance of military's threat to safety, health, and environment, repulsive tank on front is eye-catching; **BUT** have more recent data on oil usage by Pentagon, text on front clashes with image making it challenging to read, perhaps put the text on black outline.
- Orange Divest Card: eye-catching, straight to point, like QR code to page in Spanish; **BUT** can be intense and hard to follow, looks like a Doomsday poster/conspiracy theory, don't like the language of investment

Other Questions & Responses

What are ways that WTR can connect with POC? And what are obstacles?

Some of lit appears to pay lip service. Need talking points for why POC should be concerned about global war; we are focused more on getting jobs / surviving. Stress that taxes are funding war & not housing. Difficulty in asking someone with housing instability to take on added paper work and risk. For Filipino people, our group focuses on impacts of imperialism, militarism and how that affects Filipinos. Show up to events led by POC & listen to what they need. Offer expertise of NWTRCC & have something to share and potential for connection, draw connections on all these issues. Note resource extraction in the Global South & Black and Brown people also most impacted from war, we need to name the genocide and colonization and how the U.S. military is a tool for that: serves a function and purpose

What would you see as the largest obstacles for you in considering WTR?

I don't understand my taxes, confusion of paperwork, scared of audit, fear of affecting credit (for car/house), impact my relationships (partner & parents), mental health support would be very important, risk assessment (I can only break so many laws at once), I don't want it on my record, not sure I have the gumption

Actionable Items

- Reorganize the mission statement (**Proposal on the Table**)
- Update the design of the website – Being discussed by Outreach & Fundraising Cmtes
- Highlight personal stories on the website (including 1-3 minute videos) – We have these on the website, plan to make them more prominent.
- Page dedicated to #DefundThePolice
- Include suggestions to improve lit pieces before reprinting – Work in Progress
- Instagram & Twitter – change name from No Taxes for War to group name (otherwise it's confusing) **DONE**
- Twitter – Reach more folks and promote more interaction by retweeting related content by others, putting up polls, creating Twitter threads on important topics, and tweeting more on current events.
- Instagram - Post information for events **DONE**
- Add an explanation to Counseling Notes section of the newsletter (confusion about purpose of section) **DONE**