

The Rethinking DC Youth and Policing Project is a scholar research cohort dedicated to reimagining the practices and procedures of the Metropolitan Police Department to drive down youth arrests and promote youth diversion.

Theoretical Framework

This project adopts the community engaged research model which is defined as "fostering collaborations with and among groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations with the goal of addressing issues that affect the wellbeing of the people within the group (Harvard Catalyst 2021).

Social Media Advocacy & Community Engaged Outreach

Purpose: The social media profile was created in order to engage the audience at large with the research conducted by the cohort and ask them critical questions about reimagining DC. The profile also serves to inform individuals about how they can become involved the student projects and learn more about the DC criminal justice system.

Highlights: As part of spreading more awareness to current social actions impacting the DC Criminal Justice system, [Rethinking.DC](https://rethinkingdc.org) has presented information on DC legislation including the Reach Act of 2020 as well as highlighted non-profit organizations like the ACLU and CASA.DC who are committed to reform effort.



Kylie Foster, Kourtney Buckner, and Bishop Walton

Criminal Justice System through the Appeals Process and Political Engagement

Purpose: This research was conducted to analyze the impact of the Youth Rehabilitation Act in the District of Columbia and to lobby for the continued enforcement of such act.

Research Method: This team connected with various criminal justice organizations and local officials after developing a lobbying plan to support the continuity of the YRA Act. This team also created a partnership with Rising for Justice and plans to host informational interviews with community members and professionals in order to examine the local impact of the legislation.

Grace Tulley and Ale D'Agostino

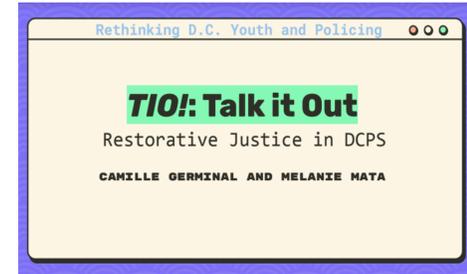
Talk it out: a Tool Kit for Educators Focused on Restorative Justice



Purpose: This research focuses on assessing in-school and conflict remediation before the involvement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) with the goal to combat the school to prison pipeline.

Project Highlight: Through the creation of the "Talk it Out" tool-kit this project outlines for educators and advocates ways to implement restorative justice practices in D.C Public Schools (DCPS) to avoid the use of SROs while providing necessary resources including an SRO database and step-by step guide for administrators to change the way discipline is handled in schools.

Implementation: This tool kit is being distributed to local leaders in the DC Public Schools. Long term this team will eventually use social media and create a website to highlight the research gathered through surveys given to DCPS.



Camille Germinal and Melanie Mata

From Girls to Women: The Needs of Girls in the Juvenile System in DC

Purpose: This research serves to inform the D.C. community as well as the Metropolitan Police Department about the overrepresentation of young black girls in the juvenile justice system and how their engagements with police officers and prior traumas they may have experienced affect them in the future.

Research Method: This team analyzed the makeup of girls in the DC juvenile justice system, hosted community engaged discussions with relevant stakeholders (MPD, Rights4Girls, Girl Rock DC, and more), and surveyed literature pertaining to Black girls in the justice system.

Highlights: This research team concludes that MPD and other D.C.-based police departments should implement:

- 1) More female leadership and interaction
- 2). Ride-Alongs with trauma-informed experts
- 3) Extended police training

Implementation: The developed recruitment plan will be presented to MPD to increase and expand outreach to women.

Jeily Bonilla, Hanna Yalew, and Betty Hailu