

**Last updated 6/8/2020**

[#8cantwait is Based on Faulty Data Science](#) by Cherrell Brown and Philip V. McHarris for Medium (June 6, 2020)

- Short, a little intimidating if you don't know anything about data science but they do a good job of explaining it simply
- Points out that the data provided by 8cantwait in no way proves their claim that their 8 reforms will reduce police violence by 72%
- Points out how many cities have half to all of the reforms already in place and police still regularly commit acts of violence
- Admonishes 8cantwait for misleading people away from abolition to useless reforms

[8toaboliton](#) (June 2020)

- Doesn't take long to go through the whole website
- An alternative to 8cantwait made by abolitionists and building off the work abolitionists have been doing for years
- Explains each of their points: defund the police, demilitarize communities, remove police from schools, free people from prisons and jails, repeal laws criminalizing survival, invest in community self governance, provide safe housing for everyone, and invest in care not cops
- Also has a page of resource links like this one you can check out for further reading!

[10 Lessons for Creating Safety Without Police](#) by Tasha Amezcua, Ejeris Dixon & Che J. Rene Long for Truthout (July 14, 2016)

- Medium short, easy to read
- A reflection by the Safe OUTside the System (SOS) Collective on 10 years of organizing for non violence and restorative justice
- Lessons to consider when organizing, and the value in letting yourself be open to learning lessons at all

[12 Things to do Instead of Calling the Cops](#) by unknown for The May Day Collective and Solidarity & Defense (2017)

- Short, easy to read
- A list of things to start implementing in your life and at your place of business
- I might add not doing some of these options alone (like approaching a parked car or someone in distress)

[Abolish the police? Organizers say it's less crazy than it sounds.](#) by Maya Dukmasova for the Chicago Reader (August 25, 2016)

- Medium length, easy to read
- Framed around people who came into thinking about police abolition without specifically seeking it out, or came to realize their practices were working towards that goal. Points

out how much regular behavior is already abolitionist. Addresses skepticism towards the movement.

- Names specific activists working today (Jessica Disu, Mariame Kaba, Page May, Ethan Ucker, Emmanuel Andre, Tamar Manasseh, Jermaine Kelly, Alan Mills) and groups they're involved in or other groups advocating for abolition ([Project Nia](#), [Circles and Ciphers](#), [Uptown People's Law Center](#), [Mothers/Men Against Senseless Killings](#), [Assata's Daughters](#), [Incite](#), [Critical Resistance](#))
- Focused in Chicago
- **Very hopeful tone, maybe a good place to start!**

[Alternatives to Calling the Police](#) by unknown for the Universalist Unitarian church (Unknown publishing date)

- Short, page formatting a little distracting but worded easily
- Good for showing any religious person in your life a congregation who is making abolitionist, social justice minded practices
- Goes through a thought process of why and when you might call the police, and what alternatives you have
- Lots of links to other sources, some linked elsewhere in this document. I have not gone through all of them and cannot vouch for each one but the ones I did read seem helpful.

[Alternatives to Police](#) by unknown for Rose City Copwatch (2008)

- Long, easy to read
- Examples from across the US and around the world of community alternatives to policing and restorative justice organizations, with pros and cons of each

[Alternatives to the Police](#), by Even Dent, Molly Korab, and Farid Rener for The McGill Daily, a student newspaper at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec (Publishing date unknown)

- Short, easy to read
- Defines restorative justice (mentioned frequently throughout these resources), a system that lessens state power and where the community as a whole decides if and how to punish someone who has committed a crime. It puts more power in the victim's hands than in traditional systems. It is recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Talks about preventative measures to stop crime before it happens such as architecture and city planning that discourages crime.
- Talks about groups that support victims of sexual assault immediately and long after the assault has occurred, which traditional systems don't.
- "Most of our communities already exist without policing. Most of our human interactions are already outside of the purview of police officers."

[Big Dreams and Bold Steps Towards a Police-Free Future](#) by Rachel Herzing for Truthout (2015)

- Short, a little dense but still understandable

- Talks a little about reforms already made or proposed and goes on to say while those may not be enough (and have even caused more problems to fix) they have paved the way for larger change
- Ends with projects already started making progress towards these changes

*Building a Police Free Future* by unknown for MDP 150 (organization working towards a police free Minneapolis) (Unknown publishing date)

- Short, easy to read
- A short handout addressing common questions or concerns one might have about police abolition (How will we be safe, what about armed bank robbers or murderers, etc)
- **This also may be a good place to start reading!** [Here's](#) the handout formatted to make an 8 page zine ([folding instructions](#)) so you can easily share it in person!

*DC Alternatives to Calling the Police* by Showing Up For Racial Justice (Updated March 4, 2020)

- Short, easy to read
- Resources specifically for Washington DC but you can look into or start to create similar resources in your area

*No BackSpace: The Case for Abolishing the Police* by Josmar Trujillo for City Limits (August 16, 2016)

- Short, easy to read
- Framed around a history of policing in New York and the KRS-One 1993 hit [Sound of Da Police](#)
- Explains that “community policing” and tactics like it are really just expanding the police’s power rather than doing anything to mitigate their harm

*Policing is a Dirty Job, But Nobody’s Gotta Do It: 6 Ideas for a Cop-Free World* by José Martín for Rolling Stone (December 16, 2014)

- Short, easy to read
- The 6 ideas are: unarmed mediation and intervention teams, the decriminalization of almost every crime, Restorative Justice, direct democracy at the community level, community patrols, and mental health care.
- Explains each one and gives some real world examples
- Points out that community patrols can and have been used by racists to enact violence but can be effective when done by and for the good of the community

*Reformist Reforms vs. Abolitionist Steps in Policing* by unknown for transformharm.org (unknown publishing date)

- Short (one page pamphlet), easy to read
- Shows how common reform goals may actually contribute to the problem while abolitionist steps work towards true justice and safety

- [Transformharm.org](https://transformharm.org) is a large scale version of this document! It has resources on not just police abolition but also restorative, transformative, and healing justice, carceral feminism, and community accountability. It was created by Miariame Kaba ([mentioned in this article linked further up in this document](#)). I highly recommend going here and further educating yourself with content curated by someone who's been doing this a LOT longer than me with far more expertise!

*[The Only Solution Is to Defund the Police](#) by Alex Vitale for The Nation (May 31, 2020)*

- Short, easy to read
- Talks about why and how police reforms don't work (points out that Minneapolis implemented lots of reforms and it did nothing)

*[The police are not here to protect you](#) by Alex Vitale, an edited excerpt from the book *The End of Policing*, published on Red Pepper (a leftist uk magazine) (October 17, 2017)*

- Short, a little more academically worded but still not too difficult to read
- Points out the myth that police are here to keep people safe
- Goes a little into the history of policing
- "The reality is that the police exist primarily as a system for managing and even producing inequality by suppressing social movements and tightly managing the behaviors of poor and non-white people: those on the losing end of economic and political arrangements."

*[The Problem with Community Policing](#) by the Abolition Research Group for For A World Without Police (October 8, 2017)*

- Short, easy to read
- Goes more into depth on the definitions and history of "community policing" "broken windows policing" and "problem solving policing"
- Clearly outlines how these strategies not only failed but could never succeed