



## WeGovern in Practice: Claiming Governance in Our Communities

Wednesday October 13, 2021  
11 AM-12:30 PM PT/2-3:30 PM ET

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TV: You can download the PowerPoint slides for this session here:

<http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/WeGovern-October-2021-1.pdf>

TV: Experimenting, Learning, & Moving to a World Without Violence: An Introduction to the Resonance Network:

<http://www.preventconnect.org/2019/06/experimenting-learning-and-moving-to-a-world-without-violence-an-introduction-to-the-resonance-network/>

TV: Reimagining Gender for a World Without Violence: Art and Storytelling led by Black organizers:

<http://www.preventconnect.org/2019/09/reimagining-gender-for-a-world-without-violence-art-and-storytelling-led-by-black-organizers/>

TV: Planting the Seeds to Build Communities: Stories of Healing, Connection, and Prevention: <http://www.preventconnect.org/2020/01/planting-the-seeds-to-build-communities-stories-of-healing-connection-and-prevention/>

(Re)Imagining a World Without Sexual Violence:

<http://www.nationalsexualassaultconference.org/2020/07/25/reimagining-a-world-without-sexual-violence/>

TV: #WeGovern: How do we go from imagining a world without violence to building it?

<http://www.preventconnect.org/2020/11/wegovern-how-do-we-go-from-imagining-a-world-without-violence-to-building-it/>

(Re)imagining a World Beyond Sexual Violence: Embodying Action:  
<http://www.nationalsexualassaultconference.org/2021/06/27/reimagining-a-world-without-sexual-violence-embodying-action/>

TV: Text Chat Question: What is your vision for a world beyond violence?

ST: comfort.

RLB: That all people will be seen as humans and respected as such

DS: safety within all intersecting identities.

CA: how can I print the list you are providing in chat? so i can keep resources.

YV: From inside out, I am gentle with myself and the life around me. we move to where we are drawn and called, not forced.

NA: equity and care.

CJ: Supportive holistic life for everyone.

HH: Freedom from fear. A life guided instead by joy.

PL: where everyone knows their individual and collective responsibility to take care of one another and grandmother earth.

MKZ: Community accountability.

CO: People can exist and move through the world without fear of assault or harassment.

SS: A world where all people are safe and able to celebrate and be celebrated joyously.

TV: @cassandra, we will provide a transcript of the text chat, including the links, on our website following this web conference.

SB: Community support and deep connections, peace

SB: freedom.

CA: @Sarah - thank you.

MT: The suicide rate of LGBTQ+ to be nonexistent.

SD: A place where all give what they can and take what they need. A place where the most vulnerable amongst us, are safe and cared for.

KE: That we all have the skills and capacity to repair harm.

SS: living without fear.

MM: connection with people different than us has fewer barriers.

AJ: Racial Justice and Civic Engagement Coordinator, YWCA, Grand Island, NE.

BC: Communal culture, end of individualism.

RB: A world that where we lead with grace and gratitude.

MJ: Safety, agency, and shared recognition.

CR: safety freedom and healthy connections - healthy communities.

KF: a world grounded in consideration and respect for other communities, people and cultures. A world filled with and based in love, safety, respect and gratitude.

SFQ: A world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met so that they don't have to fight for resources. Where education and community support and accountability prevent violence.

SB: @bella - yes! re: end of individualism

JR: Where trauma is not a way of life nor a source of power through fear.

ST: Respect, celebration, wholeness.

KT: beyond capitalism.

CA: safety, security, no worries that we (natives) will lose our reservations, working together in kindness.

TR: A world with respect, integrity, and staying in the present

TV: WeGovern: <https://we-govern.org/>

AOD: Having peace, love and believing my kids will be safe when they go outside.

CA: allowing us (Natives/Dine) can truly exercise our sovereignty.

AS: Thank you for modeling Alexis!

BUM: Warm love and appreciation to you Alexis! Both literally and metaphorically!

BC: Collective thriving = valuing people over property

TV: WeGovern: <https://we-govern.org/>

CB: I thought it was your doorbell!!!

TV: You can find more about the principles at WeGovern: <https://we-govern.org/>

TV: Text Chat Question: What comes to mind when you think of governance?

KE: Thank you Alexis!

HS: imposed

CA: federal

AG: control

MR: Agency

KE: Colonial

CA: stiff

DS: government

MAO: order

CB: Collective decision making-

CJ: Structure and process

SD: Decision making

CO: decision making

JB: power

RS: something we have no control over

SM: Traditional Governance

ST: government

SS: forced control

RLB: Power

LL: "those people" in charge

AS: Order

JR: Who decides?

RB: engagement

CR: institutional

MB: policy

SFQ: Decision making

MJ: law

TR: policy

TV: With Alexis's framing, governance now has me thinking of the way I parent my little dog.

AOD: Agreement

CA: power of decision

CB: how we decide to decide

JJL: cast systems

RB: responsibility

BC: Oppress and dominate

JR: And how decisions are made, with who at the table

AS: Everyone, every being has what we need individually + collectively.

JR: The criteria for decision-making.

CB: Responsibility as a collective.

AG: Favors the privileged

MAO: collective effort

RB: Ownership

CA: I as Dine have to fit into governance, it doesn't fit me

CA: foreign

JP: likewise!

CB: Community is about Love.

CA: poor swastika - it is a tribal design originally and has been misappropriated in the worst way.

BC: Good reminder that CA isn't a "liberal utopia" and our electoral votes don't erase this kind of thing

AS: "From a generation of violence and hate to bring forth a generation of love + abundance"

CB: Yes it doesn't work!

JBS: This sounds like Emergent Strategy. "Small is good. Small is all (the large is a reflection of the small)."

AS: ^^

TV: Text Chat Question: Where do you see the WeGovern principles come to life your life?

HH: Thank you @Karen Tronsgard-Scott what you shared really resonated with me. You articulated things that I've been feeling the last year+

MB: How did Karen's organizational structure change after adopting the WeGovern together approach?



JBS: My daughter is in the midst of a mental health crisis. My community has been crucial to maintaining her safety and the safety of everyone in our household.

LL: lots of cultural words that capture some of this where we thrive together- a word that speaks to me is Ubuntu where 'what hurts you hurts me, and what helps you helps me' that really means a lot to me

CG: Mutual aid networks, tenant rights organizing

RB: I feel like this is my home place. I grew up in the 60s too and always felt this was the way the world should work. I was out numbered, misunderstood and now finally think others might understand and share values.

KT: Yes, Lizzy!

CA: I am working with a mental health coalition to finalize and implement a Navajo Nation Suicide Surveillance Policy and Procedure manual to keep each other safe!

CR: all though new to me -this what I have tried to practice in my daily life -inherent value of all and the interdependency of all (and on mother earth) –

BC: White culture is very isolating, how do disrupt this in order to welcome all into being together?

AOD: It takes a village. We all work together to each other up and support.

KE: I am part of a group that supports a non-White elected individual. We watch the live public meetings and have a text group to encourage, support, and resource her in the moment as she faces resistance and racism around the elected table. We are her supportive shadow.

CA: taking time to check in with my team and have meaningful time with them and address self-care with them makes me feel like we are thriving together.

PL: @Kyla wow that's really powerful

JJL: I try to begin each virtual meeting, especially, with BIPOC advocates by humanizing the conversation and not just jump into the business of the agenda. Acknowledge and practice presence over perfection.

KE: @punihei It's the least we can do for this amazing person.

RLB: Community care, which is easier said than done. I'm trying to figure this out as a life practice.

SD: How I (re)learn my own mannerisms in my community. Do I lean upon my power and influence, or open myself to listen and learn? And when I do use my power - to whose benefit?

BC: Celebrating the power of queer/chosen families!

MJ: We've worked on recruiting our community members to feel safe and supported to accept staff, leadership, and board positions and organized support and increased organizational transparency for our shared work.

CA: The Navajo Nation has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in the most amazing way! There have been so many people engaging at all levels daily: State, CDC, Johns Hopkins, Navajo Tribe, Indian Health Service, County, Corrections, etc. It was very emotional when we took a day to honor ourselves and others for the hard work we have been doing.

KT: @Monte Jewell, that sounds amazing. could you share a couple brief strategies?

CA: Throughout the pandemic every Monday morning our Office of Native Medicine Traditional Practitioners have said prayers, sang songs, and told stories to keep our spirits up and in caring for us where I work in Chinle, Arizona.

ZJ: we keep each other safe -- positive norms change for child sexual abuse prevention. leaning on community strengths to do this prevention work. not coming from a "lack" or deficiency model since that is rooted in systems that don't work and aren't equitable.

MJ: Yes, though it's been ongoing work and not brief, lol. It's okay to email me at <[mjewell@jfsseattle.org](mailto:mjewell@jfsseattle.org)>.

KT: awesome, thanks!

AF: Thank you for this wealth of experience being shared in the chat. Please keep it coming.

ZJ: abundance perspective has been so important otherwise the work feels like it's impossible.

AS: Super Salamat JP AND we co-created Until We Are All Free together with so many other beloveds - <https://www.culturalpower.org/stories/until-we-are-all-free/>

CR: moving from scarcity mentality to abundance.

TV: Text Chat Question: How can you grow into the WeGovern principles in your life, outside of your formal employment/work within the movement?

BUM: Thank you and interconnectedness from Karen in the east coast, Jonathan from pacific rim Koreatown, CA to Korea, and Cassandra centered in Navajo Nation!

RB: Build bridges where differences threaten to pull us apart with friends and family.  
LISTEN!

SD: Right now, principled disagreement is big in my life.

CB: yes!!!

PL: yes!

RLB: Learning more about why some people are valued more than others and unpacking that history and trying to apply that to how I think about and treat others.

RML: YES!!

ZJ: yes! acknowledging discomfort in my body and discomfort period. also, lovingkindness meditations help.

CA: That is something I have wanted to do, make that change in my community - it is hard... there is some historical pain that holds me back and I want to let go of that so I can be more of an engaged community member. I need to trust...

BC: Not avoiding conflict but instead creating brave spaces to grow together

TV: I've been doing a journal practice of noting when I'm in alignment and not with my values, and I think incorporating these We Govern principles will be helpful and so necessary in my practice.

PL: I've been actually sharing at work and in other spaces when my body is in pain as a way to say "I'm gonna step away from this space. It is causing me harm and pain."

CA: I want to have regular sweat ceremonies open to women in my community

CB: And you have resources that are non- human... you can lean into at those times.

MJ: Listen to each other and value trust and protecting each other from risk of harm. Think of our social positions so we're less likely expose our most socially vulnerable colleagues to more risk and burden.

TV: Yes colleen! A presenter on the Resonance Network's NSAC workshop called that in, too, and it was so powerful!

CB: Yes and... gravity ground and sky!

DR: unfortunately there are some family mental health issues that are generational and repeated, (like wash, rinse and repeat) that unfixable. Sometimes you just have to accept it and work with it, even though you can't fix it.

CA: my dad says we don't talk to the plants, trees, water and air around us anymore - we don't give them offerings or acknowledge and respect them so that is why we are having environmental issues.

LL: giving young people governance opportunities because they are the future. in parenting and in life.

MJ: We can recruit, hire, and support colleagues based on life and varied experiences that we value --- that include but don't require insistence on formalized criteria that mostly protect and reproduce white privilege.

KT: the state is only an extension of community power"

AS: "Center the different types of strengths that come in our doors...surround individual leaders in clear stepping stones and practices that ensure the state is an extension of community power...the transformation of cultural power"

AS: @kristi same, same!

KT: <3 it!

AF: Our titles do not define the quality of our relationships!

AF: Practice loving relationships in a sector that has been taught to protect what is ours from a place of violence!

YV: ^ that part

RB: Louder @Karen! Yes!!

JP: Love the descriptor of galaxy

CA: me, too

KC: Resonance is a galaxy ^^

CA: I am an Advisor! I like that!

CB: the relational field.... Yes!

JV: wow, I wish all EDs were on this call

JV: thank you Karen for sharing.

SD: WORD

CB: Wow.

CB: This is so inspiring to hear! Thank you

JBS: Can you share what the governance process that your board uses is?

MJ: yes

TV: Text Chat Question: What is one action you can take today to re-imagine, claim, and embody governance?

KT: My board uses Policy Governance as its operational model.

CB: Re-think current conflict at work, particularly around resources.

SFQ: Mutual aid. Promoting and taking part of resource sharing.

RLB: How to make there be less fear in the leadership.

PL: I'm thinking about how I can re-story my story towards abundance.

KF: intentionally centering love at the center of my advocacy for anti-racist city housing policies.

KE: Utilize resources shared today as part of my masters work on reimagining nonprofit governance. With proper credit of course! Thank you to all who spoke and organized.

BC: Transform classroom curriculum to be more democratic - trust young people to govern themselves

DR: Somehow teach respect of people in kindergarten and all through high school as required courses to teach a new generation. Kindness is taught and some people are not born knowing it.

SD: Remaining true to myself as I leave organizations that I no longer align with, and into mutually honoring relationships.

MJ: I feel inspired and encouraged to recommit to continuing our shared race equity values and work. Thank you!

CR: rethink brainstorm on moving to abundance model -yes Punihei - and then approaching those who want to be community.

KE: Yes Bella! I went to a student-governed school back in the '80s. It was amazing!

TV: WeGovern: <https://we-govern.org/>

PL: Mahalo for curating this conversation.

BUM: Thank you Jonathan, Karen, Alexis and David! For sharing your wonderful whole selves! You (and we) are living and being, TRULY Claiming Governance in our Communities

CO: Thank you speakers and organizers!

KT: Hi Beckie!

NA: Thank you!

MJ: Thank you!

MO: Thank you everyone!

BC: Thank you for this nourishing conversation

FVG: thank you everyone

AOD: Thank you!!

CB: thank you for naming all of that!

KF: This was transformative. Thank you so much for this enlightening community experience!

VR: Thank you!!

CR: Thank you so much all! Wish we had more time to explore all of this together