



WeGovern in Practice: Reimagining Policy for a World Beyond Violence

February 10, 2022
11 AM-12:30 PM PT
2-3:30 PM ET

TV: You can download the PowerPoint slides for this session here:
<http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WeGovern-February-2022.pdf>

SF: Rape Crisis Center in eastern Massachusetts - any MA folks email me if you'd like info about virtual support groups we are running (sfritz@ywcanema.org).

TV: You can download the PowerPoint slides for this session here:
<http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WeGovern-February-2022.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/>.

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: WeGovern in Practice: Claiming governance in our communities:
<http://www.preventconnect.org/2021/09/wegovern-in-practice-claiming-governance-in-our-communities/>.

WeGovern in practice: Narrating a future for our communities:
<http://www.preventconnect.org/2021/11/wegovern-in-practice-narrating-a-future-for-our-communities/>.

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

TV: WeGovern statements are available to view at
http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/wegovern_statementpdf-1-_compressed.pdf

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

LH: No oppression, people feeling safe and at peace in their communities.

CQ: acceptance of all. peace.

RC: Personally (not sure how to do this professionally) - leaders that lead with mindfulness.

JM: World full of respectful people!!

PH: Creative collaboration.

AK: Community care.

AK: Peace in schools and communities.

AM: safety and security are common for ALL people.

TT: Embodiment of equity and interdependence and peace.

TP: Compassion and empathy.

SN: Having just systems.

KVS: A world where it is safe to express oneself how they want to.

MW: Where every person feels safe and at peace and not the cautious fear because of who they are or how they identify.

NB: joy and institutional courage!

MR: Respect, Dignity, Freedom to live.

AM: Not limited to this but Good moral upstanding and proper accountability.

AB: Without oppression, folks can be fully embraced for their identities.

SC: ALL people feeling safe to do basic activities and feel good about themselves.

JS: Inclusion and respect.

JB: Safety in public and private, Access to all the resources needed to live a fulfilling life.

SM: Emotional intelligence and accessibility.

LH: No ableism, feeling a sense of belonging to the community, all basic needs are met.

KR: no more trauma.

C: Loving relationships.

SL: Being able to live comfortably with unlocked doors at home.

DB: Different generations working together to create lives that are safe and fulfilling for all.

JM: Abolishment, land back, and accountability.

JW: Your health will not be tied to how much you can pay.

YV: Honoring & making room for full spectrum of human experience including belly laughs, crying without shame, and joy!

HC: Everyone treated with Dignity.

SC: Access to healthcare, clean water.

SN: Collective healing.

ZJ: respect, equity, empathy, collaboration, community care, comfort, peace.

ST: No police, no greed, no billionaires, healthcare for all, access to food for all.

NKC: Community care, resources for all so everyone has access to everything they need, power and control is no longer a thing.

PH: All needs met.

KL: Reduced harm to the most vulnerable.

RM: safety, accountability, justice, belonging.

BT: People's basic needs met (healthcare, basic income, safe and secure housing) so they can grow and thrive as humans.

JL: Honestly hard for me to picture the way the world is...

AS: Peace for all.

AT: an end to patriarchy.

AB: people feeling safe to be themselves regardless of their cultural, belief etc

SC: no billionaires!

CW: No oppressive systems, compassion, understanding & acceptance, connection and healing!

SY: Everyone to feel equally safe into their communities, no one left out.

JM: Ability to express yourself without judgement.

VG: all individuals have the resources to thrive and NOT just survive.

MRB: A world where we all safe and we all have the same opportunities. Where we are equal!

CY: all of our children are nurtured in safe, stable communities that allow all of us to be our full, beautiful, creative, thriving human selves!

MR: Respect for all, freedom to live.

CS: Open borders & restorative justice.

LH: This is so great, these describe the world I want to live in!

ZJ: all folks thriving.

SN: Resources based on equity

KR: Ending white supremacy and fascism

KE: No "freedom" convoy (I'm in Canada)

SJ: Equality!

LAB: A place where there is listening to each other...in that pause. We find we are the "me's" in all the us...

NLS: To be live in a world where all are free, safe, and equal. All are able to determine the conditions of their life. Free of domination and intersectional oppression.

SA: accepting one another to work together. don't have to agree but ability to work for better tomorrows.

JM: Oh- yeah From Gulfport Mississippi!

KC: Decolonize and "reindiginize".

HW: No more erasure of societal historical truths; full acceptance of the Human Experience!

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

WeGovern statements are available to view at
http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/wegovern_statementpdf-1-_compressed.pdf

DB: A variety of healing modalities that are culturally sensitive

MO: 😊 yes to all the above.

DB: 🙏 🙏 🙏

SJ: Remove hate from our vocabulary.

DB: That part!

LAB: How we now, teach violence that instead teach acceptance, Love.

DB: Envisioning governance as community care.

YV: Phewww this is powerful, Jeanine!

KOM: Yes Jeanine!

DJ: Whew!

TT: Yes Ma'am!!!

DB: 🙏🙏

DD: Those glasses, though Diona!!

LAB: Wow! Jeanine, Thank you for soaring & reaching your roots.

YV: ^ Right!

LAB: out, that is.

RC: Can someone please put in the chat the 3 things she said policy means to her.
Thank you! 🙏

YV: Diona!!! Your truth is shining bright thru you ✨.

AB: Something that happens to them.

AB: Something to fear.

AB: Something they have no control over.

RC: Thank you! Alex! That was powerful.

JM: Whew you just spoke to my heart with that as a foster kid.

SN: Snaps.

SF: Thank you so much for everything you just shared.

SKN: 🙌

KE: ❤️

LAB: Thank You, Diona for sharing your Truth.

BE: <3 <3 <3

J: "policy is what seemed to protect everyone except me" That's incredibly powerful!
thank you!

TV: Applause sounds all around!!

TT: Blessings young sister!!!!

NLS: ❤️

SM: Deeply received. Thank you!

JL: Thank you Diona and Jeanine.

EH: Thanks for sharing your truth.

AM: Thank you for sharing your truth! we admire your strength!

SY: Thank you for sharing, very powerful 🙏

MS: powerful.

JS: ❤️❤️❤️

TT: Happy birthday Dr. Gail's Mom!!! Blessings!!!

DJ: Warm Gratitude for All Holding and Receiving

LAB: Birthday Blessings to Dr Gail's Momma! enjoy her!!!

AF: ❤️

YV: Certainly not a coincidence! Your presence & work is so purposeful & meaningful, Dr. Gail!

JG: Thank you for these powerful and moving introductions, Dr. Gail, Jeanine, and Diona. ❤️

JL: Thank you for sharing Dr. Gail

KE: ❤️❤️❤️ For all three of you!

DJ: Wow, incredible, thank you Dr. Gail. I have chills!

JS: Thank you, Dr. Gail! ❤️🙏

MRB: Thank Diona, Jeanine and Dr Gail🙏

SY: Thank you all, so enlightening.

A: Thanks so much to all three of you! So incredible.

C: legislators.

AK: Change.

DL: What comes to mind when you think about policy?

CD: power.

AB: It feels...rigid.

MW: Dread.

CY: impactful strategic lever.

DJ: Old white men.

JL: above my pay grade.

BT: Exhausting.

ST: anxiety.

CA: hard to change.

LB: policy = white supremacy culture.

HW: Nervous anxiety that I can feel in my stomach...

NLS: Necessity.

CQ: bureaucracy. huge commitment to long-term change.

MG: Control.

CGB: structure.

CS: chaos.

KR: Exciting and terrifying depending on who is designing the policy.

ER: overwhelm.

JB: state control.

AM: I think about lack of representation in our government.

VH: Power imbalance.

KE: A tool to weaponize the status quo.

YV: Embodied response: brace yourself to fit into the rigid guidelines. If you don't, there's consequences.

LAB: Walls.

AM: annoyance.

SM: inconsiderate.

SN: Red tape.

KL: Seems like you have to fight for everything.

AS: control.

VS: Rules.

KVS: messed up.

MS: principles.

KC: White patriarchal supremacy.

SL: Regulations, law.

ER: Big sigh.

MD: eyeroll.

BT: Policy: future ideas, legislative gridlock.

SF: Structure- knowing what to do when the you-know-what hits the fan.

JP: people who have no idea what direct service work with survivors is like.

MR: Tension, control, power imbalance.

SA: kidneys.

J: theatrical.

JL: Congressional deadlock.

NKC: Our current infrastructure vs the infrastructure we need to actually be what folk need.

PH: If we're not at that table, we know who will be.

KR: Anything good never gets passed.

CS: gaslighting under the guise of compromise.

MRB: inequality.

SKN: white patriarchal supremacy!

LH: Fear, worry, rich abled white Christian men.

HC: Not inclusive for everyone.

J: performative.

KDA: power & control, disenfranchisement. But also possibility, population level health, wellbeing for all.

LG: manipulative.

ZJ: red tape.

MD: white paper.

J: like we are not being heard.

KE: A place to put things we are scared of dealing with but don't know what to do about.

RC: I write policy - so hope that I'm in a position to make a difference.

VK: slow and traditional.

SL: Not a well thought out written item that doesn't address reality but are made to follow.

LAB: Heart growing Hope.

SN: Bye-bye bipartisanship.

ZJ: bureaucracy.

C: bureaucracy.

YV: shoulders up by my ears.

ZJ: overwhelm!

HW: Headache.

J: Heat.

PH: Pressure.

MD: frustration.

ASM: dread.

CD: holding my breathe.

CQ: tummy ach.

JB: chest tightens.

SN: Disgust.

VH: Tense.

CS: nausea.

JL: tired.

CQ: ache.

ST: dizzy.

HW: Exhausted... wanna scream...

CA: frustration.

VG: tension.

BT: holding my breath.

CY: cynicism.

KL: Clenched jaw.

LAB: Pause.

MR: Anger.

VK: I feel angry and stressed.

AB: tired.

C: palpitations – anxiety.

MRB: tiredness.

KDA: apathy.

JS: I keep intentionally dropping my shoulders.

SM: trapped.

WB: Only for a specific group.

E: fear - heart racing. overwhelm.

HW: Ready to box!

BT: shaking my head, bouncing my leg, rolling eyes.

KC: Collective pain, grieving.

LH: Bile in my throat, heart racing.

BT: holding breath.

LAB: Angry.

BT: attitude of "you don't understand how
COMPLICATED congress is..."

CH: Reminder of past, present and future lack of changes.

YV: YES!!!!!!

TT: We have to keep OURSELVES....

LAB: we have to do un-do so much...

AF: ✨ "Before we can keep ourselves safe and hold ourselves and each other accountable, we have to KEEP ourselves, we have to HOLD ourselves. ~ Jeanine.

YV: yes, unlearning the practice of minimizing & abandoning ourselves.

LAB: in ourselves...

ASM: "We learn how to tell our stories in a way that those people will hear them. We change our stories. And then they're not our stories anymore."

ASM: ::deep sigh::

LAB: Racism is a construct and so is changing our story to please others.

SF: "Not hostile by accident" Wow.

AF: "We don't go back to where we are clean, and fresh and uninjured. We have to start where we are...to not tell the story that we think they'll here."

LAB: Healing comes from within, first & foremost.

LAB: Be truthful.

KD: That's deep!!

AF: "I have to tell the real story....or else we won't get the policy that is honest to the problem."

CY: some tables are going to get turned over!

CQ: Indeed! Product of great reflection and insight.

LAB: Yes...

TT: Turn 'em over then.... The time has come. Change is HERE!!!

YV: 🙌🙌🙌

J: They want us to tell the "right story" but not the real story to avoid their discomfort.

SKN: 🙌

LAB: We must get our sledgehammers and attack it!!!

MS: 🙌

SY: Wow

MRB: 🙌

DL: How is your whole life – your relationships, your work – shaped by policy?

VN: WOW! Thank you

YV: I'm shaken and shaken RN

KE: Policy gets to tell my kid if they are "good" or "bad" at school.

KR: Shapes what access our communities receive, opportunities, health outcomes etc.

C: As a woman, my life is shaped by how and when I can get access to healthcare

AF: The decisions that are made about what grocery stores are available to me in my predominantly Black community.

E: policy is a heavy burden as an openly trans individual.

JB: As a fat queer person, policy impacts me every day through what spaces are accessible and how I am allowed to be in relation with myself and loved ones.

SL: I really know no other way because it has been policy-driven my entire existence.

AK: Before my work with DV/SV victims, I wasn't aware how important policies were and what we can do to change them.

WB: policy potentially puts my life and my kids lives in danger.

KP: Policy needs to be rewritten.

KR: Basically if it's safe to exist and what kind of life you will have.

JM: Policy creates barriers to health care for my trans partner- barriers that I don't encounter as a white, cisgender woman.

NKC: Hopping off for another call - thank you! This has been impactful.

SN: Policy allowed me to see my father and unite as a family after many years.

CQ: I understand. Binary expectations still rule.

HC: Policy limits peoples rights.

KW: Noticing how policy shapes my relationship with my dad now that he lives in a nursing home.

CA: policy shapes the experiences of first responders.

ST: policy consumes time and resources.

LH: Policy tells me as a disabled person if I get resources to live. Policy tells me how people view and interact with me and my brothers. Policy puts limits on what I'm allowed to do and accomplish.

CH: Policy creates a narrative that if I as a black women speak up or speak at all I am deemed angry, hostile or unworthy of the platform in some way or another.

JS: 6th

WB: Policy is not truly shaped with input from all

YV: the policies of this state have sought to decree whether i even exist or have value.

VK: Policy can lead to poor mental and physical health outcomes.

CL: personally my life is shaped by policy when I have to think about how my gender presentation impacts my safety when I step out of my home or how I interact with a partner when out in public.

BL: So many policies leave out youth and other young people (esp. survivors and young people that use violence)

MW: Policy taught me to follow rules that the biggest loudest strongest person, often not for the greater good. It makes it difficult for every voice to be heard.

SKN: policy has created pipeline to prison.

AK: Policy funds my work and dictates our focus, often limiting the means to realize our vision.

AB: I'm thinking about changing stories to be more palatable, and the policies that tell me what is palatable. I am in a lot of spaces of privilege, and also some marginalized spaces. I am a bisexual genderqueer person, and the amount of authenticity I am "allowed" to display is shaped by policy.

KE: Policy tells me when and how I can tell my stories to public bodies (e.g. city council, school board).

SM: Policy keeps my family from being recognized as a family in the eyes of the law and medical professionals.

J: Everything, my gender, my relationships, like I don't exist in some states, access to information, health, fatphobia in medical field makes me have to advocate for myself every time I'm sick.

MD: Immigration policy dictates where and when my clients can live, move, marry, travel, work, and access healthcare and social services.

MG: Policy is an excuse people hide behind to avoid creating accessible solutions.

C: as ending gender based violence coordinator with Pan-Asian Community., policy puts me in a box puts me in a box for model minority only to be heard and dismisses me.

BT: Policy is disconnected from experience. Made by people w/o/lived experience and enforced by same. Policy can stand in the way of healing and policy can actively hurt folks.

HW: The residue of policy has made my family EXTREMELY intentional at creating and uplifting/upholding/presenting a loving Black culture... but safety was always at the forefront.

KC: As a 2S indigenous, my culture, relationship to the land, and relationship to spirit is framed, shamed, pushed down, constant state of fear.

CY: policy determines where our shared resources are invested, how my neighborhood is designed, the health of my environment + food--all of the things.

CS: policy is keeping students drowning in debt, curtailing futures

AK: Policy dictates what is invested in around me.

AF: All people have the right, opportunity and responsibility to participate in governance.

MRB: Policy has told me that my status as an immigrant shapes if I belong or not.

LAB: I live in the Flood ravaged part of NJ and still many have no housing. Policy is strangling my clients and myself. You lose all your id and you can't get Drivers license or Social Security cards You CAN'T Get funds to live.

TT: Policies offer broad insights on guidance for community resources and qualities of life (and disparities thereof).

JM: I don't like the military policy's where commanders use the same as the commander before. "Recycled Policy" they need to create a specific policy towards a more direct approach to a program.

TT: COURAGE!!! Come through Dr. Gail!!!

LAB: So I will keep breaking down these policies.

TV: Text Chat Question: Whose voices do we hear more of in policy, and whose do we hear less of? How do we make spaces in policy for the voices we hear less of? How do we ensure those voices are central to policy decisions?

JM: Petitioning.

KR: Policy makers never hear from the homeless sadly.

MR: activism.

JM: Grant request and funding.

KR: Important to center youth and survivors in our work.

YV: we hear a lot from so-called authority figures in policy. where does their authority actually come from tho?

J: Stepping back and leveraging privilege to bring those voices in

CA: mobilizing

SF: build working class power/solidarity

KE: Those most-affected by the decisions are often left out.

CQ: Voices most often heard in policy decisions include lobbyists. Minorities, vulnerable populations never heard from directly. :(

C: honoring the stories and storytelling and testimonials.

IS: representation.

JB: Bringing folks to the table as experts in their own experiences.

MR: advocacy using storytelling.

SF: Whoever the policy is about should be at the table for the discussion.

J: amplifying.

WB: streamlining the ways to get involved. its too confusing for the average person.

AT: emphasize the importance of lived experience as a driver of good policy.

TT: Physically going to ask those questions to diverse communities to inform my decision-making.

BL: teenagers!! give them platforms to share their brilliance.

KR: Big corporations buy policy.

CY: centering the stories/leadership of communities that have been marginalized in defining community problems and solutions.

JM: Parents who have time and resources to be part of board meetings have a larger say in school policies.

TT: Nothing ABOUT us WITHOUT us!!!

KW: Yesss!!

AT: "nothing about us without us is for us"

C: honoring the intentions and mindful intentions of why this policy is needed?

AM: you hear the loudest person. Advocate! Ask for and amplify the voices of those the policy affects!

E: my organization (the ion center) has a diversity, equity, and inclusion committee that is bringing in knowledge and lived experience from those that are typically underrepresented. our current focus, for example, is on the hispanic community. we're doing focus groups right now. it's very exciting.

KE: Where I live, the rightful land stewards (Indigenous Nations) should be at all the tables.

KC: Decentralizing power by developing relationships to marginal communities and learn, give space, bring their voices to the center.

TV: Yes meeting people where they are because we know there are barriers to getting to the table.

MR: Bring in young adults - next gen.

SKN: we overwhelmingly hear white male voices creating policies, leaders who are in positions of power need to give up their seats to people of color, to women and all marginalized groups.

CY: creating access for people who are usually excluded. paying for time; attending to accessibility.

LAB: I must show up on all those Zooms that have higher ups. I been claiming & let them see my face. and know what it really look like.

GM: Those in power must share the power.

MG: We hear the voices of economically privileged, educated and resourced politicians in policy.

SF: minimize barriers to get marginalized voices to the policy-making spaces (transportation, child care, incentive/compensation, etc).

TV: @ Sarah yes!

LAB: to be homeless and working every day, in government.

AF: Our health and safety arise from mutual care, a just society, and the interruption of violence before it harms others.

LAB: We must Listen, Affirm and Accept others Truths.

AF: "I affirm that story. I make it explicit that I believe that story. I thank them for sharing that story." – Diona.

AM: YES!

AF: "You're not a problem to be solved. You are not something that needs to be fixed. I am here to provide care."

LAB: Yesss, you are Not a problem to be solved or fixed.

AF: "It's so important for us to be accountable to our healing. To be accountable to our memories."

LAB: We are all Sacred...

MS: "unpack the harm that has been done to you. Interrupt the cycles"

JS: 🙏🙏🙏

LAB: Give ourselves time after we unpack the harm and hurt to find time to heal.

KC: This conversation make me feel seen so deeply even when this is not my space to show up. I am deeply thankful for the work that is being done and that we are rising strong as community. Thank you.

AF: ❤️❤️

YV: ☆🙏🙏 powerful!!!!

SKN: 🙌

KP: Beautiful and so powerful!

LAB: Yesss!!!

GM: Please check out the film: www.rhythmsoftheland.com

YV: Divine design =)

DL: Can you share a time when you felt empowered to be a creator of policy, or had the agency to create policy? Time/place/what that was like?

MR: Felt useful

YV: Now that i have left my childhood home and am making my own, my policy is that this place is safe haven for my loved ones to land as they are and as they need

JB: In my position as a manager of development, I have been able to work on transitioning our fundraising away from donor-centered and towards community-centered.

WB: working with the coordinated entry system. I was able to create a inclusive policy that allowed the most vulnerable to have access to housing vouchers.

VH: In my DV agency advocating for more inclusive trauma informed policy for survivors.

LAB: right Now, As I fight for my clients to get Social Security cards & ID's.

CQ: As executive director of an assisted living, was incredible to create change, advocate for residents and bring them opportunities for social engagements, accommodations like tub cuts (consistent with fair housing) . . . wheelchairs to be active in community. Best part of the position!

BT: Fruitful: Imagine how it might be done and then the resources to implement ideas.

HW: Working with Black LGBTQ youth in Detroit with enumerating the Detroit Public School system's anti-bullying policy to explicitly state that "gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, queer, and trans-identified" youth are protected.

KE: When I was part of a group of people who came together to have police school-liaison officers removed from our school district.

KW: Making room for principles of harm reduction and redistributing power in CJ policy.

CS: as a program director opening pathways for advancement for those on my team.

MR: How can we connect with Alexis?

J: Setting boundaries in my personal and professional relationships.

C: Learning so much and just want to honor to have the agency and power to be able to have the space to have input, and not apologizing to take space to be heard and have a maybe small impact with the Family Protection Violence Protection Taskforce and Intimate Partner Violence.

AF: Alexis@resonance-network.org.

VN: I have the freedom to develop and mold our housing/shelter team, who are passionate young professionals.

JS: I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be in space with all of you.

LAB: Hopeful

CQ: felt bad ass, like wonder woman!

TT: Responsive

HW: It makes me feel hopeful... that the future isn't science fiction...

JB: Empowering

J: scary sometimes, and seen.

YV: my creative birthright feels activated.

KE: Feels possible when doing it with others.

BT: painful/hopeful.

KW: encouraging.

JM: Feels empowering, and gives me extra strength to keep working-

KE: ❤️ to all the speakers, organizers, tech hosts, and people who shared in the chat!

JS: 🙌🙌🙌

KP: Thank you for this most powerful conversation.

J: Thank you all <3

CL: Thank you for organizing and to everyone who participated in panel/facilitated.

BT: Thank you for taking the time to have these discussions!

SF: Thank you!

LAB: Thank You, all!!! Just what I needed to keep going on.

SKN: Thank you.

NB: thanks!