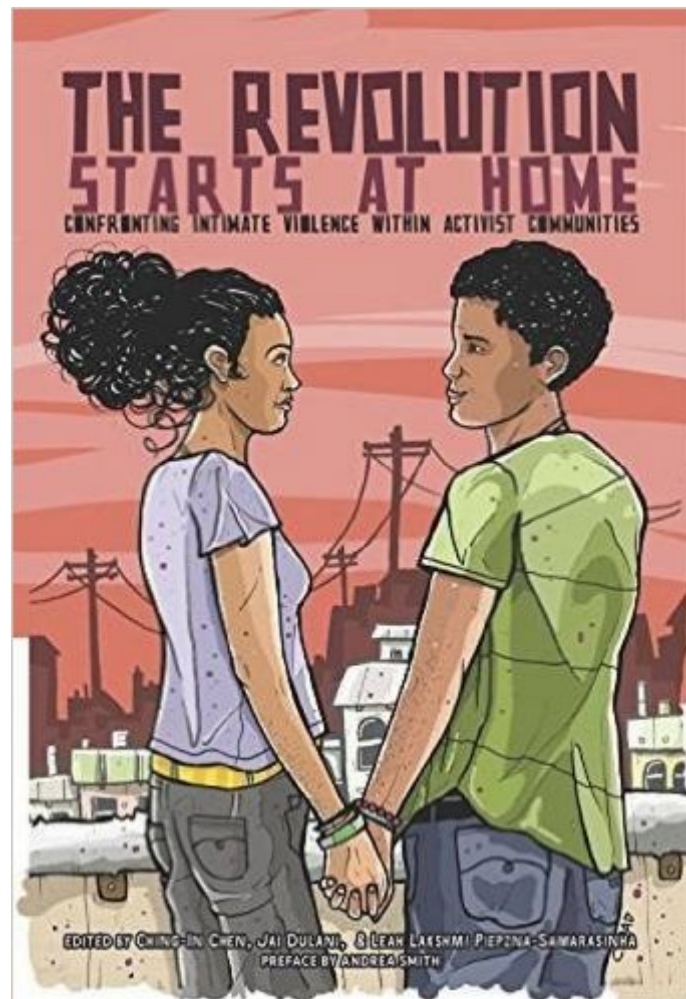


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# The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities



## Synopsis

The Revolution Starts at Home is as urgently needed today as when it was first published. This watershed collection breaks the dangerous silence surrounding the 'secret' of intimate violence within social justice circles. Just as importantly, it provides practical strategies for dealing with abuse and creating safety without relying on the coercive power of the state. It offers life-saving alternatives for survivors, while building a movement where no one is left behind.

**Praise for The Revolution Starts at Home:**

'My joy and gratitude at the original publication of Revolution Starts at Home is now only exceeded by my excitement in the reprinting of this essential text. If we are to build visionary communities rooted not only in resistance but also in love, we need this book, and books like it, for survival. It is as simple as that.' - Walidah Imarisha, author of *Angels with Dirty Faces: Three Stories of Crime, Prison, and Redemption*

'This book has brought me back from the brink of desperation many times. Its creative, real-world stories of interrupting intimate partner violence without using police or social services strengthens our community, builds our collective imagination, celebrates our resiliency, and pushes us to hone our practice. I keep a stockpile of this book on my shelf for gifting - it's required reading for justice seekers.' - Shira Hassan, founder and principle consultant for Just Practice.

'The editors of The Revolution Starts at Home have provided a landmark resource: an anthology by and for survivors of sexual assault lead by editors of color, all three of whom are revolutionary leaders seeking to deconstruct the structures that uphold violence in activist communities. For anyone who believes that the personal is deeply political in social justice circles, The Revolution Starts at Home is a must-read.' - Allison McCarthy, *Ms Magazine*

'The Revolution Starts at Home is a mirror to look into when doing the work of 'transforming ourselves to transform the world', as Grace Lee Boggs taught us. The voices in this collection speak from their own experiences, modeling vulnerability that, for me, was freeing as I turned to face the patterns of personal and organizational abuse in my life. This book is an offer towards wholeness, and can heal you if you let it.' - adrienne maree brown, co-editor of *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements*

'The book isn't just about how social services and state intervention can leave already vulnerable communities more at risk when it comes to addressing interpersonal violence; the personal essays, real-world testaments, and tools provided are about taking transformative justice to the next level and creating community and self-accountability.' - Kjerstin Johnson, *Bitch Magazine*

Ching-In Chen is the author of *The Heart's Traffic*. Jai Dulani is a writer and multimedia artist who has worked for racial and gender justice at the intersections of LGBTQ, youth, immigrant justice and anti-violence movements for over a decade in New York City. Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

is author of the Lambda Award-winning *Love Cake*, as well as *Dirty River* and *Consensual Genocide*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is required reading for anyone interested in social justice. For those who want to make positive change in the world, we need to answer the question of how we will confront these issues within our own communities.

When I first read the tagline for this book "Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities" I wasn't entirely sure how helpful it would be for understanding and thinking through intimate violence -in general- but as I love INCITE's perspective and work I decided to give it a go anyway; and I am so glad I did. It's truly hard to encapsulate in a few words all that this book is, but I can tell you, if what you're trying to think through or understand are myriad forms of intimate violence and abuse without the common black and white frame of "if he hits you, you leave him and report him to the police!": this is your book.

This is an excellent book jammed packed full of awesome information such as transformative and restorative justice and the resource - "How is gender oppression within progressive, radical and/or revolutionary movement(s) maintained, supported, encouraged? However I've noticed that the group of contributors know each other, work with each other and therefore I will only give this book a

3 star rating. I wish other voices would of been included that are not well known or even excluded within these so called "movements" and "spaces." This book is very focused on urban and urban movements. It lacks ways to take action in rural, remote and even reservation communities, although there is mention of Indigenous-Native women's issues but not in respect to life on the rez. If this book is to speak of marginalized experiences then it should include writers, poets and community organizers (workers) who are not well known, excluded, on the margins and outskirts. Those of us at home are doing some of the hardest work. I've found that many of these "alternative" and "progressive" movements exclude those of us who are doing the work in a rural, remote and reservation communities. Additionally, the book leans politically left which is fine however there are allies and voices who are more conservative or even identify as Republican. This book misses the mark that allies can be found on the "other side." I would like to see a second book which is more inclusive to those of us who are taking action and doing community work on these very difficult issues in rural, remote, reservation communities as well as those of us who lean more politically right and conservative identifying.

this is book is brilliant and needs to be the standard reading required to build a safe and accountable movement.

The book seems to be sugar-coating intimate violence, and there is NOTHING radical or "new" about that. It took enormous effort for intimate violence to be taken seriously as a crime and to FINALLY be dealt with by the criminal justice system. Whom does it benefit to keep the criminal justice system out of rape/abuse cases? Where has the method of "keeping solutions within the community" been practiced most widely? The Catholic Church, the Military, Colleges and Universities have ALL used "keeping it in the community" to enable a culture of widespread rape and abuse. And now the so-called "activist" community is embracing this crap? Please. Watch the documentary "Kind-Hearted Woman" to see how well "community justice" works for women. It's painful and unpleasant to fight for justice using the imperfect and much too slowly evolving criminal justice system. But it must be done. Communities almost ALWAYS defend perpetrators at the expense of victims, because perpetrators almost always have more power within their communities. It takes a village to rape/batter a woman/man/child. If there is violence within a community, that community is already toxic. And justice will only be found outside of that toxic and dangerous space.

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