



## The 4 Rs of Social Transformation

*A conceptual framework by Jodi Lasseter,  
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The four R's framework recognizes how our movement ecosystem is strongest when we connect diverse strategies. Each R is a complementary element of social transformation.



### **Resist – working against the current system**

Throughout history, we have seen that Frederick Douglass was right when he said, “Power concedes nothing without demand.” Resistance struggles have given rise to our greatest wins. To address root causes of injustice, we are often called upon to stand against the destruction of what we hold dear. This strategy analyzes and challenges our current political and social institutions by directly confronting how they perpetuate inequity.

*Examples: non-violent civil disobedience, direct action, and community organizing*

### **Reform – working within the current system**

The current structures in society have real impact on our daily lives and our ability to self-determine. While we work on building new structures, we must simultaneously change the structures of society that are in place now. We understand the urgent needs of people who lack healthy food, quality housing, well-paid work, safety and opportunity. This strategy tackles immediate needs and requires current social and political institutions to put resources toward addressing social problems.

*Examples: human services, policy development, and electoral work*

### **Re-imagine – envisioning & conveying a just new system**

We are in a critical period of social evolution that requires new ways of being. In order to generate a just world, we must be able to imagine and communicate what society based on partnership, inclusion, and interdependence looks like. This strategy engages how we think about ourselves in relation to each other and the whole, and taps our individual and collective ability to engender new cultural norms.

*Examples: the arts, creative processes, media, academia, cultural & spiritual traditions*

### **Re-create – creating models for a just new system**

The future we envision calls for the creation of new ways of doing things to take the place of the broken structures that do not serve us. This strategy enables us to experiment with new ways of constituting our society by building just institutions, forms of governance, and leadership models.

*Examples: democratic schools, restorative justice processes, local economies based on cooperatives*