

# We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transformative Justice

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By Mariame Kaba (2021)

Slideshow Made By Danielle Key

# About the Book

- The purpose of this book is to explain:
  - What abolition actually is
  - How the criminal legal system criminalizes Black womxn
  - How abolition must be done
- This book is a powerful collection of Kaba's articles, essays, and speeches.
- Kaba has a section in this book called "There are no perfect victims"
  - All the chapters in this section are about how the criminal legal system criminalized Black womxn.
  - This whole section uses a Black feminist abolitionist framework.
- **"Perfect victims are submissive, not aggressive; they don't have histories of drug use or prior contact with the criminal legal system; and they are "innocent" and respectable" (p. 39).**
  - She uses Marissa Alexander, Cece McDonald, Cyntoia Brown, and other Black womxn who have been criminalized as examples.

## How This Is Connected to My Research

- My research examines whether being exposed to Black womxn's lived experiences with the criminal legal system influences people to become abolitionist or at least adopt abolitionist ideologies and beliefs.
- This book helped me create the condition for my study that is about a Black woman who was criminalized for defending herself against her abusive partner.
- This book also helps me understand that Black womxn fail to be protected by the criminal legal system because they do not fit the perfect-victim narrative.
  - Black womxn are criminalized for structural issues.
- Black feminist abolitionists—like Kaba—tell Black womxn's lived experiences collectively which allows us to see how Black womxn's experiences are connected.
  - Their individual stories and lived experiences are not unique.

## Reference

Kaba, M. (2021). *We do this 'til we free us: Abolitionist organizing and transformative justice*. Haymarket Books.