

Graeme Bacque - Our Lives, Our Struggle: A Round-table Strategy Session For Survivors

This session was intended to be an open strategy discussion specifically for people who have been psychiatrized. The PsychOUT Conference was an extraordinary opportunity for people from a broad range of backgrounds including Psychiatric Survivors, allies, academics, supportive professionals, artists and other creative people to share their knowledge and ideas with the aim of developing a strong network for resistance against psychiatry. Especially important to this process were the voices of those of us who have experienced psychiatry's oppression directly. Unfortunately in earlier mixed-discipline conferences of this nature, these invaluable voices have often been pushed to the margins or even lost altogether. Therefore, it is vital that as Survivors we be able to clearly assert our own space within the conference framework; in order to ensure that we have the opportunity to talk and strategize among ourselves utilizing our own direct, personal experiences with psychiatrization. Bearing in mind the specific and strategic nature of this conference, the outcome of the session could be an educational position document or documents for the benefit of other conference participants and the general public, a framework for possible specific action(s) (whether local or coordinated through the broader network we hope to establish) or other ideas that arose in the course of the discussion.