Global Gang Transformation

WISOCRACY
Wise Democracy, Wisdom, Wellbeing & Peace

"I intend to continue to learn from this, going forward. You have opened, mapped, and inspired us to a new and needed realm of discovery and service."

Ronald Gross
Founder/Director
CONVERSATIONS NEW YORK
Co-chair, University Seminar
on Innovation
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

"You are doing great work and I really appreciate it.
I love your diagrams, charts, and graphs as I'm a visual learner.
Your graphs, charts, etc., like Kate Raworth, convey your great ideas."

Richard Denton, M.D.
ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Sudbury, Ontario Canada

You Can Join Wisocracy or Support Our Work Here

"Of the
many millions of
gang members in the world,
all live in a daily prison of
lack of wonder, wisdom
and love."

Sandy Hinden
Wisocracy

Global Gang Transformation

You can click here to register for our quarterly meetings

Dear Friend for a Better World,

Gangs are growing worldwide in a culture of poverty.

With poor education, lack of guidance for youth, weak social bonding, and weak community structures, gangs flourish.

The world is suffering from so many problems because many leaders are egotistic and selfish and ignore the need to make efforts to find solutions to real problems.

You can join us every quarter to discuss our findings and efforts for Global Gang Transformation.

This is the document we are using to explore solutions.

Toward a better world for all,

Sandy Hinden

WISOCRACY
Wise Democracy,
Wisdom, Wellbeing
& Peace

1. On April 1, 2023, I presented this Global Gang Transformation program to a Zoom group of involved, evolved, conscious people in Portland, Oregon, USA.

2. They are seeking solutions to help people, families, and communities.

3. Portland is a microcosm for how the many global issues are coming together, and how reactionary forces and progressive forces need to listen to each other to find solutions to real feelings and needs.

4. This can only happen if people are interested in finding solutions. If people just want to play games, based on party politics and geopolitics, nothing can improve.

5. I took their feedback from our meeting and reorganized the program contained in this document. I put the gang/global migration issue up front in Causes, and created a section called Solutions because I heard they wanted the solutions to pop out more, where solutions could be seen easily. I know people are overloaded with everything. It is important to be able to make these complex documents usable. Creating a Solution section helps.

6. Many people are not aware of the causes, so the first two sections in Part 1 clarify Causes. The third, fourth and fifth sections in Part 2 are many Solutions.

7. I added solutions that are economic and geopolitical so people better understand them.

9. I am glad to help bring together understandings from psychology, politics, and economics. I do that through my Wisocracy website each day.

10. Here are my current free events. You are welcome to join them: https://wisocracy.world/events

11. I have a free Friday Wisdom & Wellbeing group that is open to all: https://wisocracy.world/friday-circle

12. I want to create an Annual Summit which you can see on the events page. It is also free: https://wisocracy.world/events

13. I have a Resources page that has past presentations you may find interesting: https://wisocracy.world/resources

14. Events and resources on Wisocracy are free. If anyone would like to support this work, you can do so here: https://www.patreon.com/sanfordhinden

15. I also have programs for libraries and organizations you can see here https://wisocracy.world/development-programs

16. With the mental health crisis being as severe as it is, nationally and globally, I have a coaching program in wisdom and wellbeing: https://wisocracy.world/coaching

Global Gang Transformation

Part 1

Causes

1

Growing Gangs

Gangs to Transnational Organized Crime & Beyond

1	**Neighborhood-based gangs**
2	**Prison gangs, white nationalist gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, national-level street gangs**
3	**Transnational gangs**
4	**Organized crime, cartels-consortiums**
5	**Global hackers, ransomware, money laundering, traffickers in drugs, weapons, guns, sex, data**
6	**Militias, mercenaries, terrorists**

1. The UN has no statistics on gang growth by nations, and transnational gang growth.

2. Wikipedia lists **72 gang countries.**

3. There are:
   - neighborhood-based gangs
   - national-level street gangs
   - prison gangs
   - outlaw motorcycle gangs
   - white nationalist gangs
   - transnational gangs

4. Gangs can be organized based on race, ethnicity, territory, or money-making activities, and are generally made up of members ages 8 to 22.
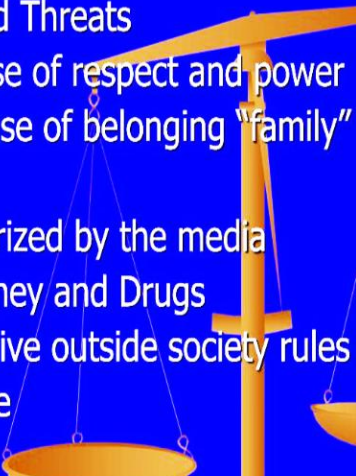
5. Most gangs are a group of people who claim a territory and use it to make money through illegal activities (i.e., drug trafficking).

6. When joining a gang, oftentimes there is an initiation that needs to be passed. This initiation is usually a violent crime that could include theft, gang rape, or drive-by shootings.

7. Gang members are more likely to be arrested or involved with drugs and alcohol than non-gang members.

Motivation for joining a Gang?

- History of Abuse or Neglect
- Peer Pressure and Threats
- Recognition- sense of respect and power
- Social needs- sense of belonging "family"
- Hero imitation
- Gangs are glamorized by the media
- For access to Money and Drugs
- Non-conformist- live outside society rules
- Problems at home
- Low self-esteem

8. There are 33,000 gangs in the U.S., with over one million members. There are over 400 gangs in Canada.

9. 86% of US cities with a population of 100,000 or more report gang activity.

10. In recent years, gangs are participating in more non-traditional crimes such as prostitution, alien smuggling, and human trafficking, identity theft, and mortgage fraud.

11. These new, non-traditional crimes create higher profitability and lower visibility.

GANGS OF HAITI
Expansion, power and an escalating crisis

October 2022
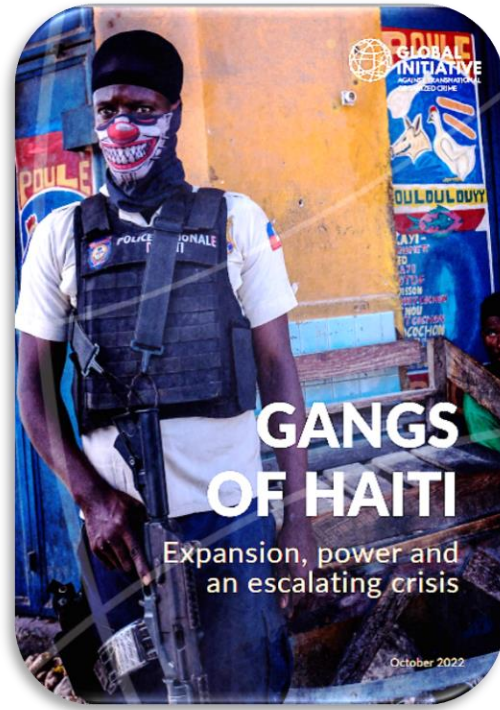
8. The transnational Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and 18th Street gangs continue to expand their influence in the United States.

9. These transnational gangs are present in almost every state and continue to grow their memberships.

10. They are now targeting younger recruits more than ever.

11. To counteract this growth, the **Transnational Anti-Gang (TAG) Task Force** initiative was established. TAG Task Forces are currently located in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Causes

- Government Corruption of Officials, Military & Police
- Organized Crime
- Gangs
- Terrorism
- War
- Civil War
- Violence
- Joblessness
- Lack of Sustainable Economies
- Climate Disruption

Global Migration

Effects

Rise of Hate & Reactionary Politics Worldwide

Global Corruption & Violence → **Global Migration** → **European Reactionary Movements** → **United States Reactionary Movements**

Peace

Work

Migrating for Peace & Work

WE ARE ALL WORKERS NOT CRIMINALS

The Growth of Gangs

Lack of

Guidance, Values, Mentors, Education, Employment, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

MAN UP is an ANTI-gang organization in New Zealand

GANGS WORLDWIDE

Benefits

- Sense of identity
- Sense of belonging, family, community
- Protection against other gangs
- Adventure, intensity
- Sense of spirituality, group ritual
- Money
- Avoid thinking about the future

Consequences

- Dropping out of school
- Teen parenthood
- Unemployment
- Victimization
- Drug, alcohol, sexual abuse
- Petty and violent crimes
- Juvenile conviction and incarceration
- Being harmed or killed

②

Evolving Beyond Community Violence

Reflections & Insights

- Weak communities are places with lower communication, fewer resources, and less problem-solving to create wellbeing for their community members.

- They are places where gangs grow.

- With poor education, lack of guidance for youth, and weak community structures, gangs flourish.

- Gangs are growing worldwide in a culture of poverty.

There are many contributing factors to community violence.

Here are insights I gained from 50 years of working for communities – locally, nationally, and globally.

Insights from 11 areas:
1. **Culture**
2. **Education**
3. **Community**
4. **Relationships**
5. **What Is Happen to Men**
6. **Community Development**
7. **Addictions & Traumas**
8. **Isolation & Disconnection**
9. **Housing Insecurity**
10. **Community Mental Health**
11. **Transformation**

- Children grow up seeing so much violence in the media.

- Many boys then enjoy playing with guns and sticks.

- They then enjoy playing computer games with violence.

- They grow up in a culture of violence.

- Parents don't know what to do about all this violence, so they don't talk about it

- Most parents seek to avoid conflict, so they don't communicate in authentic, compassionate, meaningful ways.

- Solving problems requires people to communicate in authentic, compassionate, and meaningful ways.

- **Children need to be guided in their schoolwork or they can easily fall behind.**

- **Many children need tutoring.**

- **Once they fall behind, it can harm their self-image.**

- **They can then feel sad about themselves.**

- **If a child feels sad about themselves, they are vulnerable to being picked on, and possibly lashing out with rage.**

- **Children can annoy each other and can then get into fights.**

- **Bullies are suffering from trauma and have a negative self-image.**

- **Hurt people, hurt people - so bullies terrorize other children.**

Three Education Systems

Schools in the United States are mostly funding on local property taxes.

High-income and high-asset communities have greater funding, including for tutoring.

Well-Funded Education System → **Well-Off**

Average-Funded Education System → **Workers**

Underfunded Education System → **Cycles of Poverty, Violence, Prison**

Why Do Women Outnumber Men in College Enrollment?
March 15, 2022
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Oksana Leukhina
Amy Smaldone

- For every man, there are now almost two women attending college.
- Why did female relative enrollment increase gradually since the 1960s?
- This is because fewer married women used to work in the market, so the investment aspect of college was not as relevant in the 1960s.
- As women increased their labor force participation over time, financial returns to college investment became more important, and more women chose to enter college to gain access to more lucrative careers.
- Women and men face different incentives and should be expected to make different choices.
- What these numbers reveal is that getting more education is an important way to close the gender pay gap.
- College entry—whether it is to get an AS or a BS—helps women gain access to careers where they have a comparative advantage (e.g., office work).
- Men on the other hand have better access to lucrative careers that don't require a college degree (e.g., construction work).
- This appears to be the most reasonable explanation for why women outnumber men in college.

- Gangs form in poorer communities, with few resources for healing and human development.

- Bullies in gangs then terrorize the community.

- Teens can then join gangs for protection.

- People then make money selling guns, drugs, and sex.

- Communities then become flooded with guns.

- Once guns are in the community, people become more afraid of each other.

- They stop communicating with each other.

- Without authentic, compassionate, caring, meaningful communication - relationships break down, and communities don't solve their problems.

4. Relationships

- Many people are not in healthy, loving relationships.
- There is a lot of emotional frustration, loneliness, and anger.
- It takes a lot of work to form and sustain a healthy, loving relationship.
- Both people in a relationship must be committed to authentic, compassionate, caring, and meaningful communication to address their feelings and needs.
- The superficial, materialistic, and addictive culture we have creates images of great wealth as highly important, which then can become the goal for people.
- Women naturally seek the most prosperous, successful men for resources for their children.
- Many men may then feel rejected (INCELs Involuntary Celibates, MGTOWs Men Going Their Own Way).
- They may feel they are left with pornography for sexual satisfaction, which can then breed isolation.
- There is a lot of violence in pornography, that children and teenagers see.
- Some young men may not be socially engaged in a constructive way.
- Older men can become disconnected, angry, and resentful.
- Some men may take to conspiracy theories, guns, militias, and/or political "gangs".

Mating Preferences & Choices

Being More Educated and Earning More Increases Romantic Interest

April 5 2022
Andrew Thomas
Swansea University

What People Look For In A Mate
- **Wealth**
- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Intelligence**
- **Attractiveness**
- **Honesty**
- **Kindness-Caring**
- **Interests**

- **Studies have shown that women are more attracted to wealthy men than they are men with average incomes.**

- **Men with high incomes and good jobs are 3.5 times more likely to attract women.**

- **Humans appear to have a preference for money and wealth in a partner because these things act as modern cues of a more general trait: the ability to secure resources like food, shelter, tools, and protection.**

- **Perhaps women would go for looks over resources if they didn't have to worry about the economic consequences of their mating choices.**

- Men cause most of the problems in the world.

- Close to 90% of the incarcerated in the United States are men.

- They really need help with psychosocial bonding, mental health, work, and family.

- If they don't have legal work, they get into trouble with burglary, theft, fraud, selling drugs and guns, sex trafficking, migrant smuggling, hijacking, piracy, kidnapping, militias, terrorism, and now money laundering, Internet scamming, and cyber-hacking.

- This has been ignored in the work to help girls and women.

- It comes back to hurt girls, women, families, communities, and society through more disconnected and unreliable men, gangs, organized crime, and violence.

The Decline of Men
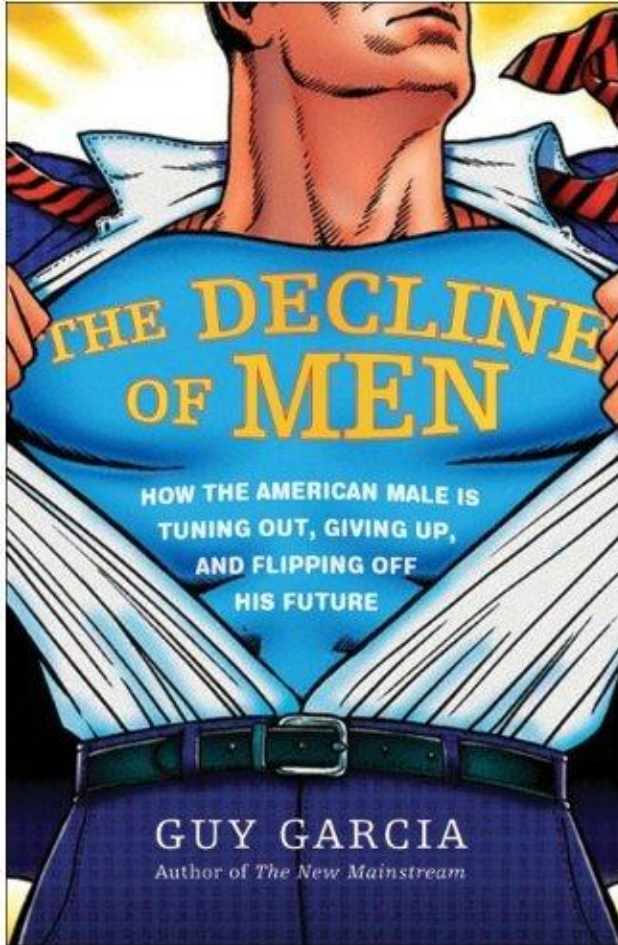
Sarah, Goodreads book review

- Guy Garcia's "The Decline of Men" should be essential reading for everyone, not just men. If you've ever been pissed off at the way ads depict men as bumbling idiot bank machines, this book is for you.
- Being a feminist is something I'm very proud of, but believing in and fighting for equality doesn't mean ignoring the needs of half the population (the exact reason we had to take up the fight in the first place).
- In fact, what I think I loved most about this book is that it's not anti-woman, or even pro-men, it's pro-PEOPLE. Society cannot flourish and progress unless we've all got each other's backs, regardless of gender.
- It's high time we stopped punishing each other for doing exactly what was asked of us (a strong woman? What a bitch! A sensitive man? What a sissy!) and realize that these rigid rules and expectations hurt everyone and only move the mission backward.
- I take my hat off to Guy Garcia for helping me to better understand my father, my brother, my husband, my friends.
- We no longer live in a world where we stand idly by while our daughters are told they are less than, so let's not allow that for our sons, either.
- Man's fight is woman's fight, and vice versa.

Crisis Facing Men

The Social And Economic Crisis Facing Men In America
September 27, 2021
WBUR On Point

- The relative decline of men reflects actually reflects women attaining more education.
- In almost every industrialized country, women are about 30% more likely to get a college degree than men.
- Historically, girls always did better than boys through primary and secondary school. And then boys went on to college, and women did not. It is important to understand it is not all just men declining. Women are rising, and that's good news.
  - It matters because we care about the welfare of all individuals.
  - It matters because it affects the people they would partner with, their potential spouses.
  - It affects their children.
  - It affects the level of crime incarceration.
  - It affects the tax base.
  - It affects our ability to grow and innovate in all kinds of ways.
- We are in this together. And the low rates of success of a big chunk of the population affect all of us. We should also be additionally concerned because this problem has gotten more pronounced over time.
- The employment prospects of less educated men, particularly less educated African American men have just gone south. That is just problematic on so many levels.
- You should be concerned about their potential spouses or partners and the children they will have. They can be disadvantaged by the choices of their parents.

- Civic skills and community development are not taught in schools.

- Community organizations need to be run well with effective board oversight, insight and foresight, and good bookkeeping and accounting practices.

- Pouring money into poorly managed and ungoverned community organizations is like pouring water into a bucket with holes in it.

- The leaders can look good, and sound good, but not be effective, efficient, and efficacious.

- Efficacious means meeting the right goals.

- A leader can actually seem effective and efficient, and not be efficacious, because he or she is not really meeting the right goals.

- Ineffective community organizations lead to stagnation in the community, and not addressing people's real feelings and needs.

- Many people are not taught how to regulate their thinking and their emotions/feelings.
- So, when they build up frustration, anger, sadness, and fear, and have confused thinking, they are in emotional and mental pain.
- They can feel lost, lonely, and loveless.
- Many don't have healthy goals, and good mentors to help guide them to reach their goals.
- They then turn to addictive processes to numb their emotional pain and shut down their negative thinking.
- Many people have had numerous traumas in their lives
- Trauma memories become emotional trigger points, and they keep getting emotionally triggered.
- They turn to addictions to numb the pain from the traumas.
- They need to be taught how to heal their trauma with a daily practice of self-awareness, self-compassion, self-forgiveness, self-appreciation, self-kindness, and self-care.

- Traumas and addictions lead to people disconnecting from each other and not working on community problems together to find solutions to address people's feelings and needs.

- People need to learn and practice communication skills, because if they're not authentic with each other regarding their feelings and their thoughts, then they end up not being authentic.

- People don't trust each other when they are not authentic.

- To stop violence, we need men and women who have the ability to communicate authentically, meaningfully, and compassionately, have legal jobs, and have healthy, loving relationships.

- Corporations and investors have bought up affordable housing, creating housing insecurity through super high rents and the inability for people to buy affordable homes.

- This can lead to men's inability to form and sustain healthy, loving relationships, opening them up to pornography, isolation, and illegal activities in gangs.
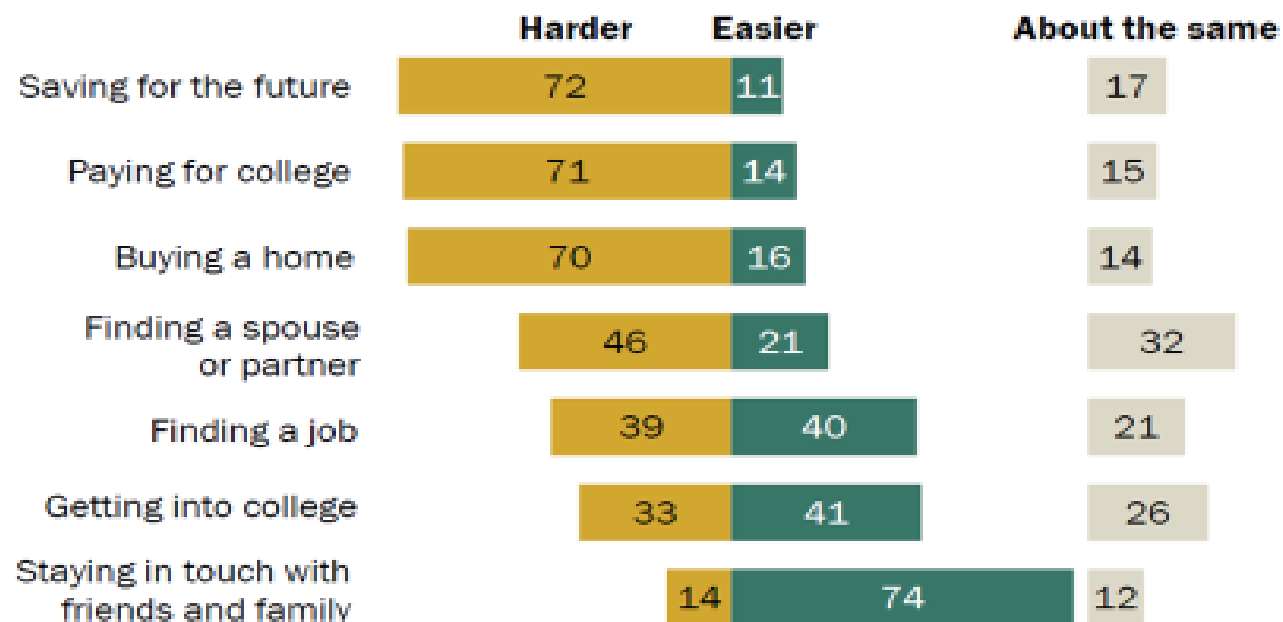
Challenges for the Young

Most in the U.S. say young adults today face more challenges than their parents' generation in some key areas

**February 28, 2022
Pew Research Center**

When it comes to savings, paying for college and home-buying, most say young adults today have it harder than their parents' generation

% of U.S. adults saying each of the following is ___ for young adults today compared with their parents' generation

	Harder	Easier	About the same
Saving for the future	72	11	17
Paying for college	71	14	15
Buying a home	70	16	14
Finding a spouse or partner	46	21	32
Finding a job	39	40	21
Getting into college	33	41	26
Staying in touch with friends and family	14	74	12

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 18-24, 2021.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

What is Community Mental Health?

- Working towards increasing the acceptance of mental health patients by society.
- Improving rehabilitation opportunities for mental health patients.
- Discovering social root causes for mental illnesses.
- Developing social remedies for social components of mental illnesses.

The following social factors could potentially result in a period of poor mental health:

- Childhood abuse, trauma, or neglect
- Social isolation or loneliness
- Experiencing discrimination and stigma, including racism
- Social disadvantage, poverty, or debt
- Bereavement (losing someone close to you)

Mental Health Concerns

Fragile by Sting

"Perhaps this final act
was meant
To clinch a lifetime's
argument
That nothing comes
from violence, and
nothing ever could
For all those born
beneath an angry star
Lest we forget how
fragile we are"

We each have:

- Feelings
- Needs
- Values
- Ideals
- Hopes
- Dreams
- Goals
- Vulnerabilities
- Fears
- Concerns

- Isolation
- Loneliness
- Unfulfilled
- Meaningless
- Purposeless
- Lost
- Aimless
- Lack of focus
- Sadness, depression
- Stress, anxiety
- Political polarization
- Disconnected
- Bullying
- Traumas
  - Relationship breakups
  - Broken home
  - Abuse

The following page

shows 8 types of political groups,

each speaking different political languages,

creating a babel of voices,

with people talking past each other,

not understand each other's

true feelings and legitimate needs.

Far Left	Progressives	Liberals	Centrists Moderates	Conservatives	Libertarians	Far Right
Anarchists No Government	Social Democrats New Economics Protopians Eco-Civilization Regeneritists Localists Peace Gun Regulation	Women's Rights LBTGQ+ Equal Rights Gender Rights Black Lives Matter Gun Regulation	Status Quo Consumer Culture Fantasy & Fandom Fashionistas Foodies Entertainment Gamers Sports Fanatics Gamblers Addictions Women's Rights	Business Class Low Taxes Small Government Orthodox Fundamental Religions Anti-Abortion	Radical Business Deregulation Anti-Gun Regulation	Dictators Authoritarians Brutalists Dominators Bullies White Nationalists Secessionists Racists Anti-Immigration Oligarchs Pro-Cars Pro-Fossil Fuel High-Carbon Lifestyle
World Federalists and Others Seeking a People's Government for Earth & Humanity						

Traumatic Message

- You are not lovable, wanted, or important enough
- You are not rich, successful, and powerful enough, so you are not worthy of being wanted and loved

Healing Message

- I am lovable, want myself, and am important to myself and some others
- I am compassionate, appreciative, loving, and kind with myself
- I am kind and loving with myself

Unhealthy Society

- People don't know how to sustain love
- They become lost in materialism, wealth, and power
- They become delusional and don't even know it, living in their own little dream world

- Most people end up using the same strategies and skills they used when growing up, that no longer work, as they grow older.

- People need to find a mentor, a program, or a community of transformation to help them clarify better strategies and skills for healthy living.

- We all need to learn better strategies and skills as we continue on our journey through life.

Global Gang Transformation

- I am providing quarterly programs in Global Gang Transformation.

- Gangs are growing worldwide in a culture of poverty.

- With poor education, lack of guidance for youth, and weak community structures, gangs flourish.

- In our quarterly meetings, we explore Community Learning Labs for transforming gangs into pro-social enterprises, and community investments for gang prevention.

You can click here
to register for
our meetings

Part 2
Solutions

③

Multi-Level Solutions

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

| Public Health & Prevention	Economic Opportunity & Housing Security	Youth Development & Education	Built Environment & Community Spaces	Institutional Transformation
• Create sustainable funding streams for community violence intervention programs. • Scale civilian crisis-response models. • Increase funding for community health clinics, trauma recovery centers, and community health workers.	• Expand access to workforce development and employment programs. • Fund summer jobs for youth. • Fund targeted cash assistance programs for harm survivors. • Expand economic opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals. • Expand access to housing through eviction defense, vouchers, and alternative real estate models.	• Create a grant program to fund local youth violence prevention plans. • Increasing resources for low-income schools. • Fund youth centers, sports, enrichment activities, and neighborhood-based wraparound support programs.	• Built environment and community spaces to lower stress can significantly reduce crime. • Increase grant funding for place-based neighborhood improvement projects. • Transform abandoned homes and buildings and clean vacant lots. • Create green neighborhood-led projects for "third spaces" such as parks, cafes, and community centers to lower stress & increase connections.	• Provide sustainable and accessible funding for grassroots organizations. • Enhance the capacity of community-based organizations. • Create a community safety division at the Department of Health and Human Services for civilian agencies dedicated to community safety. • Fund additional research on the social determinants of safety.

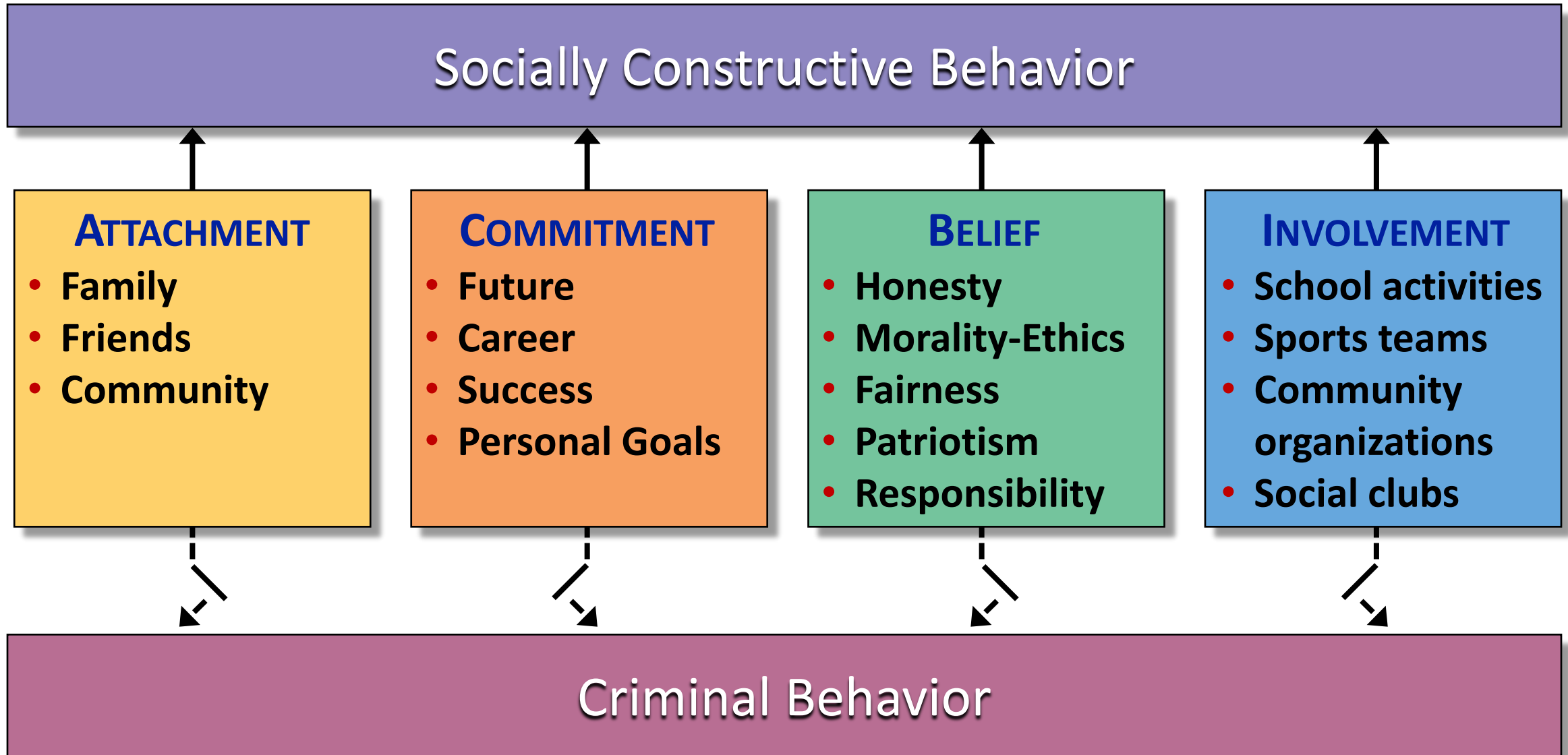# Strengthening Communities through Community Investment
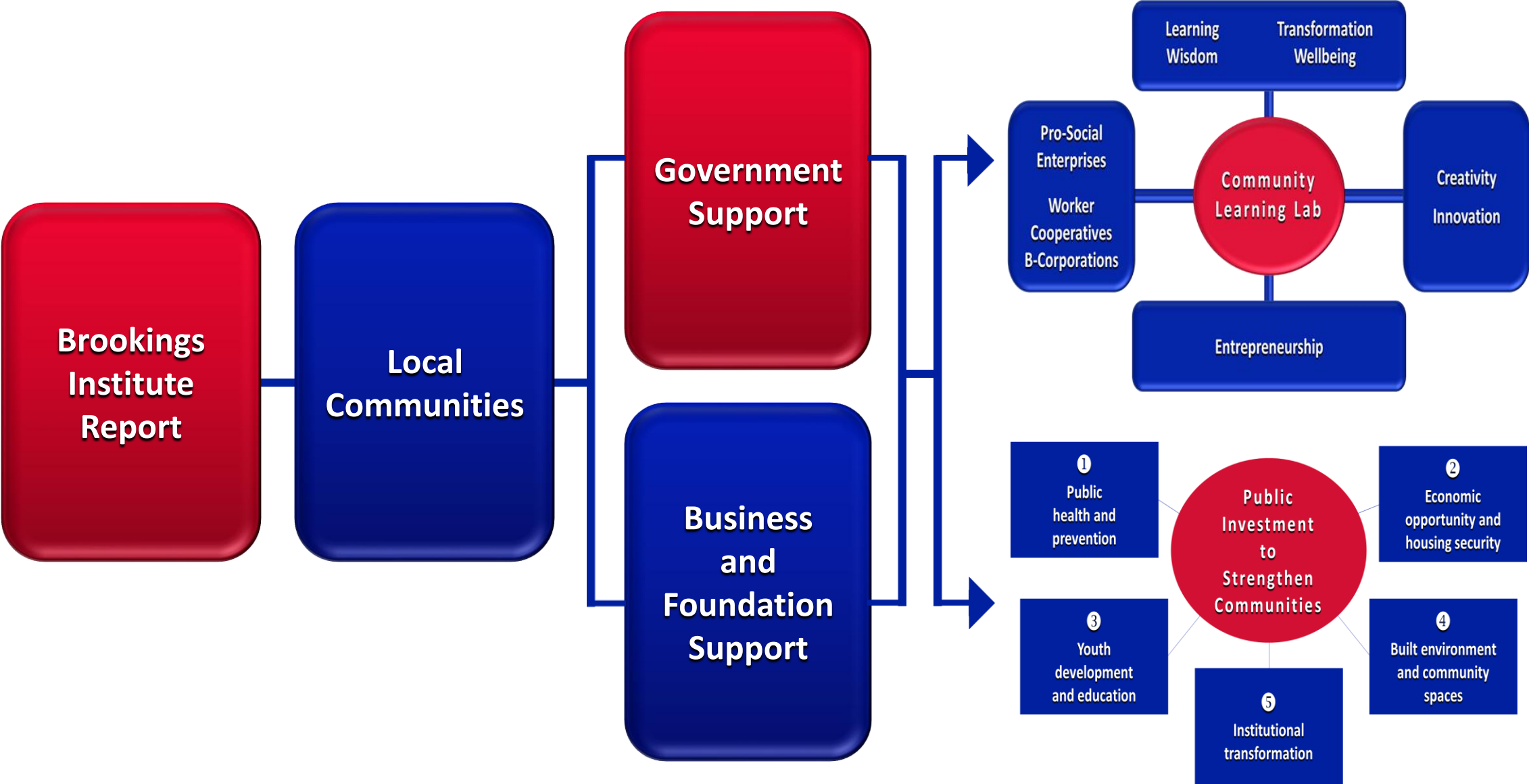
Psychosocial Bonding
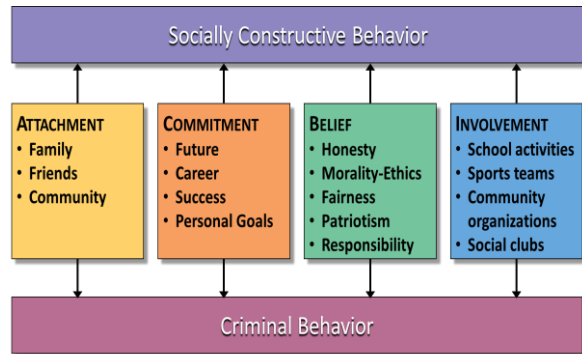
- **Sociologist and criminologist Travis Hirschi (1935-2017) believed criminal activity occurs when an individual's attachment to society is weakened.**

- **This attachment depends on the strength of social bonds that hold people to society.**

- **Crime is a result of social institutions being irrelevant to individuals.**

- **Hirschi's *social control theory* suggested delinquent adolescents fail to develop societal bonds consisting of:**
    - **1) attachment to parents, peers, and school**
    - **2) occupational and educational commitment**
    - **3) belief in social rules and conventions**
    - **4) academic and community involvement**

Psychosocial Bonding

Socially Constructive Behavior

ATTACHMENT
- Family
- Friends
- Community

COMMITMENT
- Future
- Career
- Success
- Personal Goals

BELIEF
- Honesty
- Morality-Ethics
- Fairness
- Patriotism
- Responsibility

INVOLVEMENT
- School activities
- Sports teams
- Community organizations
- Social clubs

Criminal Behavior
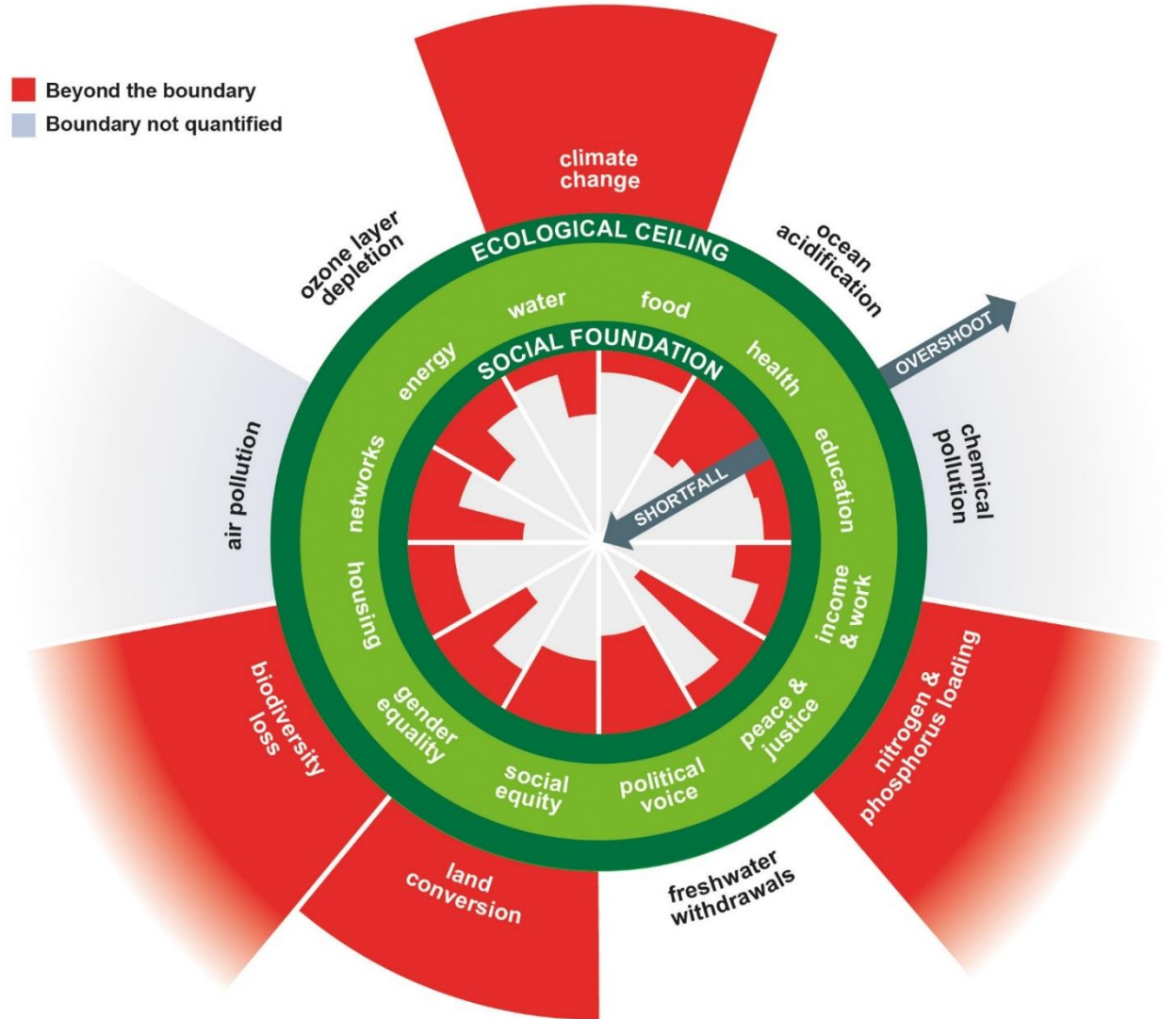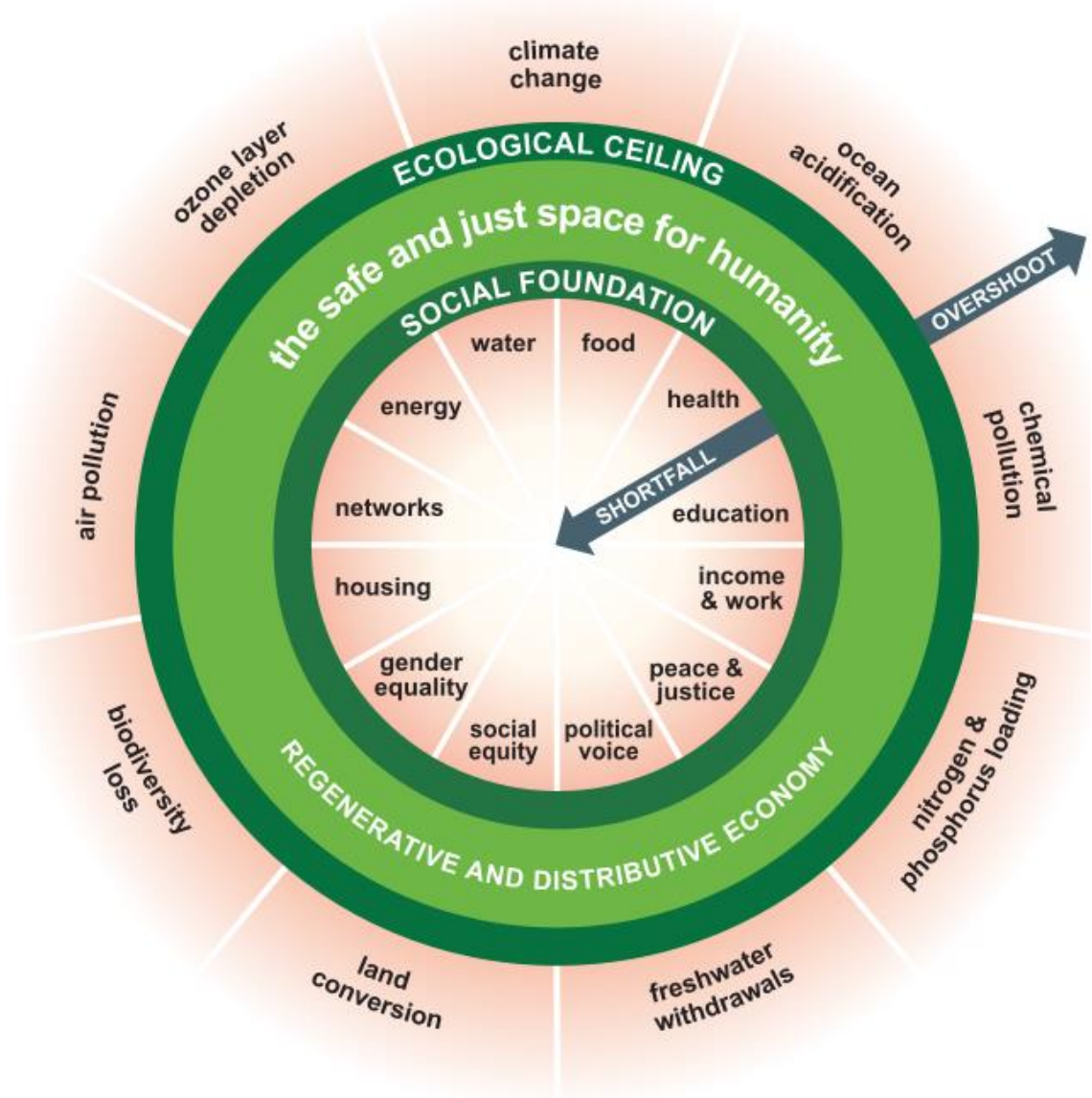
Recommendations for Boys & Men

www.chibydesign.com

1. **TRAINING:** Offer community-level training on positive youth development.
2. **SUPPORT:** Provide resources, tools, and tutoring to best support boys and young men.
3. **PURPOSE:** Create school classes devoted to helping boys and young men find and pursue purpose in life including, life-long career development.
4. **MENTORS:** Encourage mentorship by creating programs and funding streams.
5. **HELP:** Help all youth looking for help. Create digital tools for boys and young men to easily find the help they need.
6. **STAFF:** Better compensate and support frontline staff work with boys and young men.
7. **INVESTMENTS:** Create long-term investments in programs for boys and young men.

Muti-Level Solutions

Culture	Art, music, nature, and working together on a common project, help people cross polarizing boundaries to find common ground
Education	Provide well funded, high-quality education for all people with tutoring
Community	Teach community problem-solving skills, community beautification, third spaces, involvement opportunities
Relationships	Communication skills for healthy, loving relationships
Boys & Men	"The most important decision in any society is what to do with male aggressiveness." – Margaret Mead. Provide quality education, tutoring, mentoring, career development, and communications skills for boys and men.
Community Development	Training for organizational leaders in efficiency, effectiveness, efficaciousness.
Addictions & Traumas	Teach how to heal trauma with a daily practice of self-awareness, self-compassion, self-forgiveness, self-appreciation, self-kindness, and self-care.
Isolation & Disconnection	Teach authentic, meaningful, compassionate communication, finding work opportunities, and how have healthy, loving relationships.
Housing Insecurity	Annual Affordable Housing Summit. Incentives for building affordable housing.
Community Mental Health	Prioritize community mental health expansion.
Transformation	Participate and support local, national, and global gang transformation efforts.
Global Migration	Understand Doughnut Economics, Wellbeing Economy, Global Demilitarization, Annual Regional Summits and Regional Solutions

Doughnut Economics

Thriving Places

**The Thriving Places Index:
A Roadmap to a Wellbeing Economy**

CENTRE FOR THRIVING PLACES

ENERGY USE
EDUCATION
WASTE
ECONOMY
ETHNICITY
GENDER
PLACE
INCOME
HEALTH
SOCIAL
HEALTH
COMMUNITY
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

EQUALITY
- Health
- Income
- Gender
- Social
- Ethnicity

LOCAL CONDITIONS
- Place and environment
- Mental and physical health
- Education and learning
- Work and local economy
- People and community

SUSTAINABILITY
- Energy use
- Waste
- Green infrastructure

- Local environment
- Housing
- Transport
- Safety

- Healthy and risky behaviours
- Overall health status
- Mortality and life expectancy
- Mental health

- Adult education
- Children's education

- Unemployment
- Employment
- Basic needs
- Local business

- Participation
- Culture
- Community cohesion

**Instead of focusing on just growing consumption and wealth
for a few, the Thriving Places Index focuses on all the things
that help people and places to do well.**

Mutually Assured Survival (M.A.S.) Process

Trust Building & Peace Building

Gradual Global Disarmament
through 10% Military Expenditure Reduction Each Year

Investments in Human Needs

Water, Food, Energy,
Health, Housing, Education,
Income & work,
Political voice,
Networks,
Peace & justice,
Gender equality,
Social equity

Investments in Earth's Needs

remediation of
Climate change,
Ocean acidification,
Chemical pollution,
Nitrogen & phosphorus loading,
Freshwater withdrawals,
Land conversion, Biodiversity loss,
Air pollution, Ozone layer depletion

World Population Democracy Dashboard

TOTALITARIAN CONTROL	AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES	HYBRID REGIMES	FLAWED DEMOCRACIES	FULL DEMOCRACIES	WISDOM WELLBEING WISOCRACY
	37.1 %	17.2 %	39.3 %	6.4 %	FUNDING PEOPLE, SOCIETY, NATURE
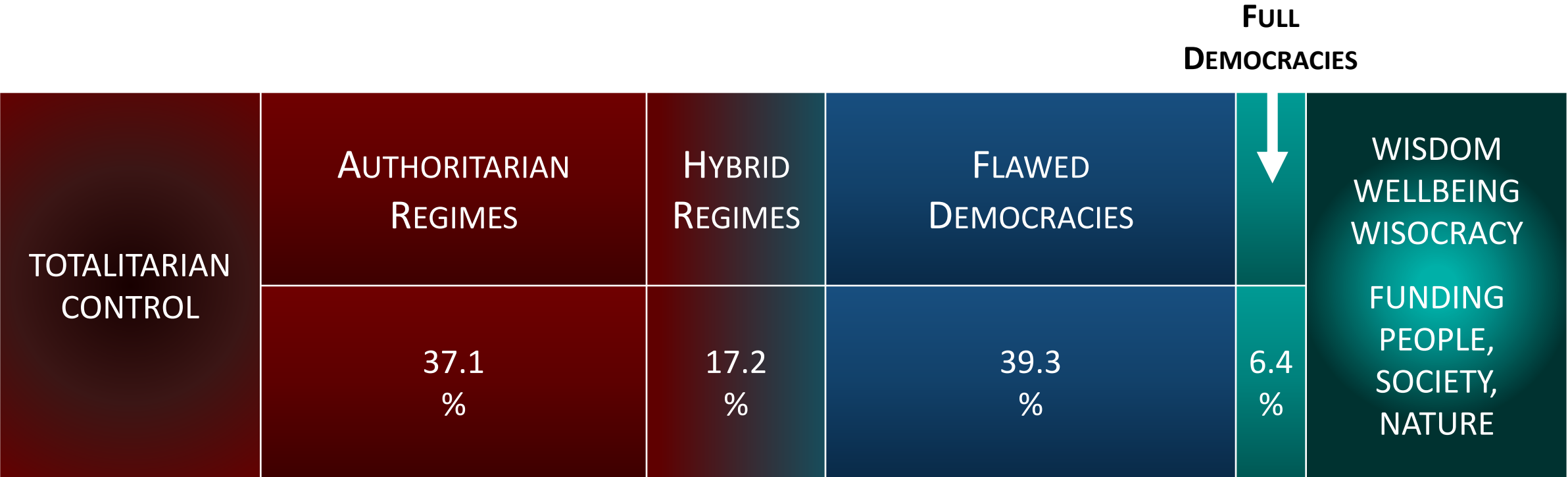
54.3%   45.7%
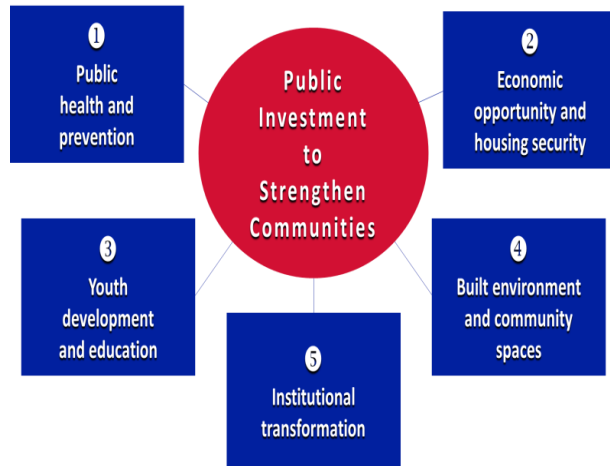
4

Strengthening Communities

Strengthening Communities

- In December 2022, I read articles on the BBC website about gangs taking over Haiti.
- It led me to do more research on the problems of Haiti and gangs.
- I began working with Rotarians internationally for Haiti and continue researching solutions for gang transformation through community investment and development.
- I originally proposed Community Learning Labs as one solution and then realized that gang members would not participate in the Labs.
- We also needed to find solutions to strengthen communities because weaker communities are where gangs grow and proliferate.
- I read a [Brookings Institute report](#) on needed community investment.
- I summarized the report recommendations to help community leaders understand the Brooking suggestions for community investment (see pages 15-23).
- I welcome collaboration with communities, organizations, and the Brookings Institute to implement their investment strategies to strengthen communities. - Sandy Hinden

Learning Wisdom / Transformation Wellbeing / Pro-Social Enterprises / Worker Cooperatives B-Corporations / Community Learning Lab / Creativity Innovation / Entrepreneurship

1. **Global gangs are proliferating. They grow around the world in a culture of corruption, crime, and violence, due to a lack of quality education and lack of opportunity, resulting in unemployment.**

2. **The lack of quality education and lack of opportunities for young people are leading people to join gangs to make a living.**

Learning Wisdom

Transformation Wellbeing

Pro-Social Enterprises

Worker Cooperatives B-Corporations

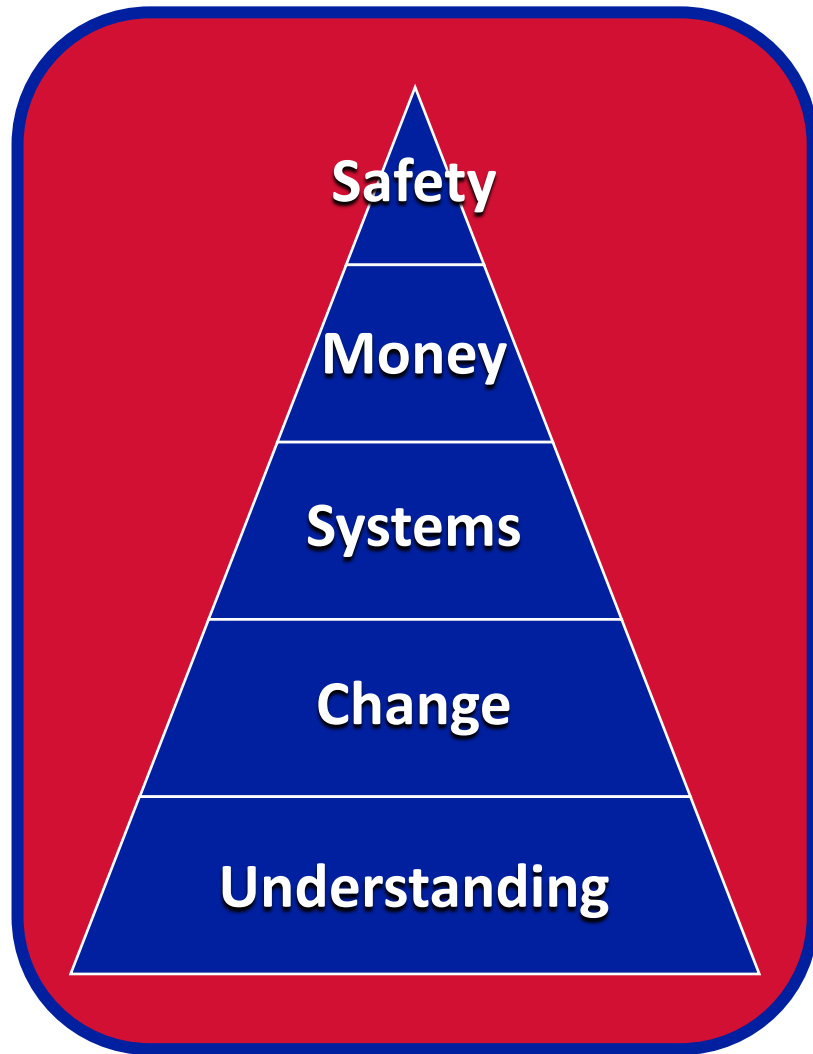Community Learning Lab

Creativity Innovation

Entrepreneurship

3. **Gang members engage in militias, extortion, kidnapping, sex trafficking, selling guns and drugs, theft, and burglary as daily work.**

4. **Policymakers, governments, and foundations can create Community Learning Labs for opportunities to evolve gangs into pro-social enterprises.**

Transforming Gangs to Pro-Social Enterprises

Learning
Wisdom

Transformation
Wellbeing

Pro-Social
Enterprises

Worker
Cooperatives
B-Corporations

Community
Learning Lab

Creativity

Innovation

Entrepreneurship

Why Gang Members Won't Use the Community Learning Lab

Safety

Money

Systems

Change

Understanding

1. **UNDERSTANDING:** They don't know what a Community Learning Lab does.

2. **CHANGE:** Like many people, they are uncomfortable with what is new to them and uncomfortable with change.

3. **SYSTEMS:** They don't realize we can work to change the educational, cultural, political, and economic systems to benefit them.

4. **MONEY:** They need money from their present activities.

5. **SAFTEY:** They fear they will be disliked by their own gang members and members of other gangs and be harmed by them.

We acknowledge these concerns

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Community Investment

Community Investment

Weakening Communities →

1. Low-income communities are vulnerable to gang infiltration and proliferation.
2. Gang members then terrorize young people and shop owners.
3. Young people then look for protection from gangs by joining gangs.
4. They then get involved with gangs for money through the sale of drugs and guns, extortion, and kidnapping.
5. Burglary, robbery, and violence then increase.

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

1. Public health and prevention
2. Economic opportunity and housing security
3. Youth development and education
4. Built environment and community spaces
5. Institutional transformation

Community Investment

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

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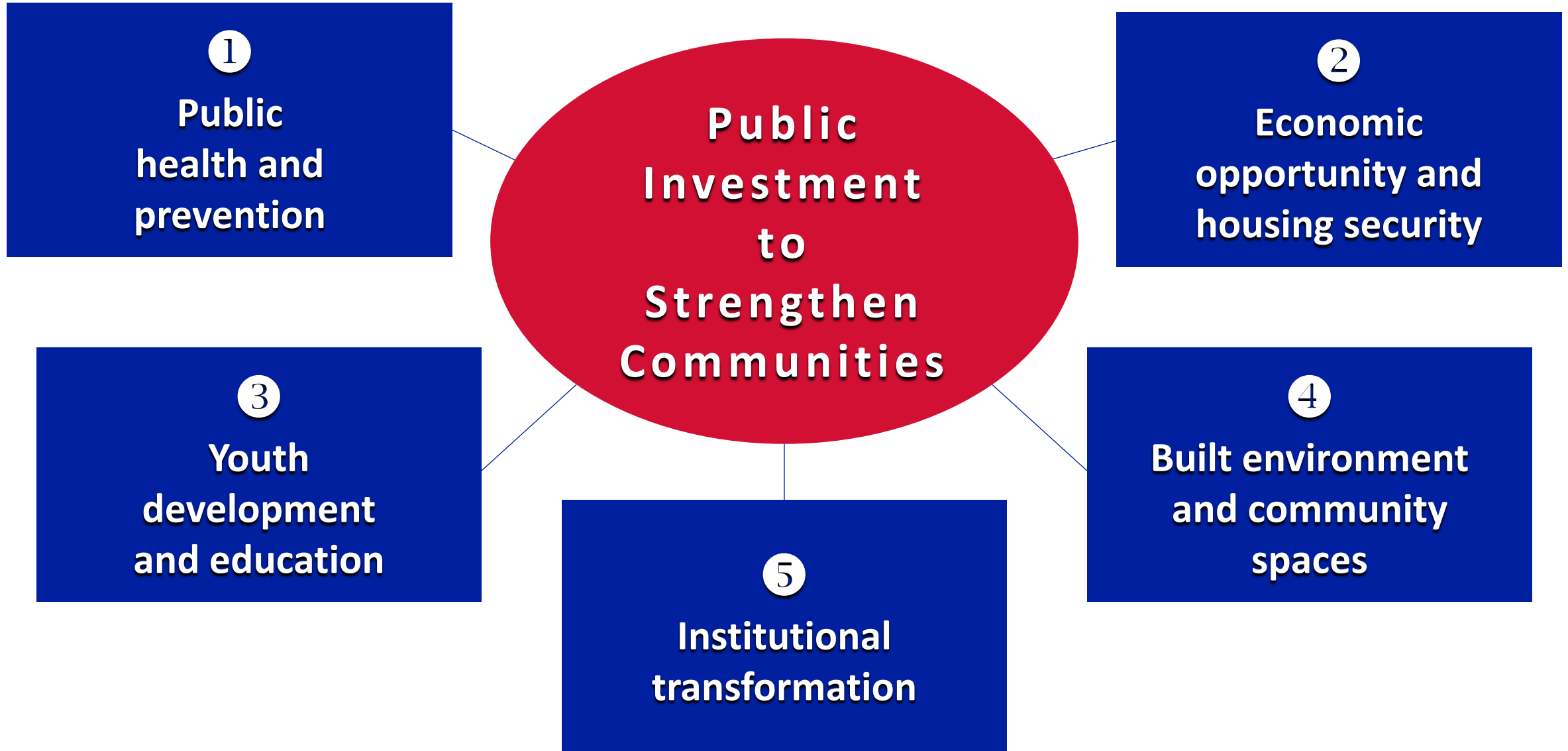
① Public health and prevention

- **Create sustainable funding streams for community violence intervention programs.**

- **Scale civilian crisis-response models.**

- **Increase funding for:**
    - **community health clinics**
    - **trauma recovery centers**
    - **community health workers**

② **Economic opportunity and housing security**

- **Expand access to workforce development and employment programs.**

- **Fund summer jobs for youth.**

- **Fund targeted cash assistance programs for harm survivors.**

- **Expand economic opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals.**

- **Expand access to housing through eviction defense, vouchers, and alternative real estate models.**

③

Youth development and education

- **Create a grant program to fund local youth violence prevention plans.**

- **Increasing resources for low-income schools.**

- **Fund youth centers, sports, enrichment activities, and neighborhood-based wraparound support programs.**

4

Built environment and community spaces

- **Built environment and community spaces to lower stress can significantly reduce crime.**

- **Increase grant funding for place-based neighborhood improvement projects.**

- **Transform abandoned homes and buildings and clean vacant lots.**

- **Create green neighborhood-led projects for "third spaces" such as parks, cafes, and community centers to lower stress & increase connections.**

Public Investment to Strengthen Communities

⑤
Institutional transformation

- **Provide sustainable and accessible funding for grassroots organizations.**

- **Enhance the capacity of community-based organizations.**

- **Create a community safety division at the Department of Health and Human Services for civilian agencies dedicated to community safety.**

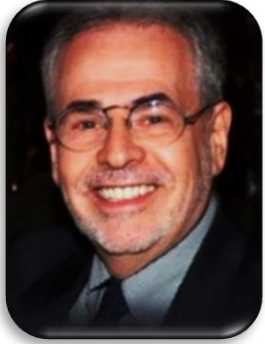- **Fund additional research on the social determinants of safety.**

⑥

About

Sanford Hinden
Educator, Administrator, Organizer, Author

- Sandy Hinden works for world peace, including *mutually assured survival* that includes *ending war, making peace with nature, and developing wellness for humanity.*
- Sandy provides programs for schools, libraries, and organizations in person and on Zoom in personal development, communications and relationships, and social and global development for peace and sustainability.
- He worked locally, nationally, and globally developing organizations, projects, and programs for peace, the environment, health, human services, education, and the arts.
- He helps seniors, adults, teens, and children reach their full potential and enjoy life more.
- Sandy was director of *Community Partners for Coordinated Services* for *Suffolk Community Council,* and executive director of the *Dix Hills Performing Arts Center* for 14 years.
- In 2009, he wrote and published *7 Keys to Love – Opening Love's Door to Joy & Wellbeing.*
- In 2014, he created the *Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity*, proposing annual 10% global military reductions to be used for funding human, social, and Earth's needs.
- Sandy currently works on *Wisocracy Lab* for wise democracy, wisdom, and wellbeing.
- His work uses psychology, economics, and politics to explore *Global Gang Transformation* and movement toward a *People's Government for Earth & Humanity.*

References

"Sandy's whole-systems thinking is empowering and enlightening. I would recommend any educational materials he creates as of superior value."
Meg Rivers
Senior Production Specialist at HBO / HBO Max

Sandy Hinden is a very exceptional human being entirely devoted to a better, ideal world. I have known him for more than 30 years. He constantly inspired me for my work and efforts at the United Nations. He had ceaseless great ideas. He encouraged me to not give up. I would be so happy see him in charge of a major newspaper section on good news and happiness for the people. He would be very precious for a major philanthropic organization, especially one dealing internationally. I would support his candidacy with the highest terms.
Dr. Robert Muller (1923-2010)
Former UN Assistant Secretary General
Cofounder, UN University for Peace, Costa Rica

"Sandy is an inspirational actionist! He is not afraid to ask the tough questions and explore heartfelt responses to them. The ones that have to do with how we got into this mess as humanity, and what it's going to take for us to get out of it. His wealth of experience and human kindness, combined with political savvy and collaborative working style, make learning with and from him an enriching experience, and always a joy."
Alexander Laszlo
Global Systems Educator

"Sanford Hinden is one of the most humane, compassionate, loving human beings I have ever met. He speaks and acts from deep wisdom about what people need – and what the world needs now. I trust him and have learned immensely from him."
Ronald Gross
Founder/Director, Conversations New York
Co-chair, University Seminar on Innovation, Columbia University