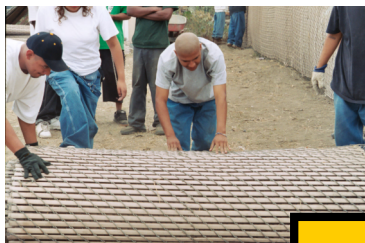


# NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GANG INJUNCTIONS ON YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

Contact the YJC for support in challenging an injunction or putting in a petition for removal from an injunction: 323-235-4243; [freelanow@yahoo.com](mailto:freelanow@yahoo.com).



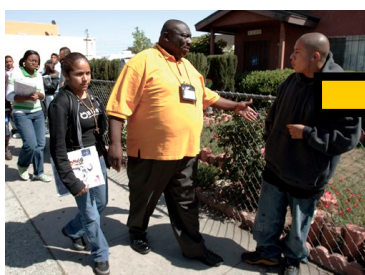
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**CONSTANT STOPS, PAT DOWNS, ARRESTS AND PERMANENT CRIMINAL RECORDS:** Everyone named in an injunction faces regular police stops, questioning, pat downs and arrests. This impacts how they are seen in the community – whether or not they are an “active gang member,” they gain a reputation for being dangerous. Cycling in and out of court and jail can be constant, and totally disrupts their sense of security and stability. Each conviction adds misdemeanors to a record, impacting a person’s ability to access or keep jobs, school or housing. Furthermore, L.A. County jails are severely overcrowded, violent, unhealthy and filled with neighborhood and race politics. The constant contact with the system forces many people further into “gang” politics and violence, it doesn’t offer a way out. **Injunctions make it much harder for people to break from the streets or the system and move on with their life in a positive way.**

**EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND SCHOOL:** With the constant police stops and frequent violations for people named in injunctions, most people cycle in and out of jail. Many people lose jobs after only a few days of absence from work. Employment discrimination is a reality for anyone connected to the system. Many jobs won’t hire people with court or system involvement; nearly all jobs include questions about past convictions on their applications. Colleges and high schools have strict policies on attendance, and lock-up also causes you to fall behind in your school work and lose your financial aid. *Explanations about missing days at work or school due to arrest are difficult to communicate – especially when people have little to no experience with the police or courts, let alone gang suppression policies, and don’t understand that gang injunction violations aren’t for new crimes, but for associating with other people, missing curfews or hanging out on your block.* For employers and school officials, your explanations of constant police contact and arrests start to sound like those old “dog ate my homework” excuses. In addition, gang injunction arrests can also lead Public Housing and Section 8 to evict you, and even your entire family; and limit your ability to get into housing. Because injunctions cause so many people to lose their jobs, housing or schooling, they often force people back onto the streets in order to survive. **Injunctions make it hard for people to get and keep a legitimate job, attend school and maintain their housing.**

**FAMILY UNITY AND CONNECTION:** Gang injunctions prohibit “association with other gang members” even if those alleged gang members are also family members. It becomes a common occurrence for people to be stopped, questioned, frisked and even arrested within the “safety zone” – the geographic area that makes up the injunction. The fact that family or friends live in the same house or same neighborhood does not protect people from violation. Parents have been arrested visiting their small children. Teenagers have been arrested visiting their parents, uncles or cousins. It is common for family gatherings – birthdays, Christenings, even funerals to be raided and those named in injunctions violated. Ultimately, gang injunctions split families apart. **There are ways to prevent violence without injunctions that break families and communities apart and isolate already vulnerable people.**

**COMMUNITY:** People who have been in gangs or have trusted relationships with gang members have an important role to play in building peace in our communities. It usually takes the OGs to talk people out of violence, remove guns from people’s hands, or bring neighborhoods together to build and maintain truces and cease fires. But, being named in an injunction makes this important work impossible. Intervention workers face being arrested any time they “associate” with another alleged gang member in the injunction area. In addition, schools, recreation and youth centers usually can’t hire or even allow people to volunteer who have convictions – and are afraid to work with people named in injunctions. **Injunctions severely limit people’s abilities to build community safety and youth progress.**

**THREAT OF DEPORTATION:** The L.A. County Sheriffs now check the immigration status of everyone entering a county jail. Anyone who is undocumented faces transfer to federal detention and deportation. People convicted of violating injunctions, can be deported *even if they are here “legally”*. **Injunctions make staying in the U.S. much more difficult, and increases the likelihood that children will be divided from their parents.**