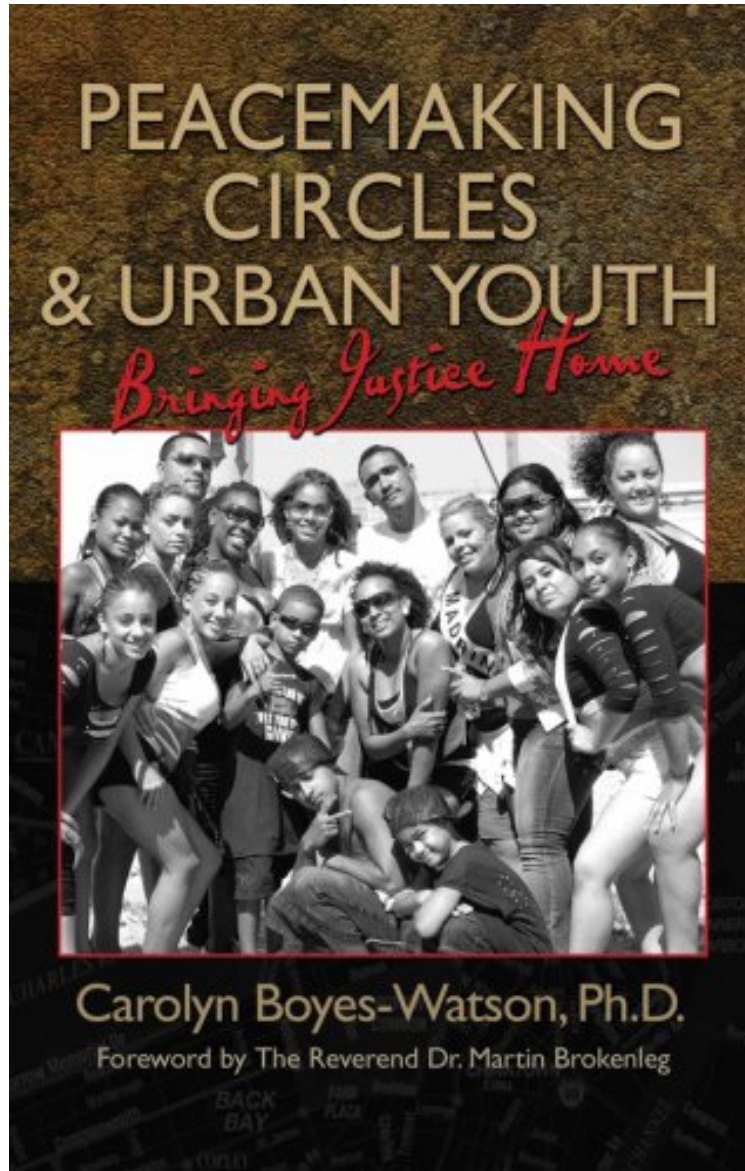


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Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth: Bringing Justice Home

Carolyn Boyes-Watson

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Carolyn Boyes-Watson : Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth: Bringing Justice Home before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth: Bringing Justice Home:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. While the book provides great insight into how organizations use peace making circlesBy Bianca GomezWhile the book provides great insight into how organizations use peace making

circles, there is a lot of deficit framing of historically oppressed youth of color and their communities. There is also an overall lack of analysis of crime and "problems in urban cities". The author ends up perpetuating stereotypes already present in the popular imagination.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book for those working with youth

By Kelly Burns I bought this book as a text book for class and it is the best text book that I have purchased in years. This book provides a solid framework for those working with high risk youth at the community or agency level. Through the description of the work done in East Boston by the Roca community group, the text outlines principles for youth engagement and transformational development that are profound in their simplicity, exceptional in their effectiveness and easily applicable to a range of youth oriented settings. It is also presented in a simple but interesting language and format, which is especially good for students who have to read it quickly amidst a number of other texts. Most impressive was that this text reminded me why I wanted to go into the field of youth work. I bought it for a class, but I will keep it for my career. I definitely recommend this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By Kyle Brand A very good book about peacemaking circles. I enjoyed it.

Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth: Bringing Justice Home, by Dr. Carolyn Boyes-Watson (the director of the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University) explores how the Circle process is being used by a remarkably innovative youth center outside Boston. Nearly twenty years in operation, Roca, Inc., works with immigrant, gang, and street youth. Using Circles extensively not only with youth but also with the families and community as well as throughout the organization is integral to Roca's effectiveness. "Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth" tells a compelling and inspiring story for any organization or person who works with young people, particularly troubled youth who desperately need community-based support to change the trajectory of their lives.

Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth illustrates the power of Circles in a unique environment. It tells the story of a youth development program, known as ROCA, that serves high risk young people in one of the most dense, impoverished, ethnically diverse and troubled communities in the U.S. Roca uses Circles as an essential, democratic, decision-making process as well as a respectful and powerful way of communicating. At Roca, Circles are a way of being, grounded in a restorative justice and youth development philosophy and practice. They are aimed ultimately at building new communities [in the sense of MLK's Beloved Community] both inside the Roca community and in Chelsea neighborhoods. *Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth* suggests how Circles could transform communities broadly including schools, neighborhoods, residential facilities, and, as Boyes-Watson shows, even the social services systems charged with assisting them.

--Gordon Bazemore, Author of *Juvenile Justice Reform and Restorative Justice* and *Restorative Juvenile Justice* and chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University

This story of the application of Circle process and restorative principles to a youth serving organization provides an excellent example of what you do after you find a talking piece. By adding the Circle process to their best youth development practices, Roca started making community, not just connecting to it. Roca's story has insights for schools, adult serving agencies, businesses, block clubs, and the faith community. Carolyn tells this story with the eye of a participant: each observation and each anecdote is as fresh as last night's Circle.

--Nancy Riestenberg, Prevention specialist, Minnesota School Safety Center/Minnesota Department of Education

I am thrilled to see this book come to print. Everywhere I do Circle training with people working with youth, I see a need for this book. The deeply moving work with youth at ROCA and Carolyn's profound capacity for observation and reflection offer inspiration, wisdom, and hope that as a society we can do better for our young people than we have been doing. In the process of making space for healing our youth, we will heal ourselves.

--Kay Pranis, Circle trainer, coauthor of *Peacemaking Circles: From Crime to Community*

About the Author Carolyn Boyes-Watson is the founding director of Suffolk University's Center for Restorative Justice and an associate professor of sociology at Suffolk University. Professor Boyes-Watson has been on the faculty since 1993. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's and Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her husband, Mark, and her two children, Emily and Matthew.