

* Empowerment to the People! Going Inside The Issues ®

“**Empowerment to the People! Going Inside The Issues**,” is proposed as a 1-hour (56 to 58 minutes) public access television program and podcast, in which a 3- to 4-person panel¹ of intergenerational, gender-aware, *grassroots activist-intellectuals* critically explores some of the most important problems and local, national, international and global issues of our time.

As the full name indicates, “**...Going Inside The Issues**” is first about “people empowerment”. So, rather than superficially describing, or monotonously re-hashing issues, in the fashion of so many current “talk programs”, the panel will re-frame the issues to reflect the concerns and liberatory aspirations of its audience.

Program producers anticipate the primary audience to be culturally-conscious and politically-progressive, US-based diasporan Africans. Peoples who consider themselves allies of Africa and diasporan Africans are also expected to tune-in. The needs and interests of diasporan Africans are rarely addressed in on-air programming. However, “**...Going Inside The Issues**”, will offer a refreshing, *Revolutionary Pan Africanist* perspective.²

Over time, the program/podcast will:

1. **Extend its audience engagement of Africa and Africans** across the continent and the diaspora.³
2. **Expose**, with accuracy and clarity, the historically **oppressive and exploitative “root-cause socio-economic systems”** of:
 - a. feudalism, colonialism, slavery, capitalism (commodity / monopoly / finance), imperialism / neo-colonialism;
3. **Examine**, with precision and depth, **capitalism’s tragic legacy** of seemingly intractable **worldwide problems** such as:
 - a. white supremacist ideology; racial oppression & discrimination;
 - b. local-global economic super- exploitation of workers, and crushing neo-colonial inequalities imposed on South Nations –especially throughout continental Africa, Central and South America;
 - c. patterns of war/proxy war, and forced human dislocation/migration globally;
4. **Confront head-on, contemporary US societal maladies** such as:
 - a. Patriarchy, in-grained gender bias & inequality;
 - b. public school mis-education;
 - c. racialized mass incarceration;
 - d. profound inequality and inefficiency and waste throughout the healthcare and mental healthcare systems;
 - e. ever-growing, shameful national housing & employment legacies, especially for ‘poor and *working-class, Indigenous, Black and Brown*’ US residents:

¹ Akinlabi Mackall will usually perform program hosting duties. Other panelists will be drawn from a 6- to 8-member team. Additionally, guest panelists will also be invited from time-to-time.

² Such a perspective is African-centered, committed to the attainment of self-determination for both continental and diasporan Africans. It is also internationalist, class-conscious, human rights-based, anti-racist, gender-aware, anti-capitalist, and socialist.

³ Africans in the US are the practical primary ‘focus audience’ initially; however, the target of these efforts over time must be on the liberation of Africa and Africans everywhere.

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urban-suburban-rural *homelessness, dislocation and removal; under-employment, unemployment and structural joblessness*;⁴

- f. the overarching crisis of climate change *denial*;
 - g. the urgent need for a “new civics” that produces a vastly more well-informed, responsible and engaged citizenry; etc.
5. **Interrogate**, with rigor and principle, the **benefits of socialized institutions** under capitalism; and the **long-term superiority of socialism** as a system vs. capitalism.⁵

Accessible Approach: The panelists will engage in sound research; put a premium on sober, plain talk blended with passion, and wit.

They will draw on current events and important topics of the day to help make some of the complexities more understandable, relevant and/or interesting to our audience. Issues such as U. S. democracy and its racist inequalities (as reflected in the rights of Africans, as well as other peoples of color); social justice vs. criminal justice; police brutality vs. Black Lives Matter; gun control vs. domestic terror and mass murder; a living minimum wage vs. huge income inequality; “states’ rights” and “right-to-work states”; union organizing & labor rights; voting rights vs. organized voter suppression; military & nuclear weapons policy, and misguided US foreign policy (ies) are just some items slated to be tackled. On many of the foregoing, and similar, issues & topics, which highlight social, economic and political inequality, we will utilize the **Proportional Equity Ratio, “PER”, (aka Societal Inequality Ratio, “SIR”)**⁶ to quantify the extreme levels of class, race and gender discrimination, exploitation and oppression prevalent in virtually all aspects of U. S. life.

The Philosophical and Practical Emphases will be on assisting our audience in:

1. *Rethinking, Unpacking & De-mystifying*: gaining in-depth understanding of these key issues;
2. *Connecting-the dots*: developing valuable insights into how major issues are interrelated;
3. *Resistance & Rebuilding*: recognizing our role as society’s *change-agents*, we have a dialectical responsibility to both actively oppose injustice and inequality, and to rebuild a fairer, better world;⁷
4. *Going from Articulation to Action*: identifying liberatory pathways for struggle & sustained people-empowerment and fundamental change, *and then following through*. That is, placing the typically unglamorous, yet critically important day-to-day work of organizing and movement-building front-and-center in the consciousness of the audience.

⁴ These crises will be re-framed to place the needs of *the people* at the center of sustainable, if also radical, policy-solutions. In the process, the retrograde, anti-people nature of almost all so-called “gentrification” schemes will be presented. The sanity and practicality of a ‘guaranteed livable household income’ and ‘high quality, affordable housing for all’ will be presented.

⁵ The importance of *human rights, democracy, social justice, and civic engagement* will infuse these interrogations.

⁶ Proportional Equity Ratio (aka societal inequality ratio) is a quantitative expression or metric of the ratio of ratios, developed by Mackall (2005), to capture extreme inequalities between or among distinct, yet comparable groups/groupings within a common “population” or “set” and a specific “subset” population. An example is (the ratios of) Black males and white males *in the US population* (“set”), and (the respective ratios of) Black males & white males *in US prison population* (“subset”).

⁷ These discussions will present the perspective of “we the people”; that is, people-empowered organizers, activists and ‘average people’, struggling for change.