Don Dale: We Are Each Responsible

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Abstract

We collapse as a society when we subsume to a capitalist state of apathetic consumerism. Our collective apathy is a contemporaneous colonialism and when we care only enough to re-share a post in online social media of the atrocities happening in our society, in our prisons, in our communities then we have remained assimilated, mute. As hordes of the population trample gardens in the pursuit of Google controlled Pokemon's, as we push ahead in the queue for sauce smothered hot dogs at the Lego convention, there is a failure, a glitch in the reality fabric of our virtual addicted society if the 2016 Don Dale[1] detention saga that continues to unfurl is seen as an isolated incident.

Incarceration, Isolation & Torture

In this country, on this country, at an unprecedented rate there are prison cells and isolation cages being built by international consortia. These companies, insidiously in the pockets of those that profit from their inception removing those marginalised by this mass collective consumer apathy.

As evidenced over decades and centuries of occupation, Australians have for the majority become largely trapped in their own disconnect, a donut at a time, celebrating technology upgrades as if they were pacemakers to a failing heart. If Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of any age trapped in a living hell of abject reality, we must wake up, lift our heads up from our screens and speak out against this current and continued carnage.

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Dale_Youth_Detention_Centre



“..Unlike with detention offence charges, there is no requirement to put the reason for the confinement in writing, the detainee does not get the reason in writing, and there is no hearing. [2]

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https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2016/jul/29/children-in-solitary-confinement-we-must-stop-treating-kids-in-the-system-like-adults

Not one politician, not any government funded initiative, absolutely no elected assimilated leader nor any community lead initiative will make a difference in these people's lives if isolation inside the hell of incarceration is seen to be an answer to what is a collective and human condition.

As conjured in Sartre's stage play '*No Exit'* the overarching conclusion is that hell is other people.[3] Australia's continued incarceration and assimilation record complete with policies of apartheid, genocide and continued ecocide is surely then hell on earth.

As long as governance, title, deed, ownership, possession and retribution has ruled in this continued penal colony, this divided nation of apartheid, the longer we are then supporting a government that continues only to serve itself.

> *"...Australia's collective conscience was seared by footage of teenage detainees sprayed with tear-gas; of 17-year-old Dylan Voller shackled to a restraining chair by his wrists, ankles and head, a "spit hood" obscuring his face; of prison guards who were "cage fighters"; of the prison minister roaring off astride a Harley-Davidson juxtaposed with his own department's torture videos. [4]*

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Exit

[4] http://www.theage.com.au/national/how-the-northern-territory-became-australias-shame-20160729-gqgefe.html

The Solution

The many accounts from mental health workers, community nurses, community Elders and the young people themselves who have been subject to horrific abuse in these points of incarceration all point to one solution.

The solution, answers and healing come from within communities themselves where each individual takes responsibility for helping others and not just themselves. The systematic alienation, removal from families, marginalisation and removal off country are controlled by a few mindless and wealthy few.

The only thing that will make a difference, the answer to stop this systemic control and abject failure to protect our community is YOU.

We each are responsible for speaking out against detention of any kind. We each individually responsible for rejecting the virtual world as a moral desire. We each can mobilise change at every level by smashing through controlled, subjective, learned racism.

Change is individually felt, lead and enacted. Reconciliation is an individual act, not an academic unit nor an initiative, not a target.

Native title is acknowledging and following the Law of those who are the traditional custodians of this country, not a series of anthropologist facilitated occupation and community divisions.

Aboriginal custodians are the native title of this country, this land. This country owns its people.

Mobilising Change

We are each responsible to mobilise change, ethically tapping into our outrage and being in service to others. We each have unlimited reserves of strength and good will to provide hope as we smash down punitive justice and build restorative justice, on country one breath at a time.

We can't eat money. We need resources and none more than what this country already provides to build strong communities.

> *"...No irresponsible mining company, no compensation account, no apology of any description will ever make a difference for this country, Australia. Separating, occupying and ruling the lives of others brings about a certain reality that resembles the hell incarceration imbues.*

As my Kooya[5] has told me, Lucy Marshall OAM[6], we have two ears and one mouth, meaning we have to listen twice as much as we speak.

To have courage, to reject rhetoric, to step around inept policy, to effect change where it matters most means we each bear responsibility for this action, of building a healthy nation.

> *We each have that power to drive change and we each have the power to drive that change every day and in every way in our lives.*

[5] Nyikina term for Mother - http://www.madjulla.com.au/dictionary
[6] http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-08/queens-birthday-honours-west-australians-recognised/6522804

Conclusion

Unlike a short opinion paper such as this, there is no end to this challenge of an apathetic nation. We each can step beyond that and speak up, speak out and refuse to accept this carnage on our people.

The battle is won when we each bear responsibility for what we are individually creating, supporting, perpetuating or desecrating. We each bear witness to change in our time, each and every time we connect with another human being.

If we are awake, if we are tapping into our instinct we feel change in ourselves first. When we look around we notice those who are feeling that change too.

There is no banner, no motto, no rally, no group, no network, no constitutional change, no referendum and no communal initiative more important than knowing that we are all connected as one people, one race - the human race.

> *"...The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice commissioner, Mick Gooda, told the Garma Festival in Arnhem Land that Australia was not ready for the referendum and the process needed to be slowed down."* [7]

Commensurately, nor are we ready for a dawning totalitarian state of permanent surveillance, a robotic non-ethical state of control by a global psychopathic coloniser who mandate and enforce incarceration.

There is and will never be a Singularity [8] provided we acknowledge and understand that the oppressor lives within ourselves. We have to refuse it and live a healthy life, face to face, protecting country first.

We are the engineers of our future today. We are each responsible.

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[7] http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/don-dale-scandal-may-impact-on-referendum-to-recognise-indigenous-australians-20160731-gqhj5n.html

[8] http://spectrum.ieee.org/static/singularity