

PART 2

Implications for Policy, Practice,
and Organizing

FIVE

Transition Policies Beyond Poverty, Unemployment, and Discrimination

THIS CHAPTER addresses short-term and intermediate-range transition policies to end poverty and reduce the intensity of injustice and oppression prior to eliminating their sources in the fabric of society. Transition policies differ markedly from long-term strategies aimed at eliminating the systemic causes of ill-fare and at transforming unjust institutions into just alternatives. However, they also overlap with and complement long-term strategies, for they are necessary steps toward a comprehensive transformation of the institutions and culture of unjust and oppressive societies.

Transition policies are necessary since comprehensive transformations involve lengthy processes in time rather than brief revolutionary moments. Social movements, pursuing such transformations, require interim goals to initiate and sustain the process of transcending prevailing destructive social realities.

Moreover, transition policies to reduce deprivation and suffering are not only necessary as interim goals but are also ethically valid in their own terms. Movements for social justice must never disregard and must always aim to alleviate as quickly and as much as possible human