Workshop on a participatory process for transforming policy into law, May 24-28, 1993

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REPORT BACK GROUP 1

ROLE OCCUPIED: WHITE COMMERCIAL FARMERS/FARM WORKERS

BEHAVIOUR: EXPLOITATION & HUMAN TREATMENT OF FARMWORKERS & THEIR FAMILIES

RULES:

- Basic Conditions of Employment Act
  - Only recently extended to farmworkers in the face of continuous resistance by farmers. However, BCA only protects employers, and education & health facilities are not provided for by the state or local authorities & farmers have no affirmative right to supply or withhold such services.

- Labour Relations Act / Wages Act

- WIF Act, these do not apply to farmworkers and farmers' powers are undermined by the common

- Laws of Contract & Property
  - Labour Tenancy Contracts

- Trespassing & Vagrancy Laws & Ordinances

- Prisons Act allows convicted labour

- Gun laws. So SA history is one of dispossession by armed farmers while, weapons have always been withheld from the dispossessed!

- Land BAILOR ACT

Affirm -> Ball
OPPORTUNITY & CAPACITY:
- MIGRANT LABOUR SYSTEM
- UNEMPLOYMENT & LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT
- LACK OF RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION
- VULNERABILITY OF FARMWORKERS
- TRIBAL AUTHORITIES AT THE DISPOSAL OF FARMERS
- A CULTURE OF DEPENDENCE NURTURED BY FARMERS
- CAPACITY BASED ON BEING HEREDITARY FARMOWNERS
- INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS
- GEOGRAPHICAL LOCALITY - RURAL STRUGGLES WERE MARGINALIZED
I have a problem. Weren't we supposed to say what we will be doing (based on our research), looking at the 3 proposals outlined. Because it seems people are drifting away from the whole idea?