

Becoming a Poverty Abolitionist

April 30, 2025

“Poverty is often material scarcity piled on chronic pain “
piled on incarceration piled on depression piled on
addiction—on and on it goes. Poverty isn’t a line. It’s a
tight knot of social maladies. It is connected to every
social problem we care about—crime, health, education,
housing—and its persistence in American life means that
millions of families are denied safety and security and
dignity in one of the richest nations in the history of the
world.” (*Poverty, By America*, p.23)

Question for Discussion:

What are the implications of this view of poverty?

“Poverty abolition is a personal and political project.”
(Poverty, By America, pg 183)

Questions for Discussion:

What do you hear Desmond saying in that quote?

What are some personal actions to abolish poverty?

What are some political actions to abolish poverty?