



Proposal for an Anarchist People of Color Network

mission

Solutions must reflect our unique problems and possibilities for struggle. While there are "isms" we are fighting against, just as important, we are fighting for liberation.

We understand it is up to us to win freedom, on our terms. We need an anarchist people of color organizing network. Such a network should be composed of individuals and collectives. It should be committed to building a directly democratic movement aimed at creating revolutionary change.

Points of Unity

- 1) We recognize that our oppression is political. We reject dominant and subculture claims that we are to blame for our own slavery. We understand that white supremacy and capitalism are at the heart of the problems we face.
- 2) We support and encourage organizing in a grassroots, anti-authoritarian way. We believe in power of the people, not by the people.
- 3) We acknowledge the need to organize independently and as a movement uniting people of color. Although our organization should be composed solely of people of color, we understand the importance of our work within the international resistance movement. We also understand our efforts can only help build resistance to our common enemies.
- 4) We support and encourage active participation of women, as well as newer and older generations in our work.
- 5) We recognize the necessity of self-determination for all colonized nations and peoples, and we stand with struggles by colonized nations and peoples around the world. We maintain the importance of autonomy for people of color, and also recognize the importance of multiracial, multicultural unity. We stand with just struggles against our oppressors.
- 6) We recognize our struggle is also against racism within various political movements.

Statement of Purpose

We address our social problems by organizing movements and communities to take on white supremacy and capitalism, which are at the root of these problems. We seek to create alternatives to current order that are democratic, just and promote mutual respect, self-determination, empowerment and liberation.

We educate, organize and cultivate organizing skills in our communities to meet the challenges we face. Some of these issues include social, political and cultural struggles we face such as police misconduct, prisons, housing issues, education, and health care, but there are many more. We seek to agitate in ways that are most strategic to overcoming our oppression.

Structure

The organizing catalyst we envision is a loosely-knit network of groups and individuals, with a basic process, organizing and communications framework established as a means of working together. Membership should be based on agreement with the mission, points of unity and statement of purpose. From there, it is critical to have a commitment to organizing and being active in struggles affecting communities of color locally, as well as against capitalism and white supremacy. As local groups form out of action, responsibility for recruiting and maintaining membership in their areas is also essential. Participants should be accountable to their local collectives.

We believe in direct democracy, mutual respect and open debate as positive ways of rebuilding stronger relations in our communities. Decisions should be made in a spokescouncil format, where delegates elected by local and regional groups participate in discussions and decisions (although audience is open to all members). Committees and spokescouncil members should be accountable to the group.

Committees should be based around common work, such as process, publicity and organizing strategy, and be coordinated by a chair elected by committee members on the basis of the potential chair's commitment to spending time in skills sharing and project completion. Committees should report back monthly to the spokescouncil.

Conclusion

Many movements are crippled by Eurocentric, middle class and privileged orientations. We contend that a people of color movement would not only serve to educate, but to strengthen the communities in which we are a part. An organization comprised of like minded individuals of color would strengthen our struggles against everyday oppressions. It would also empower us as we participate in such struggles.

We will be hosting a forum on the proposal and its possibilities at the Anarchist People of Color Conference, October 3-5, 2003, in Detroit, Michigan, USA. We also welcome constructive comments, criticisms, suggestions and feedback prior to the event. Those who find unity with the proposal are also welcome to get in touch. Our email is thirdworldwarfare@yahoo.com. You can also write P.O. Box 667233, Houston, Texas 77266-7233.