

Statement of Project Principles:

This statement outlines the social norms appropriate within the collective, as explicitly different from the social and cultural climate which characterises Western capitalist society. These principles are meant as guidelines in order to collectively create a counter-cultural environment which upholds the values of mutual aid, respect, equality, and sustainability.

These principles represent what are the core beliefs of the collective as a whole, and although they are dynamic, in that as we evolve we may change and amend this statement, it is on these principles that we build the project itself.

Anti-Oppression

It can be useful to view our current social relations as consisting of many learned oppressive behaviours and it is our responsibility to unlearn and educate ourselves on the complex ways in which this is expressed in order to overturn these behaviours and build a better world that we all know is possible.

The behaviours that we consider oppressive include any form of racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, biphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, imperialism as well as the oppression and/or exploitation of non human animals and all the other ways in which hierarchy expresses itself. We try to move beyond normative behaviour which is violent and abusive, and/or any bias that acts as an obstruction to anyone being treated equally.

These behaviours and dynamics do not exist in isolation but intersect in complex and unexpected ways, and we can often be unaware that we are behaving in ways that are oppressive or unconsidered.

You will be expected to take responsibility for all your ~isms and phobias in the collective. Unlearning these behaviours is something we must all take responsibility for - ignorance is not an excuse. Each of us is responsible for undertaking the freeing of ourselves from the conditioning that the capitalist world has imposed upon us. We see this as a collective process and feel we should try and do this as kindly as possible.

'Calling out', 'calling in' and 'advocacy' are tools that we can use to collectively move towards transforming social relations between each other and the greater community around us, though we would suggest that this should be done in the spirit of comradeship and solidarity rather than that of 'policing' each other which is often alienating, oppressive and counter-productive. Everybody makes mistakes, and we are all in a collective learning process together where the ground is shifting constantly so be kind to one another. Solidarity is the weapon of the people.

Anti-Capitalism

The inequalities and injustices in this world are inseparable from the system of capitalism. A system which commodifies life and allows huge inequalities in terms of access to resources and individual liberties. These inequalities are enforced by an

exploitative profit driven market system and state oppression in the form of both national and international violence. It is our duty as anti-capitalists to speak out against and oppose these behaviours to the best of our abilities, to condemn the actions of apartheid and imperial regimes, authoritarianism and anti-labour movements.

Sustainability

As capitalism decimates the environment, it is up to us to take a stand and move away from its destructive tendencies. To teach the principles of mutual aid not only internally between people, but to the planet as whole. Without respect for our environment and our fragile position within it, we walk a path of destruction, instead we must view all life and industry as it is; interconnected in a complex ecology of cause and effect. It is through this analysis and level of respect that we can begin to heal the damage caused by human society on the world and move towards a more sustainable model of caring and mutual benefit.

Independence and Federation

Capitalism is a machine that dominates almost all consumption in the world today. The inability to escape it is part of the reason why it is so difficult to oppose. It is for this reason that we must begin to put into practice the basic mechanisms that allow us to undermine consumption on the capitalist market by breaking away from purchasing goods and services from capitalist sources to operating as autonomously as possible and purchasing from less exploitative sources when self production isn't feasible. Support for other anti-capitalist organisations such as co-operatives and communes allows us to stand together and strengthen each other while respecting the autonomy and different approaches each of us may have. Diversity and solidarity both within individual projects and between them gives us the strength to experiment, sustain and thrive where as individuals we cannot.