

# Vision Statement

[Purpose: Provide an accessible and informative text that explains the core ethos of the project and the aims thereof]

We are an anarchist project aimed at developing space that can be used in the struggle against capitalism. Whether that is providing services or housing outside of the capitalist model of business or sharing skills in order to survive, fight and overcome the oppressive socio-economic system of our time.

What is Capitalism, and why do we seek it's end?

Capitalism is a way of organising society whereby a small number of individuals have gained wealth beyond imagining, through the ownership of private property and exploitation of land and labour. Value created by the workers is extracted as profit, while the worker must make do with what meagre pay is offered, or be without a means of living. This exploitative organisation of production and the employer/employee relationship are a cornerstone of capitalism, they are essential. There is no autonomy, freedom or democracy in the capitalist work place; there is only wage slavery and alienation.

We live in an age of compounding crises, which capitalism has created. A society of extreme inequality, with just eight people owning as much wealth as the bottom half of the population globally. An anti-ecological society, where the profits of a few fossil fuel shareholders are valued more than the lives of millions of people threatened by the climate crisis. And a profound loss of humanity as we are pitted against one another for an ever decreasing slice of the pie.

Capitalism is costing us our planet, our freedom and each other and must be abolished.

The vision of our project is to try to help people look beyond this system, by showing them that another way of living is not only possible, but preferable. Our project is aimed at the creation of a space which is equally and collectively owned by those who use it and to provide services on principles of usefulness beyond monetary exchange. We want to live by and promote a model of mutual aid, equality, freedom and sustainability. Through educational and creative spaces we can show people a path away from capitalism, based on these principles. We wish not only to take care of one another but to light a path forwards for others, a path towards a new society. One in which these principles are upheld as the foundation of society itself.

Non-hierarchical Solutions & Empowerment

Many of these crises cannot be overcome at the level of the individual. One taking a more ethical or ecological stance towards consumption, such as; composting, recycling or adopting a vegan diet, while important and necessary, will not lead on their own to a more ethical or ecological society. Only when a vast majority of people realise that they must act collectively will things actually begin to change. This is the example that our collective will seek to set through our work.

The system of oppression that we exist in sustains itself through dis-empowerment. We are isolated from one another and that which we create through fabricated competition

and artificial scarcity. Only through collaboration and mutual empowerment will we have the ability to confront and combat these infrastructurally enforced falsehoods. The Affinity Collective seeks to provide an accessible platform from which these kinds of changes and collaborative efforts can be made and to facilitate other projects with similar aims.

In the spirit of constructing a decentralised and affinity-based model we hope to become a resource to those who wish to join the collective, collaborate, or use our structure as a reference depending on their values and hopes. Capitalism necessitates a world of unnecessary suffering and oppression, but we have the ability to build something better through an empowering and dynamic approach. This is exactly what we intend to do as the Affinity Collective. RISE UP!!!! :)