

SUNRISE MOVEMENT GW CONSTITUTION GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Sunrise Movement is a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. This organization shall be a "hub," or chapter, of the National Sunrise Movement organization but independent of National Sunrise in all financial and legal matters.

Sunrise GW is a coalition of student activists dedicated to working towards a more environmentally just University and world by utilizing the structure of the Sunrise Movement and its core principles.

PRINCIPLES:

The 11 principles of Sunrise national movement are:

1. We are a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good-paying jobs in the process.
 - a. We unite to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people.
2. We grow our power through talking to our communities.
 - a. We talk to our neighbors, families, religious leaders, classmates, and teachers, in order to spread our word. Our strength and work is rooted in our local communities, and we are always growing in number.
3. We are Americans from all walks of life.
 - a. We are of many colors and creeds, from the plains, mountains, and coasts. A wealthy few want to divide us, but we value each other in our differences and we are united in a shared fight to make real the promise of a society that works for all of us.
4. We are nonviolent in word and deed.
 - a. Remaining nonviolent allows us to win the hearts of the public and welcomes the most people to participate. We need maximum participation in order to achieve our goals.
5. We tell our stories and we honor each other's stories.
 - a. We all have something to lose to climate change, and something to gain in coming together. We tell our individual stories to connect with each other and understand the many different ways this crisis impacts us.
6. We ask for help and we give what we can.
 - a. We all have something to offer to the movement. Some of us give time through volunteering anywhere from 1 to 50 hours per week. Some of us give money. Some of us donate housing or meeting space. We invite our community into the movement by asking for the help we need.
7. We take initiative.
 - a. Any group of 3 people can take action in the name of Sunrise. We ask for advice — not permission — from each other to make this happen. To make decisions, we ask ourselves,

“does this bring us closer to our goal?” If yes, we simply do the work that is exciting and makes sense.

8. We embrace experimentation and we learn together.
 - a. We welcome imperfection, share innovations, and learn through honest mistakes followed by honest conversations that help us move forward together. If we see something we don't like, we contribute with something we do like, modeling an alternative.
9. We take care of ourselves, each other, and our shared home.
 - a. We maintain our health of body, mind, spirit, and environment to the best of our ability so that we can maintain a strong movement together. We respect that for each of us this looks different.
10. We stand with other movements for change.
 - a. Stopping climate change requires winning and holding power at every level of government. This is a huge job and we can't do it alone. When it makes sense, we work with other movements who share our values and are also working to win political power.
11. We shine bright.
 - a. There are hard and sad days, to be sure. This isn't easy work. But we strive to bring a spirit of positivity and hope to everything we do. Changing the world is a fulfilling and joyful process, and we let that show.

These principles will be applied in the activity of the GW Sunrise hub.

LEADERSHIP

OUTLINE OF LEADERSHIP:

No one member shall attain a position that grants them the power to make decisions without the consent of the 2/3rds majority of the group. We are a group dedicated to serving the people of the world, and as such, we shall be governed by them. We shall subscribe to no official group leader or leaders, though, representatives may be chosen in certain cases such as ambassadors to the Student Association and other similar cases. We will adhere to the [snowflake model](#) of hub structure to organize ourselves. Please read the linked hub structure guide from Sunrise National to learn more about what that means.

Our structure is project-based, and leadership fluctuates based on the ability of members to carry out tasks and actions. All leadership is voluntary and non-binding. There is no hierarchy of leadership positions within the organization, only pathways of communication, and no leader is permitted to make unilateral decisions.

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS:

Leadership meetings are open to all hub members. This is where large-scale decisions are made, and regular communication between teams is encouraged. Positions can be created and removed by the leadership team.

TEAM MEETINGS:

Each team within the hub will host weekly meetings to assist in carrying out actions and plans. These meeting times will be determined by a democratically-based poll, such as a When2Meet.

MEMBERSHIP

ACCESSIBILITY:

Membership of Sunrise GW is accessible by all students at The George Washington University. Members are encouraged to take on as much responsibility as they are able to.

All meetings will be recorded to increase accessibility for members with outside commitments.

Membership will be free from all forms of discrimination including but not limited to political, religious, ethnic, racial, physical, generational, sexual and affectional orientation/association, gender or gender-identity, ability or disability.

EXPECTATIONS:

We as a group condemn acts of bigotry and violence, and we shall also be as aggressive and righteous to those who threaten our world outside our group as we will to those inside our group.

1. If a member commits act of bigotry and/or violence, depending on the situation:
 - a. The member will meet with the JEAO equity team (see more in Snowflake model above, as well as the [Building a Just Hub Guide](#)), comprised of volunteers trained to facilitate constructive discussion.
 - b. If further action is necessary, the JEAO team will make recommendations to best accommodate the situation, up to and including expulsion from Sunrise GW.

In solidarity with Extinction Rebellion, we believe:

“We live in a toxic system, but no one individual is to blame.

Blaming and shaming will not serve us in the long run. Whilst a specific campaign may seek to highlight the damaging role played by an institution, including individuals serving that institution, our starting point is that we live in a toxic system that has damaged everybody. We can point out behaviour that is unhelpful, exploitative or abusive, and we won’t tolerate such behaviour, yet we don’t hand away our love or power by blaming and shaming. This is also true in our interpersonal and group dynamics as well as our relationship to ourselves.

We embrace change that creates unity in diversity; we need to set right the relationships between us, avoiding the interpersonal traps that come from games we may inadvertently play and bringing awareness to the structures that would divide us. We accept that emotion sometimes needs to be expressed, that a period of venting can be necessary. We ask each other for good grace in how we share emotion and to return to a baseline of love, respect and conviviality. We need to be compassionate when mistakes are made. Mistakes are opportunities to learn. We look for ways to connect and understand. Listening deeply to each other is a powerful tool. We especially need to listen to those of us that come from groups whose voices tend to be silenced.”

SOLIDARITY:

As builders of the broad DivestGW Coalition, and members of several other activist coalitions (ShutDownDC, etc), we frequently ask partner organizations for their support. In turn, we have a responsibility to show solidarity with our partner organizations, by coming out to support and including them in relevant discussions whenever possible and practical. Our goal is to be an example of the intersectionality of activist circles, and understand that we fit into a broad progressive movement.