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Grassroots Community Self-Defense

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES



Stop LAPD Spying Coalition Principles Zine

"It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."



-Assata Shakur

#### **NOTES**



It means a group of individuals and organizations coming together to protect the life-affirming rights and needs of our communities. We join in struggle to resist, organize, and defend against the national security police state and statesanctioned violence, and to advance the following principles grounded in our collective

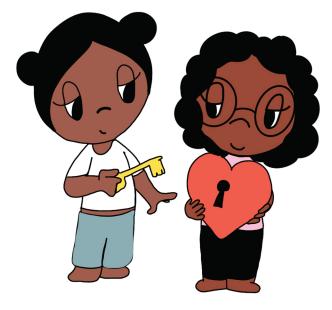
liberation.

### POWER IS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES:

We affirm that power is within community and not with state and federal governments, or profit driven and war mongering corporations. We build power by being clear in our demands that instruments of state violence be abolished, not just reformed or refined. We commit to the abolition of all state interventions that prevent our full autonomy and liberation.



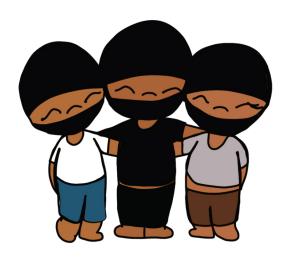
love is...



principled.

### OPERATIONAL UNITY AMONG COLLABORATING GROUPS:

We are committed to working together and creating affinity groups that share our principles and concerns to create a common front in defending our communities.



## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL:

We shall not tolerate any abuse, oppression, repression, or violations made against any member of our community. We must fight together with marginalized communities to abolish all systems of oppression.



### FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS AND RIGHTS:

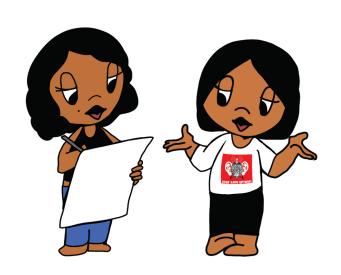
From the land to the people, every being has fundamental needs and rights. We honor the sacredness of life when we fight to ensure everyone's basic necessities are met, including healthy food, clean water, housing, clothing, education, healthcare, dignity, safety, movement, expression.



5.

### COMMITMENT TO ASSESS OUR LANGUAGE:

We shall build power within our movement and communities by assessing and evaluating our language and challenging messages that seek to harm. We refuse to use state tactics we've been taught throughout our lives and work to unlearn what we were conditioned to accept.

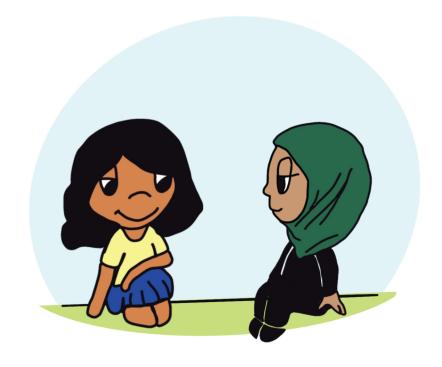


## COMMITMENT TO INTERNAL STRUGGLE AND TRANSPARENCY:

We shall strive, on an ongoing basis, to identify any contradictions within the various collaborating groups/peoples, which both protect people from harm and use transformative/restorative justice to resolve conflict.

We shall strive towards centering survivors and resolving interpersonal and communal violence as it happens. We remain committed to (un)learning and sharing lessons learned.





### OUR STRUGGLES ARE INTERCONNECTED:

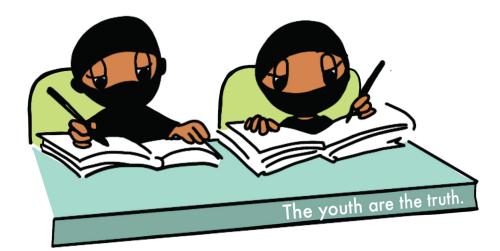
We collectively recognize that movements centered around race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and disability are inseparable and intertwined. (i.e. struggles against racism in the U.S. are inherently connected to liberation movements around the world such as the struggle against Zionist apartheid and genocide of the Palestinian people.)

### COMMITMENT TO BLACK LIBERATION:

We must confront our personal and our communities' anti-Blackness in the fight for Black liberation.



calling out anti-Black behavior in oneself and the community.



# ORGANIZE TO RESIST AND DEFEAT FASCISM, COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, CAPITALISM AND GENOCIDE:

We are committed to organizing from a perspective that understands the systemic oppression our communities face.

### HOLD NON-PROFIT GROUPS ACCOUNTABLE:

We shall call on our communities to hold non-profit groups, foundations, and social justice and community-based organizations accountable for any collaboration with the state, which takes power away from our communities and keeps trying to reform a system that will harm our people, as it was always intended to do.





#### COMMITMENT TO TRANS, FEMME, GENDER NON-CONFORMING AND LGBTIQ LIBERATION:

We must confront our personal and our communities' homophobia, transphobia, anti-LGBTIQ sentiments, and hateful and harmful policies.

# COMMITMENT TO LAND RECOGNITION THAT EVERYONE IN L.A. AREA LIVES IN TONGVA/GABRIELENO AND CHUMASH LANDS:

We are migrants, refugees, diasporic, displaced and enslaved peoples. We respect, acknowledge, and join the fight by native peoples to preserve their land and its resources in so-called Los Angeles and beyond.



This is stolen native land.

We will engage in collective learning with our communities about the state apparatus for surveillance, criminalization, and counter-insurgency. We will resist and support noncompliance with laws, policies, procedures, and actions that violate our communities' right to live dignified lives, such as: any registries based on race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, or religion, invasions of privacy, and/or searches or seizures, and any and all deportations, detentions, and incarceration.

