

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE AGAINST GENOCIDE

DRAFT

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The Women's Committee Against Genocide is for all women who want liberation and who are willing to fight for it. The Women's Committee Against Genocide is for women who will no longer tolerate genocidal war against Third World nations, nor tolerate the increasing attacks on women and children. The Women's Committee Against Genocide is an anti-imperialist organization that understands that to win our liberation we must defeat the enemy of all women: U.S.-led imperialism. The Women's Committee Against Genocide is committed to building a mass, anti-imperialist women's movement that is militant, that accepts no compromise with the system, that stands with oppressed women around the world, and thus can help build a force for working class women to fight against their oppression and for true liberation.

Imperialism is being defeated by victorious national liberation struggles around the world. These struggles define the current era as they defeat imperialism and forge new socialist societies. We want to participate in winning these victories and in the building of new societies where all people participate in the reconstruction of society, where men and women are equal, where exploitation and oppression are ended. Our children will live in a better world because we have struggled for it.

Imperialism and the U.S. empire were built on the backs of Third World people around the world and within the U.S. The exploitation and oppression of Third World nations is carried out through genocide. Third World nations have been robbed of their land, resources, labor and people. This is genocide. Women of Third World nations are the backbone of their nations and are therefore prime targets of imperialism's genocide. Faced with the threat to their very survival and the survival of their people, Third World women have resoundingly forged the solution by participating in their nation's struggles for national liberation, through the building of People's War.

In the short lifetime of the Women's Committee Against Genocide, we participated in building solidarity with the struggle of the people and particularly the women of Zimbabwe, and shared in their victory against imperialism and white settler colonialism. The women of Zimbabwe -- including the 10,000 women freedom fighters of ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) -- fought to participate fully in every aspect of their people's war for national liberation. In so doing, they took their lives and history into their own hands, defeated the monster, imperialism, and began to transform centuries of oppression as women, through building socialism, a society based on meeting the needs of the people. The slogan of the ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) Women's League -- Liberation Through Participation -- is the strategy being applied by Third World women everywhere, including Black, Native American, Chicana Mexicana, and Puerto Rican women, who are fighting as part of their nations, against genocide and for human rights and liberation. This was brought home by the liberation of Assata Shakur on Nov. 2, 1979, by the fighting forces of the Black Liberation Struggle. Assata, a revolutionary Black woman freedom fighter, hunted down and imprisoned for life, never gave up her struggle for freedom and never wavered from her Nation's struggle. Her freedom sounds a warning for imperialism and an inspiration for all of us: that the Black nation will fight for and win liberation and that Black women, along with Puerto Rican, Chicana Mexicana, and Native American women will fight for liberation by every means necessary. The Women's Committee Against Genocide stands in full solidarity with the struggles of oppressed peoples for self-determination, for land and liberation -- being waged and won -- from Southern Africa to Palestine, to El Salvador, to Puerto Rico, to the oppressed nations within the borders of the U.S. We recognize that these struggles and the

strategy of liberation through participation of Third World women represents the leadership for white women struggling for liberation by identifying the enemy and the necessity to participate fully in a struggle to overturn this system to win our liberation.

The struggles of Third World people for human rights and against genocide expose the nature of the U.S. Third World women have continuously confronted white women with our reliance and dependency on the system because of white supremacy and the fact that we can never struggle against our oppression and exploitation unless we break with the system and fight white supremacy.

This is a critical lesson today. As nations **break the chains** that enslave them and win back what is theirs, imperialism must heighten its domination of what it has left. America is going to war: sending thousands of mercenaries to fight against the liberation struggles in Namibia and Azania (South Africa); intervening in El Salvador; conducting military assaults of Vieques, in Puerto Rico. Systematic extermination of oppressed peoples by occupying armies of police, forced sterilization, and chemical warfare through drugs is imperialism's strategy for the 1980's. White supremacist terror is the order of the day. Over two years of continuous murders of Black youth in Atlanta expose the heart of Amerika's program for the 80's: daily white supremacist murder of Third World people and government and police attacks on the whole Black community and its attempts to defend itself. Atlanta is Amerika, 1981.

As women, we condemn this terrorism; as white women we must actively take up the struggle to defeat white supremacy. The government is building fascism through the consolidation of white supremacist war against Third World people. Everyone and everything must be brought into line to ensure the survival of the system. The implications of this for white working class women are clear. Women must shoulder the burden of survival more and more under worsening conditions. This is enforced through heightened violence against women and a broadscale attack on women represented by the coming together of the right to life forces, the Moral Majority, and the Reagan Administration's Dept. of Health and Human Services under Richard Schweiker. To stem the potential for women resisting these attacks and to mobilize for its offensive against Third World people, imperialism is consciously organizing women into the ranks of the Klan, the police, and mass white supremacist movements like the anti-bussing movement.

We can see this two-edged sword in the conditions faced by lesbians today. Attacks on lesbians are part and parcel of attacks on all women. Lesbian bating and anti-lesbian violence and the theft of lesbian's children are escalating and represent the height of male supremacist reaction. Women identified women are a potential threat to imperialism because they refuse to follow prescribed roles for women. Yet many lesbians are joining gay organizations that choose to ally directly with the police and engage in the struggle for legislative reform within the system. These organizations perpetuate women's oppression and white supremacist terror in communities throughout the cities in which we live.

The Women's Committee Against Genocide was forged in the struggle led by Black and Puerto Rican organizations and communities demanding an end to white supremacist terror by killer cops. At a time when the police have been given free reign to murder Third World people with impunity, the struggle for human rights by any means necessary is a dividing line issue. Movements like Take Back The Night, organized in the name of addressing rape and violence against women, cannot stop violence because they do not recognize the source of violence in society. In actively denying the role of the police as the domestic army of imperialism, these movements build on white supremacist fears, perpetuate this genocidal system we live under and ultimately fight against the only strategy that will win us our liberation as women.

The work we have done to fight killer cops and support the struggles of Third World people for human rights has taught us that the only way we can fight the reactionary, fascist offensive against women today is to understand that it is part of Amerika's war against national liberation struggles and thus can only be fought by fighting against white supremacy. In so doing, we confront and fight the source of power and attacks on women today, and build unity with Third World women, and thus build our capability to fight our enemy.

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

1. **Fight for the total liberation of women. Defeat imperialism, the enemy of all women. Build an anti-imperialist women's liberation movement.**
2. **Fight male supremacy. Fight for the needs and interests of women. A movement that fights imperialism must take on the struggle against male supremacy.**
3. **Fight genocide, imperialism's attempted extermination of Third World people.**
4. **Fight white supremacy. We must defeat white supremacy in all of its forms in order to defeat imperialism.**
5. **Follow the leadership of national liberation struggles. Solidarity with the Black Liberation Struggle and all African liberation struggles.**
6. **Fight for lesbian liberation. The oppression of lesbians is central to imperialism's male supremacist strategy to oppress all women. Fight against lesbian oppression.**
7. **Build the Women's Committee Against Genocide.**

PROGRAM

1. **FIGHT GENOCIDE. STOP KILLER COPS.**
2. **SOLIDARITY WITH LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.**
3. **FIGHT STERILIZATION ABUSE, FIGHT RISING ATTACKS ON WOMEN.**