

## **LA for Youth Movement Building Principles**

(1) The movement's vision, direction, tactics and campaign goals must be defined and led by people most severely affected by the police state and the prison industrial complex. All involved in the movement must commit to building and promoting leadership among youth and communities of color with an emphasis on developing and standing beside leaders that have been formerly or are currently in the system -- (arrested, detained, incarcerated, on Probation or on Parole).

(2) The movement requires that we partially forfeit our individual and organizational identities in order to have a movement identity. This includes having *and representing* a campaign name, platform, decision making process and description of the work and its outcomes that all groups can share equal ownership of and credit for.

(3) We commit to ensuring that marketing, reporting and representation of local, statewide or national campaigns highlight as many groups as possible, as equally as possible (regardless of their ability to contribute equal resources).

(4) In order to build strong organizing throughout the state and nation rather than in only one or two counties, movement building requires that we strategize on resource needs and distribution.

(5) Building a movement requires that we build the capacity, recognition and success of regional and local coalitions and networks in order to better ensure that as we grow the movement we are also building and/or strengthening social justice institutions throughout the county, state and nation that will survive over time.

(6) We commit to respecting regional and local leadership, relationships and processes – maintaining that our goal is to strengthen rather than undermine or confuse movement building. (For example, this would include inviting people to participate in regional, state-wide and national work after consulting local networks and coalitions.)

(7) We commit to open lines of communication, reflection and critique including building processes for accountability that help people to grow and feel supported rather than attacked. (At times, this might include mechanisms to document joint campaign work, co-sponsorships, etc. such as Memoranda of Understanding or sign-ons.)

(8) We admit that we have much to learn about this work, and that as we engage in movement building with each other, we will make mistakes. The greater cause, including ending the suffering and exploitation of detainees/prisoners, families and communities must take precedent over the needs, fame or fortune of individuals or organizations. We will resolve conflicts through transformative justice principles so that we move forward stronger and more united.

**Adopted from the Youth Justice Coalition Movement Building Principles**