

## WHAT IS OUR MOVEMENT SAYING ABOUT BLACK WOMEN? There is way more agreement than disagreement! (Revised, 12/14/16)

### 1. Draft Freedom Manifesto

Women. Patriarchy arose before capitalism. But capitalism and its imperialist expansion for control of labor markets, raw materials, and land systematized male supremacy in new ways. It did the same with racism. This meant European white male dominance over women, other peoples and cultures. The Black Liberation movement must overcome and correct the internalized male chauvinism in our history and advance the leadership of women at all levels of the Black Freedom struggle, in our communities, churches, unions, and promote equality in our homes. The struggle against patriarchy, male supremacy, and sexism is key to rebuilding the black freedom struggle and the unity of our people as a whole. Although women lead this struggle, everyone must take it up and support it. Gender equality! Mobilize women, and facilitate the leadership of women on all battle fronts!

### 2. Black Lives Matter

We are committed to building a Black women affirming space free from sexism, misogyny, and male-centeredness.

### 3. Black Workers for Justice

We stand against the exploitation of all workers. For workers control of wealth from their labor, and fighting democratic unions of rank and file workers. Against racism, white supremacy, sexism, male supremacy. For democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities, and sexes.

### 4. Black is Back Coalition 19 Points

Black Women. With this National Black Political Agenda for Self-Determination, the entire black or African nation declares our commitment to facilitate the elevation of African women to full, equal partnership in our struggle to create a new world of freedom and socialist democracy for a united black community and a world shorn forever of bosses and workers and slaves and masters and where African women will share the power to guarantee that African women are adequately empowered as equal architects of our new world.

### 5. Black Youth Project 100

BYP100 works through a Black queer feminist lens --meaning that we are radically inclusive and strive to move those of us who are marginalized (e.g. Black women, girls and LGBTQ folks) to the center. Thus, the Agenda is meant for young people who want to approach civil rights, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, and women's rights work differently. Further, the Agenda is not meant to advance politics of respectability -- we want ALL Black people to be able to live in their dignity.

### 6. The Movement for Black Lives

For Black girls, the U.S.'s failure to address gender-based violence, which they experience at greater levels than any other group, is paramount to the criminalization they experience. In fact, sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls' entry into the juvenile justice system, with girls often being routed to the system specifically because of their victimization. For instance, girls who are victims of sex trafficking are often arrested on prostitution charges. The punitive nature of this system is ill-equipped

to support young girls through the violence and trauma they've experienced, which further subjects them to sexual victimization and a lifelong path of criminalization and abuse.

### **7. Left Roots**

Feminist and pro-queer politics and practice are central to Left Roots. We believe that liberation from hetero-patriarchy must be central to any revolutionary Left strategy. Women and trans folks' place is in the struggle and we prioritize their leadership in social movements.

### **8. Malcolm X Grassroots Movement [New Afrikan Womens Caucus (NAWC)]**

A committee within MXGM which opposes any form of oppression that limits girls and women from becoming self-determining individuals and reaching their fullest potential. As a manifestation of our sixth principle of unity (ending sexist oppression), NAWC recognizes that cultural, economic, political and social institutions, practices and beliefs limit the human worth of our girls and women. We NAWC will actively struggle for the liberation of the New Afrikan Nation –By Any Means Necessary!

### **9. Organization of Afro-American Unity**

The Organization of Afro-American Unity will take those private steps that are necessary to insure the survival of the Afro-American people in the face of racist aggression and the defense of our women and children

### **10. Dream Defenders**

We believe that our liberation necessitates the destruction of the political and economic systems of Capitalism and Imperialism as well as Patriarchy.

### **11. People Organized for Progress**

To work for the total elimination of racism and sexism.

### **12. Organization for Black Struggle**

We will fight for gender equality, for women's liberation, and for women's rights to be recognized as human rights in all areas of personal, social, economic and political life.

### **13. All African People's Revolutionary Party**

The All-African People's Revolutionary Party understands that the liberation of African people cannot come to reality without the effective and genuine liberation of African Women. The A-APRP also understands that African Women cannot fight a liberation struggle separate from the broader liberation struggle of African People. The two go hand in hand. The manifestation of this understanding in practical terms gave birth to the All-African Women's Revolutionary Union in 1980.

The AAWRU is responsible for insuring that all vestiges of sexism are rooted out of our party (and the larger society), that women and men are educated about the revolutionary role of women in the African Revolution and to insure that the voice, interests and energies of African women are completely integrated into every aspect of our work to build the AAPRP and a free African Nation. All women who join the AAPRP are automatically members of the AAWRU.

#### **14. Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign**

We are assisting our human rights partners in a global campaign to bring awareness and reduce gender inequalities along with 40 member states of the United Nations.

#### **15. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists**

The CBTU National Women's Committee conducts conferences and workshops that focus on the needs of African American women in the trade union movement. The committee's major event is sponsoring the National Women's Conference, which is held annually in conjunction with CBTU's national convention. The CBTU Women's Conference is an uplifting, healing and empowering experience. What began as one workshop in 1982 has now grown to an all-day women's conference, attended by more than 1,000 participants - women and men, black and white, from all backgrounds. The popularity of the women's conference has made it an integral part of the national CBTU convention. The conference features a health fair for women, a book fair, diverse workshops, dynamic speakers and down-to-earth sisterhood. Major topics addressed include education, politics, leadership development, youth and the criminal justice system, and health - particularly the importance of raising the awareness of black women about serious diseases and the importance of regular check-ups.

#### **16. Ujima Political Party**

From Harriet Tubman to Sojourner Truth; from Rosa Parks to Jo-Ann Robinson; from Fannie Lou Hamer to Assata Shakur and so many others.... There has never been a time when Black Women were not at the forefront of the struggle for civil rights and human dignity, in order to expose racist conditions and elevate the consciousness in our communities. Moving forward, the modern civil and black rights movements have helped to open the door for today's women's rights movement and its continuing struggle for change. Therefore, UPP puts forth the following: • We support, uphold and defend a woman's right to choose, which means removing all restrictions on access to abortion. Provide equal pay for equal work. • Uphold and support the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. • Fight to add the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution.

#### **17. 8<sup>TH</sup> Pan-African Congress (Accra, 2014)**

Resolution No. 3: Concerning Strengthening Global Solidarity and Voice of The Pan African Women's Movement

In light of the theme of the 8th Pan African Congress and building on the resolutions of the 7th Pan African Congress in 1994, the commission on strengthening global solidarity and voice of pan African women's Movement. Recognizing and appreciating the inherent linkages, inseparability and complementarity between the struggle for women's emancipation and gender justice and the struggle for Africa's liberation and development.

We resolve to;

1. Commit to addressing structural barriers that keep half of the pan-African constituency subjugated and unable to access freedom, justice and dignity
2. Commit to the documentation and preservation of women who have made immense contributions to the Pan-African movement and commit to ensuring they form part and parcel of the collective memory and public imagery of dominant/mainstream narratives of pan Africanism.

3. Call to memory and demand the immediate release and rescue of the over 200 girls who were abducted in Chibok, Nigeria close to a year ago and still remain abductees, and to ensure provision of socio-psycho and material support upon their return
4. Stand in solidarity with and call for the immediate freedom for women and girls and the peoples of Sahrawi Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) from colonization and patriarchy
5. Call for universal and immediate ratification and implementation of existing gender responsive instruments (Maputo Protocol, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality Agenda, CEDAW, Beijing+20, 1325, 1820) as well as ensuring accountability for non-compliance as a way to further ideals of pan-Africanism
6. Commit to strengthen healthcare systems and volunteerism to prevent and effectively respond to crises such as Ebola
7. Recognizing that we cannot afford to sustain practices that are harmful to the dignity, respect and freedom of women and girls, including FGM, child/early/forced marriage, widow inheritance, breast ironing and thus contrary to ideals of pan-Africanism, we call for their immediate abolishment
8. Push for equal access to, control over and ownership of Africa's resources (between men and women) – ensure progressive land policies and secure access to land rights for African women
9. Address all forms of violence against women and girls, the radicalization of violence and sexism in both private and public spheres, religious fundamentalisms and extremism that threatens progress and freedom
10. Address illicit financial flows, ensure tax justice – progressive taxation, remove VAT on essential products and direct these as well as other funds to finance the African women's movement as a means to further the cause of pan-Africanism
11. Effect a policy on IDPs and their treatment and their human right to dignity
12. Ensure inter-generational mentoring, exchange and learning takes place; that young women will have a place in discussions, deliberations and decision-making spaces
13. Reach out to and create linkages with existing structures, networks and platforms including the African Feminist Forum, for greater synergy and impact.
14. Must put to an immediate stop the plunder, not only of mineral resources, but most importantly of human resources, the women and their bodies (DRC)
15. Address the burden of unpaid care work that falls largely on women and girls and has resulted in the large number of women affected by Ebola
16. Establish as a principle of 50% representation of women in decision-making within 8th Pan African Congress structure (Interim processes, International Planning Committee and Governing Council)
17. Ensure the convening of a women's congress prior to the second phase of the 8th Pan African Congress, and the resuscitate the women's desk and congress
18. Define and celebrate the African woman. Her image as defined by the African women her color, Her Strength, Her Creativity. Alleviate the burden on the African woman. Change the depiction of African women and celebrate the African woman in all her diversity
19. Reparation fund should be tax free and 60% be directed to the status of the African women

20. Recognize the political rights of women and must be promoted and protected, in terms of attending meetings, voting rights etc.

**18. African Peoples Socialist Party**

We want an end to the political and social oppression and economic exploitation of African women. We believe in the absolute, unequivocal, political, social, and economic equality of African women and men. We believe that a fundamental test of the progressive or revolutionary character of any organization, party, movement, or society is its commitment, confirmed in practice, to the destruction of the special oppression of women and the elevation of women to the rightful place as equal partners and leaders in the forward motion of the development of human society and as leaders, makers, and shapers of human history.

**PLEASE SEND IN MORE ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENTS SO  
WE CAN HAVE ALL VOICES HEARD AND STUDIED BY ALL**