

AWSM

Aotearoa Workers Solidarity Movement



The Aotearoa Workers Solidarity Movement (AWSM) is an organisation working towards a classless, stateless society: anarchist-communism. That society would be run by a federation of workplace and community councils, with everyone having a say in decisions that affect them. Resources and property would be communally owned and controlled by everyone. Production would be geared to satisfying everyone's needs, people would give voluntarily according to their ability, and produce would be distributed freely according to need.

We are made up of revolutionary class-struggle anarchists from across Aotearoa / New Zealand. For now, we are a small organisation with members in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and several smaller towns in between.

As class struggle anarchists our priority is active involvement in workplace struggles and industrial action as well as community based campaigns in our neighbourhoods. We are currently involved in the struggles against residential water metering in Wellington, the 90 Day "Hire & Fire" Act nationally, strike support and more.

You can subscribe to our newsheet by visiting our website, www.awsm.org.nz and filling in the form to subscribe to our announcement list via email, or if you'd prefer a hard copy, subscriptions are \$8 for 12 issues mailed anywhere in Aotearoa / New Zealand. Again, email us to organise this.

To be a member of AWSM, you must agree with our Aims & Principles (available on the other side of this leaflet), and be involved in the life and activity of the group. If you're interested in joining or just finding out a bit more about us, email us via the contact details at the bottom of this page.



Leaflet by the Aotearoa Workers Solidarity Movement
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Aims & Principles



1: The Aotearoa Workers Solidarity Movement is an organisation working towards a classless, stateless society: anarchist communism. That society would be run by a federation of workplace and community councils, with everyone having a say in decisions that affect them. Resources and property would be communally owned and controlled by everyone. Production would be geared to satisfying everyone's needs, people would give voluntarily according to their ability, and produce would be distributed freely according to need.

2: Capitalism is based on the exploitation of the working class by the ruling class. The capitalist class have seized ownership and control of the vast majority of resources of society. They have forced the vast majority of the population to work for them on the condition that they receive the profit of our labour. The working class are those who are forced to sell their labour in order to survive, and those who are unwaged and do unpaid labour, on which capitalism also relies to continue. Inequality and oppression are also expressed in terms of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, health, ability, age etc. This divides the working class causing a lack of class unity in struggle that benefits the ruling class. Oppressed groups are strengthened by autonomous action which challenges social and economic power relationships. To achieve our goal we must relinquish power over each other on a personal as well as a collective level.

3: We believe that fighting all forms of oppression and exploitation is necessary. Anarchist-Communism cannot be achieved while sexism and racism still exist. In order to be effective in their struggle against their oppression both within society and within the working class, oppressed groups may at times need to organise independently. However, this should be as working class people only, as cross-class movements hide real class differences and achieve little for those in the oppressed groups. Full emancipation cannot be achieved without the abolition of capitalism.

4: We support Tino Rangatiratanga and stand in solidarity with grassroots indigenous struggle and direct action, while not supporting Maori capitalism and corporatisation (we acknowledge the lack of anarchist theory on the indigenous struggle in Aotearoa / New Zealand and are in the process of researching, debating and discussing a more detailed position on this point).

5: While trade unions can never be revolutionary, we recognise that the majority of collective workplace struggle today occurs within unions and therefore our members should join unions where they exist in their workplace, while being wary of any attempts by union bureaucrats to stifle rank and file struggle. Where unions do not exist we encourage our members to engage with their fellow workers to initiate collective action.

6: We recognise that the general strike is the working class' most powerful weapon and oppose all restrictions on worker's rights to take collective action, including strikes.

7: As well as exploiting and oppressing the majority of people worldwide, Capitalism threatens the planet through war and the destruction of the environment.

8: It is not possible to abolish Capitalism without a revolution, which will arise out of class conflict. The ruling class must be completely overthrown to achieve anarchist communism. Because the ruling class will not relinquish power without their use of armed force, this revolution will be a time of violence as well as liberation.

9: We acknowledge that by implementing the organisation section of the The Organizational Platform of the Libertarian Communists - theoretical unity, tactical unity, collective responsibility and federalism - we will be best able to move forward in promoting the aims and principles of the Aotearoa Workers Solidarity Movement.

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