

The Black left must extend its political and organizational and organizational self-declaration.

## The Black Left Unity Network (BLUN): A Basic Outlook, Perspective and Organizational Form

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However, the on the ground struggles which preceded the popular protests of the OWS, points to the deepest and sharpest contradictions between the U.S. capitalist ruling class, reinforced by the U.S. government and the masses of working class Blacks and people of color who make up the super-exploited and historically oppressed domestic sectors of U.S. imperialism.

By

These on the ground struggles of the Black masses have not yet been organized by the Black left to take on a national expression as a powerful social force to further shape the revolutionary anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist character of the growing U.S. and international resistance to global capitalism.

As a historical rule, the broad left forces, including the new militants produced out of mass struggles will be attracted towards a more radical movement building and transformative perspectives; those that strategically align and locate themselves as a major force and leading force within this U.S. and global resistance.

## Black workers League

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While the BLUN is still mainly a loose network, it is establishing institutional mechanisms for decision making, engaging some activists in common sectors of work, has a listserv and website for Black activists to post information and exchanges, and has begun to hold National Dialogue Calls to reach out to and connect activists in 14 states that have been engaged in various ways with the OWS phenomena.

How we understand of these efforts, in terms of being part of a perspective to unite the Black left is very important for the unity of the BLUN Continuations Committee in articulating what the BLUN is and its basic direction.

There are some fundamental principles that we should ground our definition of the Black left in. The Black working class should be the main class base for promoting a Black left perspective. The struggle against capitalism, imperialism, national oppression, white supremacy, patriarchy and homophobia; and for African American Self-determination, the right of self-determination of other oppressed peoples, global Pan-Africanism, internationalism and socialism should be core principles.

The BLUN should not see a revolutionary perspective and road to African American self-determination and socialism being based on strategy of reforming capitalism. African American self-determination as a transformative power for revolutionary change is not based simply on electing Black candidates to political office. However the electoral arena should be an arena of contention in struggling to influence government policies, to control government resources and aspects of state power as part of a strategy of dual power connected to mass based power over social, political and economic institutions.

## The BLUN: A Basic Outlook, Perspective and Organizational Form

The Black left must be defined in its motion and application, and not simply in its self-declaration.

The crisis of capitalism has created conditions of popular resistance within the U.S. and throughout the world, which has been important in helping to raise the class contradictions between the capitalist ruling class and the working class to help point out many of the problems and the failures of the capitalist system.

However, the on the ground struggles which preceded the popular protests of the OWS, points to the deepest and sharpest contradictions between the U.S. capitalist ruling class, reinforced by the U.S. government and the masses of working class Blacks and people of color who make up the super-exploited and nationally oppressed domestic sectors of U.S. imperialism.

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As a historical rule, the broad left forces, including the new militants produced out of mass struggles will be attracted towards a more radical movement building and transformative perspectives; those that strategically align and locate the Black liberation movement as a conscious and leading force within this U.S. and global resistance.

As the BLUN thinks about how to approach building Black left unity in this climate of resistance, it is important that the BLUN's basic perspective focus on trying to build this unity from below.

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What should be the BLUN's approach in developing a Black left orientation? Should it be based only on what can be achieved at a particular moment with that particular balance of forces; or should it correspond to the developing trends irrespective of whether the demand contained in it is immediately realizable or not?

Revolutionaries who have engaged in protracted struggles have defined their political objectives on dismantling the systems of oppression and reconstructing a new society based on new class, social and international relations. A revolutionary perspective must provide a direction that builds power, mass consciousness and strategic forms of organization toward achieving these goals. That is to say, that the work of BLUN should be realistic, containing the concrete tasks for the present, and should also contain guidelines on the direction of the Black liberation and anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle.

Campaigns, slogans and rhetoric totally cut off from the reality of the consciousness of the Black masses, cut off from the growing resistance to U.S. and global capitalism, and based only on subjective wishes, are sectarian, isolationists and the preoccupation of armchair revolutionaries. The BLUN's perspective should be summed up in this quote from Engels - "Communists represent the future within the present"

We must distinguish ourselves from the reformists, who represent only the present within the present, as well as from the ultra-leftists and utopians, who negate the present to indulge mainly in pronouncements and polemics about the future; including drawing sharp lines of demarcation on every tactical question.

The unity perspective of the BLUN should focus on building a Black left confederation at this historical juncture. While anchored by socialist and communist, a confederation would include Black activists forces who are anti-capitalist and anti-imperialists, but not yet clear on the question of socialism. The combination of the internal education and comradely struggle and the practice of organizing and mobilizing mass actions in this period provide a real opportunity to move such a confederation to a more develop left and revolutionary program.

This understanding of the Black left and a possible organizational framework for uniting the Black left, can provide the impetus to our present attempts at developing interactions and joint activities with various Black activists who are engaging in this period on the one hand; and begins to promote an orientation toward a revolutionary democratic alternative for building mass bases of power as the basis for African American self-determination on the other. This distinguishes itself from a social democratic perspective that sees aligning with the so-called progressive wings of the capitalist parties, or that forms political parties that center the struggle for political and revolutionary change mainly in the electoral arena.

A Black left Confederation would not be a Black liberation party parse, but more of a liberation front. Part of its tasks in addressing the fragmentation of the Black liberation movement, would be to organize strategic national organizations to unite key local struggles and social movements, to promote key national campaigns, and to organize a Black people's national congress.