

# YOUTH LIBERATION



This Striking  
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WE  
WILL  
BE  
FREE



# YOUTH LIBERATION

## WHAT WE WANT

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

Every day it becomes clearer that we might be the last generation in the experiment with living. The problems facing humanity are so huge that some of us think working for change is futile. We of Youth Liberation, however, will not be led either to the treadmill or to the slaughterhouse like "good Germans." We know there is a basic decision to make, either we stay quiet and become part of a system of oppression, or we seize control of our lives, take risks, and struggle to build something new. We believe that problems have causes and that by studying these causes we can learn solutions. We know that young people have power if we take it and use it. We must liberate ourselves because all we are being trained for is the faceless, loveless death trip of corporate America. We must take control of our lives because within us the seed of a new reality that even we cannot yet fully see because of the great cloud of evil hanging over our heads. It is a reality of ecstasy, made up of love, justice, freedom, peace, and plenty.

The Youth Liberation program is an attempt to put together truth about what is wrong with our present situation and to lay out changes that must be made. This process never ends. To win we must know very clearly what we want and what we reject. We must learn to struggle together. If our program ever strays from the specific needs of youth, it is because we know that we are not free until all people are free and the earth is a healthy place to live.

**1. WE WANT POWER. WE WANT THE FREEDOM TO DETERMINE OUR OWN DESTINY.**

**2. WE WANT THE IMMEDIATE END OF ADULT CHAUVINISM.**

We believe ideas should be judged on their merit and people on their wisdom or kindness. Age in itself deserves no recognition. Adults who really want to help young people or "improve communication" can show their concern by providing money, floorspace, and equipment for meeting places, offices, or concerts. Words alone are not enough. Age might once have led to wisdom, but now the old have proven themselves unable to deal with present reality. If the human species is to survive the young must take the lead.

**3. WE WANT FULL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

We believe young people are necessary participants in democracy. We must have complete freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and the right to vote. We believe that all people are created equal and are endowed with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



**4. WE WANT THE RIGHT TO FORM OUR EDUCATION ACCORDING TO OUR OWN NEEDS.**

We believe compulsory education is a form of imprisonment and must be abolished immediately. Grades must end because they stimulate competition, divide us, and make us work for other peoples ends. All discipline procedures must be decided democratically within the student community. No school staff should be hired or fired without the democratic consent of the students. Students must have the right to use school facilities to hold political and cultural meetings, assemblies, concerts, etc. whenever they wish.

**5. WE WANT THE FREEDOM TO FORM INTO COMMUNAL FAMILIES**

We believe that the nuclear family is not in the best interests of young people or women. Young people are now considered property--to be molded in the image of their parents. Since we demand self-determination for our lives, this is intolerable. In communal families children can grow in the company of many peers and with the influence of many adults. They can learn the cooperation of community rather than the oppression of ownership. Until healthy communal families are a reality, Youth Communities, run by their residents, must be established for young people whose present conditions of life force them to become cultural refugees.

**6. WE WANT THE END OF MALE CHAUVINISM AND SEXISM**

We believe women must be free and equal. We recognize that sexism is all-pervasive and often subtle and demeans the humanity of everyone. Sex role stereotyping in education must end. Macho must go. Institutional sexism in the law, work, the church, and the family must be stopped. We consider women our natural allies since both young people and women are systematically oppressed by male supremacist society.

**7. WE WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE AN AUTHENTIC CULTURE WITH INSTITUTIONS OF OUR OWN MAKING.**

We believe western culture is decadent and we refuse to perpetuate it in our own lives. People with long hair must have full civil rights. Laws prohibiting marijuana and other consciousness expanding drugs must be repealed. Our music and cultural gatherings must be allowed to flourish in peace. We must be set free to begin living in the new age and begin to accept a responsibility for developing plans and examples of institutions that build joy, justice and a respect for life.

**8. WE WANT SEXUAL SELF-DETERMINATION**

We believe young people must have the unhindered right to be heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

**9. WE WANT AN END TO CLASS ANTAGONISM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

We believe that those in power cultivate elitism and class divisions among youth which only serve to weaken us. The survival of young people of all classes and races is threatened by the few who run this world. We condemn academic tracking, honors, and all other class divisions imposed upon us.



**10. WE WANT THE END OF RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THE WORLD.**

We believe America is an imperialistic country. We support the liberation struggles of colonized people of all colors everywhere.

**11. WE WANT THE RIGHT TO CONTROL THE USE OF OUR OWN BODIES**

We believe the military draft must be abolished and the military made democratic. Abortions must be legal and free. All young people in every form of prisons for minors must be set free because they did not receive a trial before a jury of their peers and the society they offended is itself criminal. Young people must never receive discriminatory treatment before the law, whether in the courtroom, going to a movie, buying alcohol, or leaving home.

**12. WE WANT THE RIGHT TO BE ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT OF ADULTS.**

We believe we are entitled either to work or to unemployment benefits. Child labor laws and extended schooling now force youth into the status of a dependent colony.

**13. WE WANT THE RIGHT TO LIVE**

We believe that to survive we must have clean air to breathe, pure food to eat, water fit to drink, products built to last, and an end to population growth. Life exists in balance and harmony, but greed and stupidity have now sent us disastrously out of balance with our environment and earth death seems inevitable. Each person must learn to live a life of ecological harmony and all people together must change the economic structure of the world until the needs of the earth and its people are met.

**14. WE WANT TO RE- HUMANIZE EXISTENCE**

We believe that to do this we must recognize and deal with the invisible dictatorship of technocracy and bureaucracy. We are the crown of creation and we announce that it is not our destiny to become robot parts in the Great Machine.

**15. WE WANT TO DEVELOP COMMUNICATION AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD IN OUR COMMON STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE.**

We believe national boundaries are artificial and must inevitably be abolished. In the new world, all resources and technology must be used for the benefit of all people.

16. We want an end to compulsory America  
youth will make the revolution  
youth will keep it young