



**BEYOND
THE MOMENT**

Beyond the Moment:

**Building Strong
Cross-Movement
Coalitions and Tables**

Who are we?

The Movement for Black Lives

The Movement for Black Lives includes a number of organizations, individuals and networks focused on a hopeful and inclusive vision of Black joy, safety and prosperity. That means freedom from violence and economic inequality, as well as the freedom to realize our greatest dreams.

The Majority

In this moment, Black and Brown people, immigrant communities, the economically unstable, women, children, the disabled, the LGBTQ community, those working to protect our right to work and those fighting for our right to clean air and water, are all facing attacks because a minority whose values are rooted in white supremacy, division and hatred have taken power.

Although in power, hate is not the majority. People who believe in freedom, justice and the humanity of all people are the majority, and we've had enough. We won't stand idly by and watch our communities be attacked and torn apart.

Join The Majority, and fight for a future where all of our children can be free, safe and live healthy, abundant lives.

a new solidarity movement

A New Solidarity Movement. Why Now?

The federal government is in an aggressive push to move an ultra-right wing agenda against all of us. Their policies target Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Immigrant, Muslim, Refugee, LGBT people, cash poor folks, the disabled, and more. They have an agenda bent on bringing down organized labor, reproductive rights, gender justice, internet security, and voting rights just to name a few. And they've directly targeted our movements including the Movement for Black Lives, the Indigenous water projectors at Standing Rock, and the Trans-liberation movement.

We know that the administration hopes we take on these attacks separately. They can more easily repress us if we remain divided. If we form a stronger solidarity, there's almost nothing we can't do to transform our communities.

What does strong solidarity look like?

We are concerned that because so much is at stake, everyone will push towards a weak solidarity that seeks to minimize conflict in order to maximize "unity." We don't believe unity is real if we can only maintain it by denying our differences, weakening our political positions, or refraining from challenging race, class, and gender oppression.

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Weak Solidarity

Based on Fear

Focused on what we're against

Ignore difference in order to bring people together with as little conflict as possible.

Don't acknowledge oppression for fear of alienating people with race, class and gender privilege.

Politically vague so that we don't we lose people.

Come together quickly in crisis or for one moment. No efforts to build long term organizing power and lasting solidarity.

Strong Solidarity

Based on hope, communal love, and commitment

Focused on what we're fighting for

Acknowledge our differences as a strength. Create room for our different experiences and identities

Take on oppression directly. Name anti-black racism, white-supremacy, patriarchy, homophobia, transphobia, islamophobia, ableism, and other forms of oppression, how they show up in the way we work together, and why we need to overcome them if we want to win.

Politically clear so that we can make a real difference in the world and offer an alternative people can be proud to stand for.

The aim is to gather long-term organizing power on the local level all throughout the country built on strong solidarity.

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develop principles & vision

When you plan a trip you have to know where you're going, what form of transportation you're using, and how you plan on getting there.

Vision is nothing more than a clear idea about where you're going. Principles are simply agreement on the form of transportation you're using to get there.

Think about it. What city are we going to? What exact address in that city? Why do you need to go there? What will we see once we get there?

Now apply that thinking to your vision of the world you want and where you want our country and your community to be in 10 years, 5 years, and a year from now. Spend some time collectively imagining shared principles and vision with your cross-movement table. This builds a shared identity and clarity about why we're coming together. What change do we want to see? Can we be exact? How will we know when we achieved our vision? What will we see when we get there?

Spend some time collectively imagining shared principles and vision with your cross-movement table. This builds a shared identity and clarity about why we're coming together

Now, do you want to take public transportation? Do you want to drive our own vehicle? A rental? Do you want to take a big SUV, a hybrid or conventional car? Will we have access for wheelchairs? Who's driving? Why?

Spend some time collectively imagining shared principles and vision with your cross-movement table. This builds a shared identity and clarity about why we're coming together.

Apply this thinking principles in your cross-movement space. Use some of our national principles as a jumping off point.

beyond the moment national principles

We put at the center and elevate the leadership of organizations and communities on the front lines of the fight for justice

We put at the center and elevate the leadership of organizations and community on the front lines of the fight for justice. As both the rising Majority in this country and the communities most directly feeling the brunt of the attacks from the federal government, those that are most at threat must lead the resistance. Additionally, this new, diverse, leadership is the future our future. We need to embrace this leadership and support it. That means following inspiring Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Immigrant, Muslim, Asian, LGBTQIA, and Women leaders.

We must fight sexism and patriarchy

We must fight sexism and patriarchy. Historically, men have taken taken credit for leadership in social movements. Gender justice means making sure that people of all gender expressions lead. This means people that identify and women, men, transgender, and gender nonconforming all sharing leadership, decisionmaking, and other roles.

We must fight racism and white supremacy

We must fight racism and white supremacy. We are facing the greatest threat from white supremacy in generations. The Trump movement used white nationalism to take power and is fueling a growing white-supremacist movement. Fighting white supremacy means calling out racism everywhere including our organizing spaces. It also means addressing the unique ways that anti-black racism shows up in our day to day lives and influences public policy.

We must unite based on the world we want

We must unite based on the world we want. We can't simply come together based on a common enemy or a shared fear. We need to be inspired by a vision of what we want. Such a vision will keep us united through the tough conversations and breakdowns that happen when different people collaborate.

Exercise:

Building Principles

Time: 1 hour

Materials:



**Big
Paper**



Markers



**Small
Stickers
(optional)**

share Beyond the Moment National Principles (10 mins)
read the national principles and discuss.
ask if people have clarifying questions.

brainstorm other principles (30 mins)
Ask people, “what would you add?”
Using a big piece of paper and markers
record all suggestions.
Reread list and make sure everyone
understands each suggestion.

choose top principles (20)
Count the number of new principles developed
in the brainstorm. Divide that number by three.
Each person in the room may choose that number
of top choices either by placing a mark or sticker next
to the principle on the big paper.
Count all the choices
Choose the top 3-4 choices.

For example, if you end up with a list of twelve
suggestions. Twelve divided by three is four.
Each person will have four choices.

Our Vision

50 Organizations in the Movement for Black Lives spent over a year to develop the Vision for Black Lives platform. The Vision for Black Lives is a intersectional document developed concerning Black communities and in many ways is a vision for us all. The platform lays out concrete policy proposals and broad themes. To learn more about it visit. policy.m4bl.org

Exercise:

Time Machine

Time: 50 min

This exercise requires everyone in the room to tap into their youthful spirit and play a little.

Materials:



Big Paper



Markers



Big Imagination

Time Machine (15 Mins)

Have everyone sit down and close their eyes.

Ask everyone to imagine they are sitting in a time machine.

You can help the illusion by making noises to simulate the sounds of the time machine.

Ask everyone to imagine that we've traveled 50 years into the future where we have won.

Ask them to step out of the time machine and look around.

What do they see?

What people doing?

How do people work?

What's the educational system look like? Healthcare?

The Labor movement?

What does their community look like?

Instruct them to take a mental picture of all these things.

Have them return to the time machine.

Again lead them through a return to the present.

Ask them to hold onto all their visions of the future.

Instruct everyone to open their eyes.

Small Groups (15 Mins)

Ask participants to break into 2-3 person groups and discuss what they saw in the future with one another.

Ask them to choose one visionary aspect of the future we should fight for today.

Write these visions on one piece of big paper.

Choose top principles (20)

Count the number of new principles developed in the brainstorm.

Divide that number by three.

Each person in the room may choose that number of top choices either by placing a mark or sticker next to the principle on the big paper.

Count all the choices

Choose the top 3-4 choices.

For example, if you end up with a list of twelve suggestions.

Twelve divided by three is four. Each person will have four choices.

****Strong Facilitation and Collaboration**

How you hold a meeting or planning session or event that includes diverse voices is key. Find some helpful notes on facilitation and planning on the following page.

Facilitation tips

Share facilitation:

Make sure facilitation is shared evenly across organization, race, class, gender expression, neighborhood, etc.

Practice Collaborative Facilitation:

Facilitation is powerful. The person leading the group conversation has a duty to make sure the space is as inclusive and democratic as possible. That means, the facilitator must step back and let participants share. It also means the facilitator must remind others to step back so those that are less likely to speak can be heard. Presenting is not the same as facilitation. Presenters may get in front of a room and share information, facilitators help everyone share with the collective.

Decision Making:

Always strive for the most democratic and transparent decision making processes. Decision making helps coalitions gel and builds trust.

Develop Ground-Rules: Ground-rules are basic norms on how to hold a meeting mutually agreed upon by participants. For example “cell phones on silent while in the meeting space” or “one voice at a time.” All these ground rules are designed so that everyone in the room makes a pact to maintain a healthy space. Start your coalition meeting by either sharing previously developed ground-rules or create your own.

email us at info@beyondthemoment.org for more facilitation tips.