

## **DRAFT First Declaration of Occupy Melbourne**

We stand in solidarity with the people in the Occupy movement in Australia and across the globe. In the name of freedom and democracy, we stand resolutely in opposition to unjust, unrepresentative, and unsustainable systems and practices world-wide.

### **Our Vision**

We recognise that we occupy already occupied land and that Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded. Acknowledging the ongoing impacts of colonisation must be the basis of our solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

We seek to create a just and equitable society in which political and economic power is not concentrated in the hands of a small minority.

We seek broad social change and aspire to end all forms of exploitation, oppression and marginalisation.

We envision an economic and financial system that is sustainable, democratic and just. We believe this requires fundamental changes to the current system and to structures of state and corporate power.

We believe that there is nothing more powerful than an engaged people inspired by the vision of a better future. Our vision is of a world in which all human beings have the opportunity to flourish peacefully within the ecological limits of our planet.

To realise this vision, we occupy Melbourne and through this Declaration, invite people to join us.

### **Our Group**

We are an open and evolving grassroots people's movement. We welcome, support, and are comprised of all ethnicities, cultures, abilities, genders, ages, sexualities, and faiths. We embrace our differences and choose not to be affiliated with any political party or organisation.

### **Our Process**

We seek to understand and learn from one another and to open up spaces for discussion and dialogue. Our movement is leaderless and non-hierarchical.

We make decisions through an inclusive, participatory, and direct democratic process. We aspire to consensus-based decision-making in which all voices are heard and taken into account.

We do not believe it is enough to demand change from the top down not wait for change to arrive. We strive to live our values to the best of our ability, by reflecting our commitments to inclusive democracy, justice, community and sustainability in all our actions and pursuits.

We proceed with unshakable conviction: humbly, passionately, and in the spirit of celebration.