

This message is part of an ongoing conversation to event/festival promoters, labels, and fellow artists who have been reading our messages — yet still choose to work with labels, agencies, and artists who actively choose to look away from their documented histories of discrimination. We've stopped asking them questions. These questions are for you.

1. Nevermind admitting performativity equals profit. At what cost do you still choose it over treating people how you would want to be treated?

It's true, capitalism rarely rewards compassion. Yet somehow there are so many in these spaces who say they don't do this for the money — but for the “scene, the culture, the community”. At some point, a day came where you were no longer fighting for scraps and “paying dues”. You did gain money, power, and stability. Some of your partners were already born into it and continue to use it to their greatest advantage from the beginning. Who wouldn't, right?

Here's the thing. If one of your bros go quiet while reading this and you wonder what they might not be telling you, here's a little secret about misogyny and trans/misogynoir: they are far from quiet with us. Gaslighting and intimidation are but two of the reasons why so much of this industry remains White, colorist, heteronormative, and masculine. If you feel this is somehow besides the point, allow us another question.

2. How much money, clout, and press do you need before you look beyond the numbers?

Your choosing of complicity in the name of cash is not lost on anyone. We have seen time and again how quickly men will pivot when capitalism doesn't reward them fast enough for redistributing bare minimum resources. We have also seen how other ABCDs who benefit from these systems will choose complicity and proximity when it's convenient, perpetuating the very cultures of fear and suffering they claim to be fighting against in their interviews and artist biographies. This remains a two-way street.

Nevertheless, it's true — these music spaces were already saturated years before. Yet that saturation comes from arguably one core demographic. This is because capitalism rewards misogyny, marginalization, and minstrelsy. How many social media boosts are enough for you to look down the ladder you're climbing? Or will you also deflect, downplay, and deny responsibility just like those who inspired this message? Sorry, those were more questions. If they and the others were still somehow missing the point, we leave you with this final question.

3. How many more tragedies need to happen before you ask yourself what you can do?

Too many of us know of artists gone too soon, not because of who they were but who they had to deal with. If you are also an artist, we don't have to explain emotional labor to you. This message is not just for all the times you knew the music would never be enough to tell the full story. This message is for when you were too tired to write or perform at all. For when the tracks lay in situ, with all the mixing and mastering in the world unable to break through your numbness and fatigue. Yet somehow, a day had come when you got back up. Too many ABCDs are robbed of these moments.

It doesn't have to stay that way.

This is a collective call to action towards dismantling systems of harm that reward discrimination within the music industry. Responses made in bad faith and defensiveness aren't hard to recognize.

- **Vinyl pressing companies** – you can offer us discounts. While the pandemic did a number on everyone, it's clear which demographics came out on top.
- **Music journalists** who see what we see – the suits and pantsuits who run those “big” publications need you more than you need them. You know it and see it every time they underpay you. Don't underestimate what you could build without them.
- **Festival and club promoters**, it's time to look beyond the stats and metrics. Deplatforming violence has been proven to raise numbers before they fall.
- **Our fellow artists** who feel like they have no pull in speaking up online – some of the most powerful people in this industry have fewer followers than you and will lurk more than they ever post. Beyond that, you may be surprised by how many stand up in support of your opinion. Don't let clout culture keep you fooled by the numbers.
- **Record Labels** – if your music is for the community, ask yourself who really makes up that community and move transparently. Host panel discussions and workshops in alignment with your mission statement.
- **Music venues and club owners** — Not all of you received government funding during the pandemic. Yet the increase in event production value and stagnation of your artist budgets speak louder to your priorities more than any public shaming could.
- **To all the ABCD artists, allies, and supporters who came before us yet saw too little change too late** – we salute and remind you that your words will not be in vain. One way or another, change remains constant and time is on our side.

To those who feel attacked by this message, look yourself in the mirror and ask yourself why you feel the shoe fits. If men can be allowed to raise their voices, ours are just as free to be redirected towards our own authority and prosperity. Systemic racism and misogyny will neither police nor silence our voices. We will not show gratitude for crumbs. Our grace is expensive and has gone uncompensated long enough.

We do not aim to be sectarian, dogmatic or do away with the pragmatism of the circumstance. This is not about who is ultimately right or wrong. This is about transcending social democracy, restoring overall health from harm. To those who say this is a scenario not as dire as we say, here's three final words.

No. Such. Thing.

-this message was written by people who identify as anyone but cis dudes.