

Moving Forward in a World Changed by Covid-19

30/05/2020

Who we are

Aberdeen Social Centre is a dynamic space for progressive groups and individuals working to build a better future in Aberdeen. Our long-term vision is for a sustainable world, free from exploitation. Our focus is on grassroots, political and community organising, and building connections and capacity within Aberdeen's activist community. We are based on the co-operation of equals, in the spirit of mutual aid, solidarity and empowerment.

Background to document

The aim of this statement is to document the solidarity between grassroots social groups in Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland, and to strengthen and grow an interconnected social movement which is mutually supportive in a world changed by Covid-19. This is a crisis which has laid bare the injustices of the current system of governance; a system in which the economy is designed to maximise the profits of a few through exploitation of the many, highlighting the urgency of redesigning society to enable people, communities and planet to flourish.

1. Aims

To pull together and nurture a grassroots mass movement (made up of organisations and individuals) in the North East of Scotland to work together and agitate for a greener, more just and equal society through the Covid-19 recovery and beyond.

We will actively challenge the prevailing political and economic narratives of centralised power and perpetual growth.

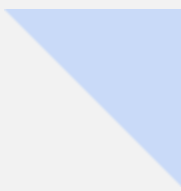
We will create a network of individuals and organisations to collectively reimagine a future society in which people and planet can flourish and work to realise this shared vision.

2. Values and principles

We stand for the values of care, equality, solidarity, diversity, human rights, economic, social and environmental justice, both locally and globally.

We will work to end systemic oppression and exclusion, creating and embodying social relationships and political structures free from domination and working to empower instead.

We value a society that places the wellbeing of people and planet before profit.



We are a non-hierarchical network that is transparent and accountable for our decisions, organising and actions.

We oppose war.

3. Solidarity in action

We invite all groups and individuals within the network to actively collaborate against social, economic and environmental injustice through campaigns and various actions, in solidarity with one another.

We take action against racism and fascism, building community resilience against extremism and upholding human rights.

We both take, and demand, urgent action to address the climate and ecological crisis.

We support, work with and learn from organisations outside the network who share in our progressive aims, locally, nationally and around the world.

We seek cause for celebration and remember those who fought for justice before us.

We encourage a reciprocal nature to learning within the network, sharing perspectives, political and scientific analyses, organising strategies and reflecting on the outcomes of our actions.

We educate on progressive radical topics out-with the network.

4. Our collective demands

We demand action to end poverty, mass ecological destruction, homelessness, and income inequality, as key issues within a holistic transformation towards a world in which we can all flourish.

We demand a shift to a more deeply participative, direct democratic model, enabling the empowerment of local communities.

We demand a Just Transition to a green economy for workers and communities in the North East.

We demand the improvement of worker's rights and the repeal of anti-trade union legislation.

We demand an end to austerity.

We demand an economy that puts people and planet before profit.