



Official Public Statement from the BIPOC Caucus of BloNo DSA

**THIS IS A JOINT STATEMENT OF OUR MEMBERS, AS VOTED AND
ADOPTED ON 10/17/2021**

The members of AfroSocialists & Socialists of Color Caucus of BloNo DSA stand firmly in rejection of the DSA Executive Committee's false assertions that chapter business cannot be conducted. The executive committee serves the will of the members, and per our chapter bylaws, the executive committee is subordinate to the membership which is the legislative body, where decisions and policies are made.

On numerous occasions, the BloNo DSA Executive Committee has failed in its duties to execute and lead chapter business and governance.

In the September monthly meeting, there was no quorum. The membership asked the executive committee to follow best practices (as also followed by AfroSoc National) and to send business matters to an offline vote of the membership by email so that business can be conducted and so that no harm is brought to the members or to the chapter. *This is the normal process when business cannot be conducted in a meeting due to a lack of quorum.* The Executive Committee failed to do so and instead decided to block any business from occurring, violating its duty to the membership and failing in its leadership to the chapter.

After blocking business in September, and knowing members had raised concerns about their actions and the inaccessibility they had created to chapter governance, *the Executive Committee took the extraordinary step of then cancelling any other business meetings for the remainder of the year until December.* This is unheard of! DSA leaders should be serving the will of the members and they should be championing accessibility, not removing accessibility to chapters business and stifling chapter growth. This is a gross abuse of power and it continues a trend by this Executive Committee to silence members, to block membership access to chapter business and governance, and to continue to hoard power even when the membership has already called out abusive conflicts of interest that have tainted both our electoral and disciplinary processes.

In the August Chapter meeting, the membership voted and adopted a resolution to remove electoral administration from the Executive Committee and to grant those duties to the membership via a new elections committee. As voted for and adopted by the members, the

resolution clearly created an urgency for immediate implementation:

THIS IS A BINDING RESOLUTION AND IT GOES INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON THE ADOPTION BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

Rather than doing its job and executing what the membership desired, the Executive Committee decided to postpone the implementation until the next monthly meeting (which is where they failed to attract a quorum and then refused to allow a member vote by email so that business can be conducted as noted above).

Then on October 13, 2021, the Executive Committee released a statement announcing their intent to further delay implementation until some time in 2022 whenever the new executive committee decided to take it up. This is a gross abuse of power, and a blatant insult to the membership. The level of disrespect by the Executive Committee has exacerbated any ability to work with them to resolve this matter, hence we are making our demands public and asking DSA National to intervene and to stop the ongoing abuse of power and failure of leadership in the BloNo DSA Chapter.

It's important to note that the behaviors of the all-white Executive Committee have affected our members of color in an adverse manner, and is consistent with public criticism of a sitting councilperson, a queer Latin person, who publicly called out the DSA chapters mistreatment of its members of color, silencing them and punishing them. *The EC responded to this community leader by immediately suspending them.* Rather than embracing criticism and working to improve, the EC doubled down and suspended a key leader in our community, a person of color, and a leading voice for our socialist movement in our community.

We demand the following recourse:

1. That the elections reform resolution as adopted by the members in August be IMMEDIATELY implemented:
 - a. An offline email vote to elect the Elections Committee should be sent within 24 hours of this statement, and voting to remain open for a period of 2 days.
 - b. Once the elections committee is elected (within 3 days), all elections responsibilities must be immediately handed over with supportive transition to the new Elections Committee.
 - c. The Executive Committee must recognize the power of the Elections Committee as granted by the Chapter, and must cooperate with all requests from the Elections Committee in order to properly do their job, including providing member rosters as requested by the committee.
2. Chapter business must be immediately conducted as it relates to the Disciplinary reform resolution that was improperly blocked by the Executive Committee in September. The resolution must be published and voted on by the members who have a strong desire to remove the executive conflict of interest that has caused our membership extreme harm:
 - a. Currently the executive committee decides its own fate when a grievance is filed by a member against the EC. The grievance officers which used to be elected by the members are now hand picked by the EC, another gross abuse of power and blatant corruption of the process.
 - b. The result has been alarmingly harmful:

- i. Any time a grievance is filed against the executive body, they find no harm and issue no punishment.
 - ii. Every time Exec files a grievance against a member, they find an abundance of harm and the punishment is severe.
 - c. The end result is the EC has rigged our grievance process so that the EC cannot ever be held accountable. Meanwhile, they continue to weaponize our Community Agreements in order to silence and punish dissent. At least two members have been suspended for dissent, as confirmed by the EC.
 - d. This corruption of the process has enabled the EC to continue its abuse of power and to silence and punish dissent. The membership introduced a resolution to resolve this conflict of interest and to help restore a balance of power and a culture of accountability for our leadership, but the EC has refused to allow the members to vote on this important reform!
- 3. The entire DSA Executive Committee should go on the record and make a written recommitment to being servant leaders, and to executing the will of the members. This show of good faith is an important step to restoring normal governance for our chapter.
 - 4. That DSA National intervene and remove any Executive Committee members who refuse to cooperate and do their jobs in service to the members.