

ACAB statements that have either been submitted directly or have been displayed on public platforms:

*note, some have been slightly edited for further clarity

“I’m glad my existence has done something as important as putting people onto the ACAB movement, that’s so sick. I’ve been a punk since the sixth grade and I’ve hated cops way before that. But what really got me into it was the stonewall uprising in the 60s. Hearing about cops use their power against people literally fighting for their right to live will always be something near and dear to me. That uprising started the liberation of LGBT people, so it’s clear that riots are the answers to issues that are overlooked by the system. AND THE SYSTEM, wow cops inherently work for a system that displaces minorities and the underclass. Working for an oppressive system is literally the worst thing a person could do. There is just an insane amount of horrible and unjust actions cops have done. To summarize, cops will do anything to uphold power against the powerless. Cops hate minorities and the system is set to abolish those who face discrimination. And cops do not care about the safety of protestors, especially minors!! They will throw tear gas at children and not care. My friend got sprayed at a protest the other day, he’s 16 and was being completely peaceful. It was so heartbreaking and justifies my hatred towards cops even more!!!! ”

- @gothballs

“All people who say ACAB know that not all cops are racist, anti gay, power tripping a**holes. Yes Brittany your uncle who’s a cop probably is a nice dude who thinks he’s doing a good thing but, at the end of the day all cops are part of a corrupt system that has a massive racial prejudice issue, brutality issue, and an issue of 40% of cops having domestic abuse charges. On top of that cops don’t care if the laws they’re enforcing are just or not. Cops continue to arrest those on marijuana possession ruining their lives even though it’s been proven smoking marijuana has no negative side effects on the brain and should be legalized. So while not all cops are bad, all cops are part of a corrupt system. All you do by saying “Not all cops” and “my uncle’s a cop and he isn’t like them” is showing how sheltered you are.”

- callmerdna

“ACAB does not mean that each and every single cop is bad. ACAB means that the institution of cops has been bastardized. It no longer stands for what it’s supposed to stand for.”

- anon

“Friendly reminder that ACAB refers to the entire system and not individual cops. Yes, there are good people who are good cops. The issue is that these people are willingly working for a corrupt system that has purposely targeted minorities. I get it your [insert family member] is a cop and they’re not bad. But they still work for the system. So, ACAB especially to the cop you’re related to.”

- @kidpunks

“Not all cops are bad, but all cops work for a corrupt organization that pushes systematic racism amongst other things, and they all know that”

- @lilgibbys

“When we say acab (all cops are bastards) this is why your argument ‘well not all cops’ is invalid. While your argument may be ‘It’s just a few bad cops. Every job has its bad apples’. There are certain jobs that cannot afford to have ‘bad apples’ because those are the people who hold power of controlling whether someone lives or dies. What if you had a ‘bad apple’ pilot?

1. I heard it described this way. If you have 10 bad cops and 100 good cops and those 10 all murdered someone behind the power of their badge. Those other 100 did nothing to stop them or get them the punishment they deserve. And now you have 110 bad cops.
2. For some people it is safer for them to assume all cops rather than trust the wrong cop and get killed. As a white person I cannot speak on what it’s like to be black but as a gay woman I always hesitate to trust men/straight people in case they hate or objectify me.
3. In 35 states cops are literally allowed to decide if you consented to sex with them or not, meaning that cops are r*ping women in their custody and getting away with it by saying it was consensual.
4. Just recently we see how police react to white karens and their husbands spitting in the face of cops with guns in their hands protesting a disease ,and they don’t bat an eye. But when people protest the murder of a black man by the cops they’re met with rubber bullets and tear gas.
5. The cops have killed over 55 000 people in a year in the past and every year is no different. They are America’s biggest deadliest gang. Yes ‘not all cops’ but enough. Don’t be ignorant to the facts.”

- @carlizenz

- <https://twitter.com/carlizenz/status/1266231579673837568?s=19>

“It’s time to explain ACAB for all of y’all that still don’t understand: a thread #BlackLivesMatter #Amerikkka #GeorgeFloyd #JusticeForGeorgeFloyd

The police protect capital and property interests, not people. They were built on the foundation of defending chattel slavery, and they evolved to enforce Jim Crow, segregation, and mass incarceration/militarization. When they kill black people, this is the system at work.

As an institution, people are racist, classist, and oppressive. They protect an elitist and racist government with elitist and racist laws, and they are given physical power and societal suggestions of biases and stereotypes to violently suppress black and brown people.

Our policing systems, as an institution, are inherently classist and racist. ‘But what about the good cops?’, you might ask. It seems like a reasonable suggestion, but this mythical ‘good cop’ simply does not exist.

If they’re a ‘good cop’, are they standing up against the racism/oppression within police systems and holding the ‘bad cops’ responsible? If so, why do they then continue to participate within the police system if they’re aware of the systematic oppression and violence it runs on?

If they're not actively holding other cops responsible, then they're empowering them simply by remaining complicit with racist/classist violence. They willingly participate within such an oppressive system, and their motives behind said participation are oppressive as well.

And of course some police may enter this field with more pure motives and intentions, but if they are still remaining silent today or working within this system then they are just as guilty.

Being a policeperson is a choice, while being oppressed due to your skin colour is not.

Ahmaud Arbery wasn't a mistake. His coverup by the police department wasn't either. George Floyd was murdered, and so was Breonna Taylor. So were Trayvon Martin, Philando Castile, Tamir Rice, and countless others. The police and all who support them are complicit in their deaths.

Say their names and remember this injustice, and stand in solidarity with marginalized groups throughout #Amerikkka. We will end these oppressive institutions and bring radical justice and equality for all."

- @Jsshieh21

- <https://twitter.com/Jsshieh21/status/1265665089920815104?s=19>

"A thread explaining ACAB: Before we talk about policemen and women, I'd like to give you a short history lesson. Nazi Germany, yes? Adolf Hitler was a charismatic man who built up a system that tore down other people. He told his followers that it was for the good of their country, that it was their 'right'. There were many Nazis who were good, loving people. Here's some workers on their day off. They had lives too. They lived and breathed and had fun, just like the people they killed, directly or otherwise. They became Nazis under the impression that they were doing what was ethical. Not all Nazis killed. Not all Nazis hurt Jews and other oppressed peoples. There were many who didn't know what was going on. There were many who were afraid to stand up and say what was right. So while not all Nazis were bad themselves, they fueled the system. For every one Nazi that was too afraid to speak up to help, hundred of people died. It was fear that kept them from speaking out, and that fear allowed the system to continue. Under the guise that what they were doing was good, they hurt millions of people. So, when we look at cops, they are not all bad people themselves. But they allow the raging oppressive fire of our law enforcement system to continue. They're the problem because they stand idly by as people die at the hands of ignorance. At the hands of 'good cops'. When you say, 'oh, not all cops are bad!' I want you to put it in perspective. Can you say the same of Nazis? It is those who support the system or remain neutral that will kill us. We want to live. We will not be silenced."

- @lxciferswhxre

- <https://twitter.com/lxciferswhxre/status/1266115560741298176?s=19>

"WHY ALL COPS ARE BASTARDS

I want to take a few moments to dispel the "Not All Cops" logic some people use when they disagree with systemic critiques of policing. Claims such as "you can't generalize to all cops". "They're just doing their jobs", "they're just following orders", "they don't write the rules, they just enforce them", "they're just trying to make ends meet too", "some cops are good, some cops are bad". No. All cops enforce unjust systems. It is not as much about the individuals as it is the institutions, but they are still personally responsible too.

1. No One Is Forced to Become a Cop.

Anyone who thinks that committing atrocities while in a subordinate position somehow exempts them from accountability should read up on the Nuremberg Trials. Simply put, authority resolves no one of conscience. Cop apologists hold an incomprehensible stance here: if desperation or duress or duty can exempt a cop from accountability, ought it not also exempt criminals from accountability at the hands of law enforcement? What about the "just doing my job"? Well, so are assassins-for-hire, so are cop-killing gangs even. The claim has no solid logic or ethics. Cop-apologists never acknowledge the double standards they rely on for exactly whom may "just try to make ends meet" or "live by a system they didn't create". If we let cops off for police brutality, ought we not also let off the hungry thief, who is no less just trying to get by? Actually, petty crime for survival really do come by necessity, whereas modern policing never comes from conscription, it is always volunteer. No one is forced to become a cop.

2. There Are No "Good Apples".

For starters, most "Good Apples" only have the rot on the side out of view. The Texas cop who gave shoes to a homeless man, also shot a handcuffed man to death. Most "Good Cops" cover up for "Bad Cops". Those that break the Blue Line and report their fellows' behavior lose their jobs, they stop being cops. In this way, the "Good" whistleblower cops literally cease policing the public. We also have to analyze at both the level of individuals, and the level of institutions. Corruption or excess is not the prime ethical problem in policing, it is the very nature of blindly enforcing social hierarchies that is the main issue. Corruption and brutality inflict horrors upon the policed public, but the nature of monopolistic armed surveillance itself amplifies many harmful social relations. A cop could do nice things for their family, care for society, have a righteous rationale for their role, but on the job, they function primarily to stabilize the rules that a select few in power determine and impose upon everyone else, that is their primary role.

3. Good Cops Cease Being Cops.

Again, "Good Cops" quite often only demonstrate the "Good" precisely to the degree that they do something other than their job description, like getting a cat down from a tree. Many actions that one could perceive as heroic on the part of cops, do not necessitate the policing aspect at all. For example, a cop who jumps on a terrorist suicide bomber to shield civilians from the blast, does not perform a function reserved only to police at that moment; the heroism is human, not occupational. Many things that "Good Cops" do, any "Good" person could do as well, the "Goodness" is not inherent to the policing component. In terms of institutional roles, we could have things like crisis de-escalation without the whole system of incarceration aspect, in fact some cities have made separate first responders for just that reason. If one finds slavery abhorrent, and the 13th Amendment literally permits penal slavery, and a primary aspect of modern policing involves caging human beings in sensory deprivation chambers surrounded by rampant rape and gang violence and coercing them into forced labor, it seems fair to say that at least some parts of policing prove intrinsically irredeemable. If one opposes horrors like plantation slavery, one must also oppose locking away largely non-violent human beings to do demeaning, dangerous jobs for 10 cents an hour in an institutionally-driven culture of gangs and rape. As this burden is mainly imposed upon marginalized communities of poor, black, brown, and indigenous folks, these systems clearly have an irredeemably predatory core.

4. Pro-Cop Logic Makes No Sense.

Let's be direct. Do the patriotic Americans who defend police as having "some Good Apples and some Bad Apples" also defend the Russian KGB or the Nazi SS or Islamic State as having "some Good Apples and some Bad Apples", or do they concede that institutional values and policies matter, if only for groups their loyalty does not blind them to substantive critiques of? Again, the double standards. The KGB also just wanted to put bread on the table, some SS members likely wanted to "improve things from the inside", "to be more merciful". Many Islamic State members help broken down vehicles or settle local domestic disputes. Yet those defenses feel utterly lackluster, don't they? Individuals doing some "good" things does not exonerate either the person or the role from the horrors they may inflict otherwise, especially the ones implicit in that very role. One must possess the ability to look outside of one's own immediate culture and era if one wishes to arrive at any real logic on this. The adage is "one bad apple spoils the bunch", not "one bad apple doesn't affect a good apple".

5. Generalizing About Occupations is Not Like Generalizing About Race.

Some will say, "isn't generalizing badness to all cops like calling all people of a certain race bad?" No, not at all. Occupations are not genetic, nor arbitrary social categories, nor primarily cultural groups, no one has to become a cop or is born a cop. Modern policing is a very specific institution, just as a certain earlier "peculiar institution". Again, can we generalize that all slave-owners and slave-catchers are "bad"? If our minds and hearts find slavery abominable, then surely we can, and we can just as easily critique a profession that literally evolved out of slave-catching, and functions as an enforcer of literal slavery today: policing. Modern Police started as Slave Patrols and Strikebreaking Companies and Red Squads, and have not fundamentally changed except to expand their control into larger areas of general social life.

6. Policing Comes From Oppression.

Where did modern policing come from? The history is clear. From slave-catching operations, slave-catching patrols. From private companies and militias attacking the indigenous during colonization, from the erosion of working class organization at the outset of the industrial revolution through company goons and the National Guard. From enforcers penalizing vagrants and petty property crimes and "degeneracy" following rural evictions at the genesis of urban population densities. From the overseer to the officer, from the cowboy constable to the cop, from breaking workers to beating protesters, cops today still act as an occupying force. Policing necessitates violent repression, that is a major component of its origin, its history, and its role. One must acknowledge that individual intentions do not override institutional roles and objectives. Again, would police apologists permit the same appeals to innocence for Narco assassins or for foreign terrorists, men who might be swell fathers or really want to improve things but just have these really unfortunate acts they agree to commit, or to cover up, or to defend, or to plea ignorant to, every time they go to work? Anytime a uniform and badge mean obedience to a role and routine, we have to look at the job, not just the face. Those who sign up to act as police and keep going to work hold active or passive complicity in death, in terror, in slavery, and therefore we may say that "All Cops Are Bastards".

7. Modern Police Routinely Perform Abominable Acts.

- Profiling and executing unarmed black, brown, and indigenous folks.
- Mass incarceration of black, brown, indigenous folks, and poor folks of all races.
- Profiling and harassing folks perceived as Muslims.

- Shooting peoples' dogs
- Cover ups for police deceit and violence, stashed toy guns and lying in court.
- Planting weed and crack in homes and cars.
- Stealing cash from innocent civilians through asset forfeiture so cops can have nice toys.
- Interrogating and extorting and possibly sexually assaulting female minors who might be sex workers, often transwomen of color.
- Covering up child sex exploitation rings that have police involvement.
- Imposing martial law upon assemblies arbitrarily construed as an "unlawful assembly" or "riot".
- Using bludgeons and chemical weapons against peaceful protesters.
- Flashbang grenading a baby then laughing it off as no one's fault really (Georgia).
- Driving around a tank after record lows for officer fatalities while still bleating on about a "War on Police".
- Arresting women who fight back against their abusers.
- Spying on those engaged in "un-American activities" like not supporting mass murder.
- Catching escapees (whether from Pelican Bay or from Honduras).
- Evicting families from homes so the homes may sit empty so the digits on bank ledgers may (or may not) yield a slightly better return.
- Preventing poor people from feeding themselves or each other without permission.
- Harassing the existence of houseless people generally through such deeds as spraying homeless people with water in the winter or destroying their meager belongings.
- Punishing frail people from protecting themselves with concealed weapons.
- Using violence to bust unions and break strikes.
- Destroying immigrant and refugee families through deportation.
- Locking (mostly poor, brown) people in cages to rot or perform forced labor.
- Shooting at "looters" taking unused water bottles that would soon be swept away during floods.
- Working with Nazis to identify Anti-Fascists.

8. Police Are Bully Minions for Bully Overlords, Gangsters With Badges.

Policing has a crisis of individuals: individual police or departments with brutality, corruption, excess, neglect, or prejudice. It has a crisis of institutions: the failure of public accountability from bureaucracies sympathetic to one another, commander's immunity, militarization programs like the 1033 Program, emphasis on SWAT teams. Policing has a crisis of paradigms: for-profit policing and probation and prisons, policy orientations like the War on Drugs & War on Terror, mass incarceration, the logic of "just obeying orders, just doing my job", the logic of armed patrols & repression without conscience, the logic of occupation & counter-insurgency, institutional policies like "Maximum Force", "Show of Force", "Escalated Force", "Negotiated Management", "Community Policing", the nature of a territorial monopoly on the legitimate use of force.

9. Oppression Should Not Be a Job.

Every possible level of modern policing contains abominable foundations, irredeemable harms, and existential issues. The very nature of separating enforcement from individual conscience and collective will proves extremely problematic. "Good" Cops are the ones that do things other than policing; to the extent that they do "Good", they do not do "policing", but rather the deeds

we wish all people to do, and largely which people can do without police, and will do more of without police. Modern cops have not always existed, need not exist, and most often just worsen things. So yes, the phrase "All Cops Are Bastards" rings true."

- @AutumnLeavesCascade
- https://amp.reddit.com/r/Anarchy101/comments/bgbqzj/how_do_you_prove_acab_anyone_got_any_reading/?utm_medium=android_app&utm_source=share