

Solidarity Outreach Plan for “OurTown” Move to Amend

Template Instructions: MTA has created this Solidarity Outreach Plan template based on our best practices for use by the affiliate groups. In your process of creating a Solidarity Outreach Plan and documenting that plan, your group can decide to adopt the template as-is or edit as needed to fit your decisions regarding your own Solidarity Outreach Plan. Please SAVE A COPY and adapt as needed.

Guiding Statement:

The first Strategic Objective of MTA is to ***engage other social, economic, and environmental justice movement organizations to see passage of the We the People Amendment as a strategic priority*** by making connections between their missions and corporate rule and by fostering anti-oppression literacy within Move to Amend to effectively build solidarity with organizations working in highly impacted and marginalized communities.

Guided by this goal, *OurTown Move to Amend* has, through a process of research and self-reflection, identified areas of need in our community. We have also identified groups that are traditionally excluded or disenfranchised, as well as like-minded local groups.

We have decided to focus our solidarity work on the following issues:

1. *Issue 1 (e.g. police oppression)*
2. *Issue 2 (e.g. need for a living wage)*

We have decided to work with these groups of people who work hard as part of their mission to address the above issues:

1. *Group 1 (e.g. Black Lives Matter working to stop police oppression)*
2. *Group 2 (e.g. 15 Now working to make living wage possible for all)*

Our goal is to stand with those organizations with whom we are partnering in their struggles and support their work to improve life for people in our community as a part of our efforts to pass an amendment to the US constitution.

As part of our new member orientation process, all new affiliate members will read our Solidarity Outreach Plan.

Create Teams:

OurTown Move to Amend has assigned a three person team to explore involvement with each of the groups. These teams will report on their activities at each affiliate meeting.

1. *Issue 1 team: [list three names]*
2. *Issue 2 team: [list three names]*
- 1.
- 2.

Connecting the Dots:

Most fronts of struggle are related to corporate power and money in politics. Below are some ways we see our work as related to the work of our solidarity priorities. You'll refine and redevelop these as you learn more.

3. *Issue 1 statement (example: "the for-profit immigrant detention centers create a profit motive for detaining and separating families and those corporations have a hold on our policy makers through big money donations".*
4. *Issue 2 statement*

Solidarity Practices:

As we reach out to other groups outside our *OurTown Move to Amend* group we are clear that our primary role is to support and listen. We are not there to take a leadership role nor are we there to draw resources or focus away from their group toward MTA. We recognize that these groups already have longstanding experience with the harms caused by corporate rule and are experts of their own experiences.

Here are some examples of solidarity practices that we use (an excellent reference on solidarity practices can be found in [this blog post by Mia McKenzie](#)):

1. listen a lot
2. talk little
3. offer our resources (see Resources section below)
4. take an active role in promoting their events & campaigns
5. come early
6. stay late
7. give rides
8. bring food
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Identify Resources:

We have identified the following resources that *OurTown Move to Amend* has to offer the groups that we work with in solidarity:

- meeting space
- bodies to show up

- transportation help
- email list
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Tracking Progress:

1. The Solidarity Outreach Plan will be placed on our monthly agenda to check-in on the plan.
2. We will revisit plan on a yearly basis and assess: How are we doing? What is emerging (issues, organizations, what is happening in movement)? How do we need to change/grow/adapt our plan?

Definition Reminders:

- **Solidarity:** Mutual support within and across groups. Unity or agreement on an issue or an action. (MTA National definition) Solidarity requires actively including and even prioritizing the voices from marginalized/oppressed groups. [Unsettling America](#) offers this statement about the work of solidarity: “We organize our solidarity efforts around direct communication, responsiveness, and accountability to indigenous people fighting for decolonization and liberation.”
- **Allyship:** “Currently operating in solidarity with”; “A way of living your life that *doesn’t* reinforce the same oppressive behaviors you’re claiming to be against” ([Mia McKenzie](#)). Allyship is a not an identity, it is a verb and not a noun. Being an ally is an ongoing and lifelong process that involves a lot of listening and a lot of work. “Allies cannot be self-defined; they must be claimed by the people they seek to ally with.” ([Unsettling America](#)). Everyone always has more to learn. This is a great article on [being an ally](#) written by a white man after he read Mia McKenzie’s piece cited above, No More “Allies”.
- **Intersectionality:** “Many of our social justice problems like racism and sexism are often overlapping, creating multiple levels of social injustice.” ([Kimberlé Crenshaw](#)). Multiple causes of injustice increase the discrimination as the problems overlap. The injustices don’t simply add together, they create exponential impact that is often invisible to others. The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as gender, race, and class as they apply to a given individual or group, create overlapping and ***inter***dependent systems of discrimination that result in increasing levels of injustice.
- **Expert:** Someone with lived experience of one (or more) forms of oppression, especially someone who has studied and organized in resistance to this oppression. While people with privilege who do not share that lived experience also study oppression and organize in solidarity with oppressed peoples, those with lived experience are the experts.
- Here is another resource for additional [definitions of words related to anti-oppression and allyship](#).

Campaign Goals: Strategic Objectives to Amend

- 1) Engage other social, economic, and environmental justice movement organizations to see passage of the *We the People Amendment* as a strategic priority** by making connections between their missions and corporate rule and by fostering anti-oppression literacy within Move to Amend to effectively build solidarity with organizations working in highly impacted and marginalized communities.
- 2) Win support of three-fourths of State Legislatures and Congress** by offering educational opportunities for elected officials, connecting with their networks, and running candidates for office. Hold candidates and elected officials accountable through the Pledge to Amend campaign and urge both voters and elected representatives to break ranks with dominant parties that stand against our agenda. Explore the strategy of a Convention of the States and support legislators seeking to set up a partisan-neutral process for an Article V Convention.
- 3) Disrupt corporate governance** by shining a light on examples of corporate rule through traditional and social media, practicing direct action against the systems of legal authority that enable corporate rule (as opposed to mere corporate behaviors) and partnering with and lifting up other movement organizations that focus on systemic targets.
- 4) Create mainstream and widespread support for *We the People Amendment*** by conducting organizing campaigns in communities and informing journalists about Move to Amend. Develop diverse spokespeople with broad appeal to popularize our message and make it accessible to a diverse audience. A strong presence on social media, coupled with traditional organizing will provide the foundation to devise educational campaigns that connect Move to Amend to people's lives.
- 5) Cultivate a culture of collective empowerment within Move to Amend** by supporting grassroots leaders and developing campaigns that build capacity, power, momentum and hope to help people believe in themselves and their collective power. Build organizational structures and processes that are transparent, accountable and accessible to support personal and collective empowerment, as well as safe and welcoming for people from diverse backgrounds – including traditionally marginalized people.
- 6) Maintain Move to Amend's independence from corporate political parties and funding sources** by building budgets in which at least 80% of funding comes from individuals in order to maintain independence and resist co-optation. Seeking out opportunities to educate donors and program officers and promoting Move to Amend's commitment to independence will build capacity and ensure that organizational or funding partnerships don't compromise our values or goals.
- 7) Foster education and understanding of movement history and political power in Move to Amend and the larger movement** by providing educational opportunities on movement history and analysis of power to our leadership and supporters. Draw from lessons of the past and cultivate ongoing strategic thinking to shield us from scare tactics, intimidation, co-optation, dearth of vision, and marginalization by rival organizations and opposition forces and to prepare us for the ensuing backlash following the passage of the *We the People*

Amendment. Partnering with other movement organizations engaged in developing similar educational opportunities will build strength and solidarity.