

(The statement below was written by readers of the Utopian Bulletin, and is intended for distribution at local, regional and national anti-Trump protests.)

A Strategy for the Movement

Statement by the Utopian Tendency



Build the Movement

- We support the actions of all those fighting against President-elect Donald Trump and everything he and his administration stand for.

- Behind his rhetoric, Trump is preparing attacks on a broad array of people—Blacks, Latinos, Asians, First Americans, and other oppressed ethnic groups; Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, Hindus, and other religious minorities; immigrants both legal and undocumented; women; the LGBT community; the environmental movement and other progressive movements. Trump's tweets create a climate of fear and hate. His Cabinet nominees will widen inequality, eliminate what exists to protect the environment and lead to unrestrained looting of the population by the big banks and corporations.

Broaden the Movement

- We seek to expand the movement by reaching out to working people and oppressed members of our society, in workplaces,

communities, schools, hospitals, churches, and other economic and social institutions.

- We seek to build a movement that is militant and uses tactics of direct action—picket lines, strikes, sit-ins, occupations, blockades, marches and mass demonstrations. We encourage coordination of struggles into one powerful movement.
- Under Trump, violence by the state — harassment, beatings and murders by cops; raids and detention by ICE; surveillance and detention by the FBI and Homeland Security — will almost surely increase. We should not look to the state for defense. While the best defense is the building of a militant mass movement, we also urge the organization of community and workplace defense groups to protect people and institutions from attacks by right wing thugs or the state. An injury to one is an injury to all!



- Our allies are the millions of people who are suffering from the crisis-ridden economic system we live under (and which Trump, Obama, Clinton, and the entire class of politicians defend). Many have been left behind by globalization, and have seen their communities devastated by automation, pro-corporate trade deals, the drive to slash wages to boost profits, and similar economic policies.
- Many people support the Sanders/Warren wing of the Democratic Party because they sincerely believe significant change can be achieved this way. We need to reach out to them to support our direct action, independent focus.

- While core Trump supporters are racist, misogynist, xenophobic, anti-gay, and authoritarian, many people who voted for him are not. This includes millions who backed him out of opposition to Hillary Clinton and the arrogant and greedy liberal elite of which she is a part. We need to reach out to these people as well.

Build an Independent Movement

- The movement must be independent of the *entire* ruling class and the political elite—Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives--that serve it.
- We advocate direct action in the streets, in the factories, in other workplaces and in our communities, rather than mobilizing people to passively vote for pro-capitalist candidates. This strategy led to the successes of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the recent victory at Standing Rock. Direct action leads to far greater change than 'lesser evil' voting ever will.



- While we fight to make clear the overtly reactionary politics of the Republican Party, it is important to expose the two-faced policy of the liberal politicians, the Democratic Party, liberal organizations who promise to fight for people oppressed by the system but whose underlying goal is to defend that system. This includes left-liberals like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. Both claim to be champions of the working class and other oppressed people, but both defend capitalism, which is the underlying cause of that oppression.

Build a movement for revolutionary democratic socialism

- Our goal is to transform the growing movement from one of protest against Donald Trump into one consciously committed to overthrowing the brutal, unjust, and corrupt system we live

under—capitalism. Capitalism is based on a tiny group controlling society's productivity and power, including the state, in order to exploit people for profit.

- In contrast, we favor a very different social system—one without economic classes, and based on the direct, democratic, cooperative management of the economy and society by the vast majority of people.

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Comments on Strategy Leaflet

December 27

Ron's strategy document, and the leaflet that's largely based on it, provide a very good description (and prescription) for beginning to build the kind of militant mass movement that's needed. I want to raise a couple of specific measures for preparing a fightback that I and some others in the Bay Area have been discussing. I am raising these in a local coalition organizing actions for January 20

First: It's likely that Trump will institute some sort of punitive list of Muslims, and it may well be a Muslim registry. Should the Trump administration create a Muslim registry, we should all register and organize others to register. We should not wait for such a registry to be created. We should begin the organizing now.



Second: It's highly likely that Trump will markedly increase deportations, especially of undocumented immigrants. Where we can, we should try to organize (or join where they already exist) local committees -- school, neighborhood, or workplace committees) -- to defend against deportations. For example: turn schools and churches into sanctuaries and, where possible, defend them (this could be non-violent defense); and/or lead walkouts in schools if a student or family member is detained by ICE and/or deported.

Feedback?

Jack

December 27

Thanks Jack! Both of those ideas are excellent! Happy New Year to you and the group!
Roni

December 27

I agree with Jack's second point. On the first the Muslim registry, I think tentatively that it's unlikely--plenty of prominent liberals have raised the "all register" proposal, so Trump's advisers are aware of a registry's potential to cause trouble for him, plus he's semi-committed to the more "moderate" approach of a ban on immigration from "high-terrorism" areas (which incidentally wouldn't have kept out the Berlin truck attack suspect, Anis Amri, who was from Tunisia, not a "high-terrorism" country). Nonetheless, I think it is good to raise and organize around the idea of "all register;" that doing so would help deter Trump, for the reason just mentioned.



I think we should also think and speak ahead to the likelihood of more police shootings met by a Trump response of "No anarchy [protests] in the streets, support our police." He already perfected this appeal during the campaign and it plays very well to his base. This response sends a green light to police departments and cops at the street level. We need to think about ways to delegitimize this response since, unfortunately, one thing we can count on is that police shootings of Black, Latino, homeless, psychologically disturbed, and other people will not go away.

Chris



December 27

I think that Chris makes an important point about the green light Trump will give to the cops -- even more of a license to kill. Just last week the Fraternal Order of Police, the national cop "union" (a group dedicated to trying to make sure that Mumia never is freed) demanded that Amazon stop allowing a "black lives matter" tee shirt to be sold on its web site.

We know that there will be more unprovoked murders by cops, especially of black people. And when these are followed by militant protests, we know what we can expect from the cops. So yes, how to delegitimize this is important.

As far as liberals calling for "all register" deterring Trump -- well, maybe. Or maybe he thinks he can back them down. That's what he tries to do. We can help provide backbone to follow through and, maybe, back Trump down.

Jack

December 28

I agree with Jack's points, particularly about pro-actively building united fronts around defense against deportation efforts. I will raise this with Mixteco Project and our allies in Ventura County who are currently, in my opinion, resting comfortably (and dangerously) on past victories and acceptance by the broader community.

Should we consider an amendment/editing to our already much-edited "moving forward" leaflet to call for at least this one action point? I'm hoping many are planning to go to their local "Women's march for America" (ugh title) marches in January with a sheaf of our tendency statements.

Sandy
