



I believe you,
I understand you,
I'll try to take care of you if it's dark.
I'm with you.

What is solidarity?

Solidarity is action that comes from the shared concerns and goals of people in a movement. Solidarity is more than support. The foundation of solidarity is kinship—standing together against not only sexism but racism, classism, and all other oppressive systems as well.

At Peace Over Violence, we believe that in order to build a sustainable movement against gender-based violence, we must unlearn the conditioned belief that some people have lesser value because of their sex or gender identity.

*Violence is preventable.
If we can learn it, we can unlearn it.*

Solidarity is humanity in action. It's people coming together with the common goal to end sexual violence and to disrupt rape culture.

Race and class differences shouldn't be factors that keep folks from establishing a true kinship with one another. In solidarity, we must work to understand each other and our different backgrounds and experiences. It's important to acknowledge the experience of safety in our communities and the discrimination and exploitation of different marginalized groups. A movement against gender based violence that is not inclusive of and centered on women and girls of color, women with disabilities, non-binary people, transwomen, femmes and any other marginalized group divergent of stereotypical masculinity is not a just or safe movement.

What does solidarity look like?

Solidarity looks like respecting diversity, learning about other people's culture, experiences and background, and combating the tendency toward judging others. Solidarity is based on the knowledge and understanding that we need to stand together to combat sexism, racism, classism and other systems that oppress people around the world.

“The practice of solidarity foregrounds communities of people who have chosen to work and fight together. Reflective solidarity is crafted by an interaction involving three persons: ‘I ask you to stand by me over and against a third.’”

—Chandra Talpade Mohanty, *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*

Why Solidarity?

Today we are faced with the duty to unite against all forms of hate, against all forms of violence. We understand what it feels like to be left behind, left out, forgotten about. And we know that you understand this feeling as well. We vow to break this cycle.

Through HUMANITY and KINSHIP, we can commit to finding or creating ways to talk about our shared liberation, safety and interdependency. We will weave affection into our relationships—opportunities to build deeper, more whole connections and to practice what our world could look like. We invite you to practice this courageous love every day.

Solidarity in the time of COVID-19

The story of this moment is being written by all of us

As we move deeper into the unknown brought forth by this inconceivable crisis, it can be helpful to focus on ways to support ourselves and each other through it. In the history of humanity, we have survived through incredibly challenging events, individually and collectively. Moments of crisis are profoundly volatile, we can either lose a whole lot of ground and pay the price for decades to come or we face it together with great courage and compassion by doing things that didn't seem possible just a few weeks ago. This is no time to lose sight of ourselves or each other.

“The future will be determined by those who are determined to fight harder.”

—Naomi Klein

We call for the best of us to come forward

We call upon the cooperative, compassionate, collaborative, empathetic, altruistic, open-minded part of us. For our humanity and kinship to manifest during this unprecedented time.

We have a remarkable responsibility to work together in this time of physical distance, especially as ordinances have been issued in an attempt to “flatten the curve” by imposing restraints on movement and interpersonal connection. Now is the time to stand in solidarity with each other and uplift our values of volunteerism, courage, and selflessness.

Can we have distance and solidarity at once?

In recent years, technology has allowed for the development of our virtual selves, extensions of ourselves in the virtual world that allow us to form new sorts of communities and connections. This is an emerging capacity that can be utilized in the present situation by alleviating isolation, sharing information, coordinating efforts, staying productive, and supporting each other. We've built up a capacity to construct robust virtual bonds.

Online interactions may be a substitute for in-person ones and may allow us to maintain strong community ties. We can run meetings or hold gatherings using videoconferencing tools, to try to replicate the dynamic nature of face-to-face gatherings and interactions.

YES to life!

YES to justice!

We resist violence.

We resist systems that divide us.

We will no longer be pitted against each other.

We will not be divided.

Let's love each other into healing. We will help each other, love each other, and, in so doing, we will heal ourselves. Because a world without violence IS possible, and it's up to ALL OF US to build it together.