

# BLACK LIVES MATTER GUIDING PRINCIPLES

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/what-we-believe/>

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	We intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.
DIVERSITY	We acknowledge, respect, and celebrate differences and commonalities.
EMPATHY	We practice empathy. We engage comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.
LOVING ENGAGEMENT	We embody and practice justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements with one another
QUEER AFFIRMING	We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise).
TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING	We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence. We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead.
UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK	We are unapologetically Black in our positioning. In affirming that Black Lives Matter, we need not qualify our position. To love and desire freedom and justice for ourselves is a prerequisite for wanting the same for others.
BLACK WOMEN	We build a space that affirms Black women and is free from sexism, misogyny, and environments in which men are centered.
BLACK FAMILIES	We make our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We dismantle the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work “double shifts” so that they can mother in private even as they participate in public justice work.
BLACK VILLAGES	We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.
GLOBALISM	We see ourselves as part of the global Black family, and we are aware of the different ways we are impacted or privileged as Black people who exist in different parts of the world.
INTERGENERATIONAL	We cultivate an intergenerational and communal network free from ageism. We believe that all people, regardless of age, show up with the capacity to lead and learn.
COLLECTIVE VALUE	We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location.