

WORLD CONGRESS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Thematic Assembly minutes

The Role of the Youth in the Ruptural Movement for Climate Justice

14 October 2023, h.16-18 - University of Milan, aula 208

FFF Lisbon, Climate Vanguard, End Fossil Barcelona (& Occupy EUR)

PROPOSALS AND SUM UP

Our assembly started from the common point that the youth should be internationally coordinated and feed-in the broader climate justice international movement towards ruptural system change.

Proposals

> Use our privilege as youth and stop delegating responsibility of revolution to others. As part of the global precariat, **we too are a revolutionary subject** and we with our radical action we must inspire the uprising of young workers and other precarious groups, as their future too is at risk under fossil capitalism

-> Mass organize students and youth inside and outside schools, radicalize and politicize them to disrupt business as usual and **ensure a student uprising in 2024**

-> Youth coordination towards rupture system change into dismantling fossil capitalism, to be articulated with the broader movement. **Bring delegates to the Earth Social Conference to keep building the strategy for the youth movement**

-> **No allowance for fossil fuels and system reproduction inside our spaces.** Universities and schools are places of knowledge and political education.

-> As a first step towards building this student uprising, **November 2023 to End Fossil**: occupy schools and unis, and boycott and stop institutions that are signing our death warrants - ministries, banks, etc.

We want to keep this strategy process for a student uprising in 2024 going and invite every interested youth student group to talk to us, to have a pre-Earth Social Conference youth strategy meeting

FULL MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY:

Mathilde: Welcome, read motto

Round of introductions

Jack □ presentation

End Fossil Barcelona:

- Occupying institutions;
- in Barcelona 3 demands:
 - o increase public funding of university,
 - o stricter criteria (barriers) for collabs with private sector,
 - o mandatory class about ecosocial emergency.
- Goal of transcending focus on informing and mobilizing people, become more radical by occupying space
- University is supposed to be space of free radical thinking
- Need collaborations between youth movements

Irene: organization for rupture

Jack:

- youth have potent moral power □ can be a spark that ignites more social uprising,
- delegitimizing status quo,
- shouldn't be limited to this,
- need to ultimately be organizing social power: example of Black Panther Party,
- how do youth engage as broadly as possible

FFF Lisbon:

- Many occupations in last year
- Demonstrates power of youth
- Need to radicalize
- Action wave in November: occupy schools and unis, occupy/boycott institutions
- Call for youth to occupy and disrupt institutions that hold the power
- No peace to our governments until demands met
- Bold strategy to make sure we disrupt institutions
- Student uprising in 2024

Assembly

- Striking in the UK university, hard to find solidarity with students, need to talk to teachers, hard to get students to agree and to understand that universities are important in fight, want to get their degrees, need to Foster intersectional alliances between generations □ how do we get them on our side
- At occupations in Barcelona: try to not make it feel like we are invading space at unis
- “Climate missing: youth-led grassroots events for youth (example Latin America), networking between movements, common goal, radicalization is being demonized, repression
- More coordination between young people on the streets and in higher level positions
- In Germany, we had the feeling from 2018 on, that lots of people from lots of movements (FFF, XR), but on political level, people were frustrated because no political change, a lot of people left activism and haven’t returned. How can we reach those people who left the movement and bring them back?
- We are the generation that was born into climate crisis: we have social legitimacy to radicalize; How do we use repression to radicalize and mobilize others? Use in our narratives?
- Cut ties with reformist side
- Framework used by a lot of NGOs: rebels confront give power to reformist institutional negotiators
- You can’t say “youth” and then say we’re gonna exclude institutional youth, that doesn’t mean accept everything, be extremely critical, the beauty of youth: not framing it as European, Italian, etc., use this framing to coordinate
- Some institutions are very far from climate movements, but normally young people work and also studies. The power of young people is in the university. The value of the university is in the creation of knowledge. Money is flowing into research to support the status quo.
- Science might be an interesting institution with whom to collaborate. Science is having a hard time sharing knowledge. Young people can assist in spreading this knowledge, making it more accessible.

- Youth and students: actions and which directions they go. In Germany, young people that didn't choose the academic path, don't feel held in the climate movement. Come to meetings but don't understand what's going on. Intersectionality. Gender-correct language can be unfamiliar. These people are doubly marginalized: youth and lower paying jobs.
- Where are we now? → What has our role been since 2018? We have been opening spaces. Different now that people are talking about planet, but people are doing the wrong thing. Climate policies that we don't want. In Swedish elections, lots of talk about nuclear power. How do we create just transition? How do we create a just transition and dismantle the
- How do we frame this political subject? I want to draw on the narrative potential of the youth as a part of the precariat. We are seeing our futures degraded (mental health, job conditions). We share these conditions with so many other political subjects. We need to use this to legitimize our political struggle. We need to use this as our narrative. We need to use our narrative capability.
- Many people (youth and other generations) are in emotional denial. The reality (6th mass extinction) is very hard to deal with. Just trying to go about their days. Don't know how to turn climate anxiety into climate action.
- I have seen a lot lately protests, begging and weaponizing climate anxiety is opposite of taking power. Be strong and take the power, build the new economy yourselves.
- People who are active are really privileged (Switzerland). How do we make our movements diverse in terms of class?
- What should our role be? Two prongs: short term: actions/protest, also long term: go back inside the schools (we call ourselves student movements, but I rarely see them in schools). We say we want mass action, but how do we do that if we are not with the bases. Education about the basics: What is activism? What does an activist do? Many people don't know how to answer that.
- We need to be connected to schools and universities in order to build mass movement. Challenge the idea that we are safe because we are privileged. Use that privilege: be on the front line. It will affect us. What is the role of the youth □ most young people don't have many duties in life, no work, supporting families, huge organizational advantage, fewer ties to the system as adults. Lots of free time. Have to use this to radicalizing them and disrupting the system.

- We have space and time to organize together as students.
- Something that is forgotten is that many youth are not in school. Who is tackling this? When we ask why our movement is rich and privileged, then we need to see that most of our organizing is in schools? Who is organizing young workers?
Power is always connected to domination □ if we want power, how are we dominating?
- One important role of youth: peer to peer education. Eg what democracy looks like
- It is our role to polarize society. Need to be realistic about how little time we have. We need a plan. We have the largest responsibility to make a plan. Coordinated escalation internationally.
- We have to reflect that in the occupations, we are not all the same. Women and black people don't live the occupations like men and white people. If we occupy universities, we have to be open to the rest of the world. The majority of the youth is working class. Only the occupations won't change anything. We have to keep in consideration that Most youth don't have time available. High cost of living and high cost of universities. It's not that they don't do politics because they don't want to, but because they don't have time.
- Are we really taking seriously how we are going to do this? Rupture needs to take place at a global level. Are we coordinating these movements? Do we really believe we can change?
- We need to take responsibility for what is happening. Not delegate. We need to try to solve this crisis. If we don't have a coordinated plan, it won't work. Are we seeing ourselves as revolutionary subjects? We are not the only ones, but we are among them. We need to stop being afraid of power. It's not a bad thing. The fear of power and leadership holds us back. We either get power or get smashed.
- Don't be afraid to collaborate with other generations!!

