



*"We believe for a space to be truly autonomous it must first be liberated. Liberated in our sense doesn't just mean taking something out of the hands of capitalists, but rather taking space and finding ways to use it as a weapon against the state and capital themselves."*

- "Autonomous Space Towards Liberated Space" pamphlet

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### - - - - Clarifying Where We Stand

**W**e want to be empowered. We want to learn how to self-organize. We want to take the space necessary to discover parts of ourselves that are so rarely found, a feeling that is only satisfied when we make the State get off our backs. We want space to exist. This space can be ever expanding. For our space to be liberating, for us to feel empowered to make our own decisions, the police and politicians cannot be welcome. Their existence is what constrains our lives every day, their decisions make our lives shit. They uphold a system that inherently creates more wealth for the rich and leaves us constantly compromising our quality of life. When we come to this common understanding – that the whole capitalist system: police, politicians, prisons, land destruction, banks, wars, etc is what we are against, then we also are fighting against those who uphold this system and those who defend it. Even if the police or politicians are nice to us, even if they seem reasonable, still we won't trust them because their function is to uphold a social order that we want to do away with. Let's be clear about where we stand.

<http://gettotheroots.wordpress.com>

<http://www.occupytogether.com>

<http://twitter.com/anarchyguelph>



## - - - - No Compromise vs. Cooperation

Most of us exist somewhere between 'total cooperation' and 'total non-compromise'. It's pretty much impossible to survive in this society without compromising parts of ourselves. Whether it is selling ourselves for wage slavery, being arrested, or simply getting groceries, our desire to live self-determined lives is compromised every day. There is no point in actually arguing for complete non-compromise as there are very few opportunities to exist outside of this socio-economic system of exploitation. If we cooperate with the State, we are not a threat, so we choose our position as anarchist or anti-authoritarian rebels as close as we can imagine towards 'no compromise'.

Where is the bottom line? When is enough enough? If they tell us to take down our tarps or move to another space and we agree (because they are so reasonable?), we compromise. Then they know they can walk all over us. When we cooperate, we begin a slippery slope that will in time lead to recuperation and defeat. If we begin with a stance of relative no compromise, by making decisions ourselves and not continuing to do what we are told, we feel empowered. It is in this space where we refuse to submit to demands by the State officials and police; where we find ourselves, each other, and our collective strength.

In a space that is non-compromising, demands can be infinite: we are so angry and have so many fucking demands the whole system would turn upside-down. Or, demands become meaningless because actually we are sick of asking and instead we're taking for ourselves. In the physical taking of space, a building or a park, we are beginning by taking the physical space to exist in. We don't want someone to give us permission, because then it comes with a long list of the State's imposed rules. This essentially defeats the purpose of organizing together autonomously to decide for ourselves how we want to live our lives...

## - - - - Safe for Who?

Many people believe that they need the police to be safe, and a police-free autonomous space may feel intimidating. Generally, people who trust and support the police are those who don't experience the daily abuses handed out by the police and the system, usually they are in upper-classes of society, mostly white, etc. For people who are inspired to experience a self-organized autonomous space, then this fear can be overcome by empowerment and our ability to make our own decisions without authority.

We want a culture of solidarity with those most fucked over by the State. If the police are welcome, many people from poor and marginalized communities who are more likely to experience violence at the hands of the police will be

effectively alienated. In this case the presence of police actually makes people less safe. We don't want to deter people who already exist in a daily struggle and already experience how the system is fucked. If the police are there, we would *not* have the space to find each other and determine how to live our lives. If people need the police to feel safe and don't want to experience autonomous self-organization, then why are they here, anyway? A position of no-compromise can deter people who were never our friends anyway.

## - - - - Expanding Struggle, Overcoming Fear

It takes overcoming fear, and empowered self-determined people, to resist cooperation with the State. Its armed forces are extremely violent, a constant threat to all those who refuse to cooperate. This fear is completely valid. Of course, we always need to weigh the possibility of more momentum in struggle with the reality of being brutally stomped.

Who do we want to attract to our struggle? If we cooperate with the State, we will attract people who identify with the State structure and social control. If we refuse to compromise with the State, we will attract people who are already here with us – people who feel the need to resist. We will find each other in self-organized, autonomous spaces. We gain momentum in struggle when people see our unwillingness to compromise – we become dignified, empowered, and attractive to the discontented. We become an uncontrollable collective force that instills fear in the system – the police realize when they fuck with us, it's on.

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*“ If we do not wish to find ourselves in a world where no one really lives, where no one really knows anyone else, where everyone has become a mere cog in a machine meshing with other cogs but remaining truly alone, then we must have the strength to attack alienation in every way we can. Otherwise, we may just find there is no place left where we can meet face to face. ”*

-anon.