

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Guiding Principles

- 1. We are committed to acknowledging, respecting and celebrating difference(s).**
- 2. We are committed to collectively, lovingly and courageously working vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension all people. As we forge our path, we intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.**
- 3. 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 necessary prerequisite for wanting the same for others.**
- 4. 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 folk who exist in different parts of the world.**
- 5. We are guided by the fact that Black Lives Matter, all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status or location.**
- 6. We are committed to embracing and making space for our trans brothers and sisters to participate and lead. We are committed to being self-reflexive about and dismantling cis-gender privilege and uplifting Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.**
- 7. We are committed to ensuring that the Black Lives Matter Network is a Black women affirming space free from sexism, misogyny, and male-centeredness.**

- 8. We are committed to practicing empathy; we engage comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.**
- 9. We are committed to making our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We are committed to dismantling the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work “double shifts” that require them to mother in private even as they participate in justice work.**
- 10. We are committed to disrupting the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, and especially “our” children to the degree that mothers, parents and children are comfortable.**
- 11. We are committed to fostering a queer-affirming Network. And 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.**
- 12. We are committed to fostering an intergenerational and communal Network free from ageism. We believe that all people, regardless of age, shows up with capacity to lead and learn.**
- 13. We are committed to embodying and practicing justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements with others.**