

COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE SAN DIEGO

This is the document describes the accumulated policies and rules regarding how Collective Resistance San Diego operates and makes decisions. This was accumulated as of 9.6.17.

MISSION STATEMENT

The fundamental needs and rights of the people of our communities are under attack by a tiny elite that hoards resources and authority. We cannot trust or respect any government that claims to protect us but instead ruthlessly protects the elite. We are an alliance of organizations, collectives, and individuals of various identities and perspectives working in collaboration to stop this attack. Collectively, we are anti-racist, anti-capitalist, and anti-imperialist. We are revolutionary, intersectional feminists. This alliance is non-sectarian: we welcome those who want to fight exploitation and oppression.

We seek to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable and the voices of the oppressed and the marginalized and build trust through joint work. We are committed to organizing, mobilizing, supporting and defending our communities. We work in solidarity to unify our struggles to dismantle the systems that harm us and the environment.

In addition to resisting attacks, we will work together for a just and cooperative future for San Diego and beyond. This will be accomplished by building powerful community-based movements around a shared platform for advancing political, economic, and social liberation and self-determination for all oppressed peoples. We work for concrete goals today that build toward a revolutionary future.

Our movement is based in love for each other, and the assertion that we must fight for liberation. In the words of Assata Shakur, "It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE SAN DIEGO

POINTS OF UNITY

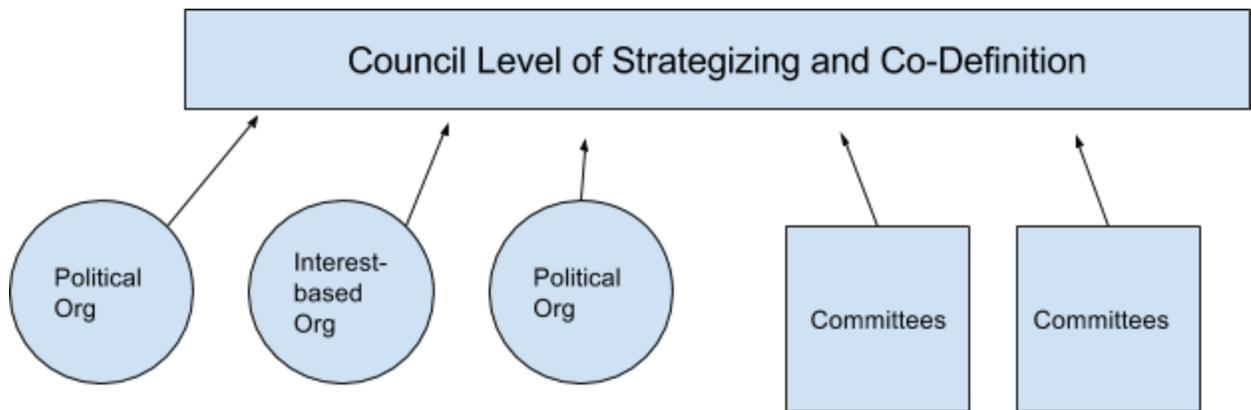
1. We are anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-war, and anti-fascist.
2. We are revolutionary. Our membership subscribes to a broad range of radical left ideologies.
3. We believe in practical action to defend all oppressed people by any means necessary, through a diversity of tactics.
4. We stand for climate and environmental justice. We see the need for a local and global transition to sustainable modes of living. We oppose the cruel and destructive treatment of animals.
5. We believe access to healthy food, clean water, clothing, safe housing, healthcare, equitable education, and transit is a basic human right.
6. We support and defend the self-determination and liberation of people of color including those from colonized continents, nations, communities and peoples.
7. We support and defend the self-determination and liberation of queer and intersex folk, and all those of marginalized gender identities and orientations.
8. We support and defend the self-determination and liberation of all workers including undocumented, incarcerated, subsistence, sex, and household laborers.
9. We support and defend the self-determination and liberation of migrants. We assert that no human being is illegal.
10. We support and defend the self-determination and liberation of the physically and/or mentally differently-abled and will work to make our movement and society supportive to their needs.
11. We are intersectional feminists; we support and defend the self-determination and liberation of womxn and trans-womxn including their right to bodily autonomy.
12. We value and respect our elders, youth and children and believe it is a shared responsibility to assure their health and well-being.
13. We support and defend the freedoms of oppressed spiritual and religious groups, including Indigenous, Jewish and Muslim peoples, and of non-believers.
14. We are pro-abolition; we demand the immediate abolishment of the enslavement and exploitation implemented through the Prison Industrial Complex and supported by the 13th Amendment.*
15. We oppose and fight national and state-sanctioned violence against all people, especially the marginalized. We actively resist the oppressive efforts of the Border Patrol, ICE, police forces and extra-state actors.
16. We hold political, civic, and community leaders responsible when they cause or permit the people and the planet to be harmed.
17. Love is and must remain the reason for our revolution and at the center of our intentions.

* “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE SAN DIEGO STRUCTURE

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CRSD Members

Political Organizations & Interest-based Groups

Each political organization or interest-based group -- like the International Socialist Organization (ISO) or or Pillars of the Community or the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) -- would send a delegate up to the CRSD level of organization.

Political organizations or interest-based groups being any collection of persons that have a fairly homogenous political view and set of long-term objectives. We'd wager that PSL has a pretty clear vision of the world as does the Democratic Autonomy Federation (DAF), while Pillars is pretty clear about what it wants.

We consider CRSD a Current level of organization. Meaning, it functions as a sort of intermediary level of social organization in which activists, organizers, or supporters co-develop and co-define policies, strategies, and goals of shared concerns and objectives. At this level we don't have to agree with DAF's or PSL's particular vision of society, we just have to agree on what we co-define. This level is significantly more heterogeneous than that of the political organization/interest-based level.

Committees & Individuals

However, we also want to be able to include individuals who may not feel reflected by any organization that is part of CRSD, or may not feel comfortable with being part of a group, or just may not be at *that* level yet. But they still agree with the goals established by CRSD. These individuals will be invited to join Committees of CRSD which will be organized around a campaign or particular goal or function. The Committees will then send delegates to the council level, thereby incorporating individuals into the decision making process of CRSD.

Process for New Organizations to Join CRSD

After CRSD is running, we anticipate new left organizations, both political organizations, and interest based organizations, to ask to or be invited to join CRSD. The following procedure will be required for any new organization to join:

1. The new organization must be sponsored by an existing organization which is a member of CRSD;
2. The new organization must assent to the Points of Unity of CRSD;

3. The new organization joining must then be approved by normal voting methods (described below).

Delegation and Voting

Delegates & Council Meetings

Each member-organization would elect two delegates from their own organizations (based on their own internal process) to be sent up to the council level (the delegates' meeting). Meanwhile, each open Committee will send two delegate from their respective committee up to the council.

Gender and Identity Balance:

- Delegates elected from Campaign Committees must have at least one delegate who is not a cis heterosexual male, and at least one delegate who is a person of color.
- Member organizations are suggested to elect delegates following the same criteria for gender and identity balance. However, for the sake of not excluding organizations which could not achieve this and for the sake of maintaining organizational autonomy, this is a suggestion and not a rule as to member organizations.

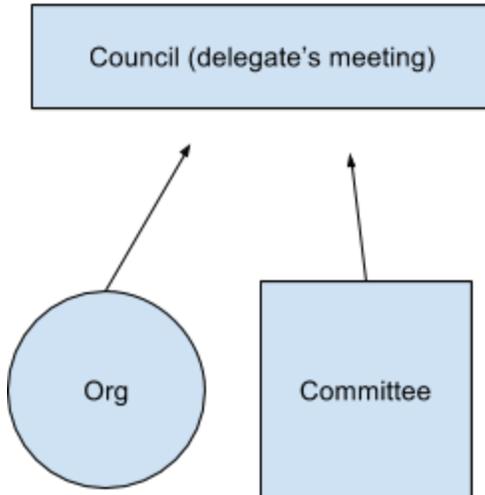
Two Delegates One Vote:

Although each Open or Campaign Committee and each Organization will send two delegates, these delegates have one vote - not two.

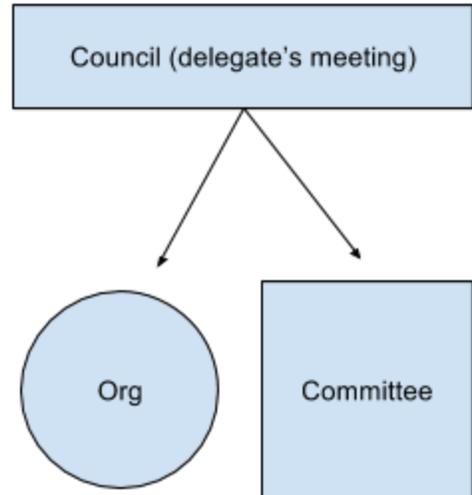
Proposals

Proposals would either be sent up to the Council from a member organization or a Committee, or be proposed by members at the council meeting. The proposal would then be worked out by the delegates at the council meeting. Upon approval to disseminate the proposal by the council, the proposal would then be sent back down to the organizational members and Committees for ratification. The organizations and Committees could also send the proposal back to the council with further modification. In this way, a sort of dialectical relationship is established.

Presentation & Modification of Proposals



Ratification of Proposals



Voting Method

As to the voting method, we propose a modified version of majority vote that is capable of giving a better sense of feedback and incorporation.

- **YES** - Implicit in a yes is the commitment of resources to a executing a proposal. Organizations voting yes, must consult with their members regarding what resources (if any) the organization can devote to carrying out the proposal, and report this at the next council meeting.
- **NEUTRAL** - Means that the organization does not endorse the proposal, but it will not attempt to block the proposal.
- **NO** - Means that the organization does not endorse the proposal and wants it Blocked.
- **40% Block Threshold** - A motion with 40% or more delegates of the council voting No will be considered unpassed and Blocked.
- **30% Tabling Threshold** - If when a proposal is initially proposed, or being voted on ratification, 30% of the delegates vote No, then the motion is tabled. When a motion is tabled for this reason, a working group will be formed between the organization(s) advocating the proposal and those voting to block it. The working group must meet before the next council meeting. The purpose of the working group is to see if it is possible for the proposal to be modified in a way that satisfies both the advocates and

those voting to block a proposal. If the working group cannot modify a tabled proposal to the satisfaction of both the advocating and blocking organizations, it can be advanced again at the following council meeting.

Semi-Autonomous Campaign Committees

Committee Creation

Once a goal or activity has been agreed upon by the Council and ratified by the organizations, a committee should be set up to work toward that goal or execute that activity.

For example, should we decide to pursue a campaign to make San Diego a sanctuary city, a committee will be created to work toward this end. Similarly, if we agree to fundraise for bail, a committee would be set up for that purpose.

CRSD will give general parameters to each of the committees, but that the committees should run their own day to day affairs through an internally democratic procedure. This allows each committee to function without burdensome procedures requiring approval or checks from CRSD.

Open/Campaign Committees

Open committees are meant to benefit from the energies of unaffiliated activists and people new to politics. Using the example from above, someone might be interested in working with the CRSD's Sanctuary City Project but is not a member of any of the organizations (like DAF, PSL, Raices Sin Fronteras, Pillars etc) which make up CRSD. In such a case, these persons would join the Campaign Committee (like the hypothetical Sanctuary City Project) and operate, participate, and decide within that semi-autonomous committee as a full member. In other words, they may not agree with the overall vision of the individual orgs that make up CRSD, but they agree with the general principles of CRSD and want to work on the objectives of that particular Campaign.

- **Open/Campaign Committees to Elect Delegates** - Every open committee will elect two delegates to send to the council meeting. This will allow unaffiliated activists to participate in the decision making process of CRSD. The delegate can also function as a point person to report back to CRSD as a whole on the work of the Committee.
- **Existing Member Interest-Based Organizations** - Where a member organization is already working in a field of struggle or cited in a specific community, CRSD should support that organization's work, as opposed to creating redundancy of a committee.

Non-CRSD Member participation in Campaign/Open Committees:

Members of CRSD here means any individual who assents to the Points of Unity.

OPEN Committees here means committees which the CRSD makes open to non-members. These committees will primarily be for campaign purposes.

Individuals who do not assent to the points of unity, but not non-member organizations themselves, may join OPEN committees, if they agree with the goals of the committee.

However committee chairs must be members of CRSD. Initially co-chairs will be appointed by the Council at the time of the formation of a committee. However, if a co-chair has to step down, or if the committee wants to rotate chair(s), committees may elect their own chair(s), but the new chair(s) must also be CRSD members.

Additionally, individuals elected as delegates by OPEN committees to be sent to Council must be members of CRSD.

Closed Committees

However for security purposes, and because some of the internal executive activities of CRSD will need to be done at committee, some committees will have to be open only to members of the organizations which make up CRSD and trusted members of existing open committees. For example, the communications, legal, next meeting, and education committees would likely be closed.

Leadership for Marginalized Communities

As CRSD is committed to the liberation and advancement of oppressed peoples, CRSD will seek to actively support members from marginalized communities in taking leadership positions within committees, especially as those committees pertain to said communities.

POC and other Identity Caucuses

Parallel to the committees, a POC and Identity Causes structure is invited to be formed. These Caucuses will be given the right to send a voting delegate to the Council and to intervene in the agenda of the Council.

These Caucuses are avenues for CRSD members from oppressed communities to have the space to have longform discussions on CRSD work and issues. The Caucuses can be formed by any CRSD member(s), however they must reflect the CRSD's Points of Unity.

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CAMPAIGN/OPEN COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

Campaign Committees should be proposed by CRSD members (individuals) or member orgs. In an effort to help the Council and CRSD at large decide how to spend its limited human power and resources strategically, and as an exercise to allow Campaign Committees to think through their projects, we ask that members proposing the chartering of Campaign Committees bring short proposals to the Council that address as many points listed below as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Goals:

- State goal - such as a reform from a local government or private entity, for example a Sanctuary City policy, rent control ordinance, divestment, etc.
- Strategic goals - how will this campaign help oppressed folks and how will it help CRSD and the Left at large develop capacity.

Context/Research:

- Who has the power to give the campaign what it wants?
- How do we move those groups or institutions? What are their limitations?
- Who are our friends?
- Who are our enemies?
- Are there groups already working on the issue?

People:

- Must have two CRSD members willing to serve as co-chairs, and primary organizers. These co-chairs or the delegates elected by the Campaign Committee will report on the work of the committee at CRSD Council of Delegates meetings
- Attempt to develop an estimate of how many total member of the Campaign Committee will be needed to pursue goals in a sustainable manner.
- What non-CRSD groups does the campaign anticipate working with? How will decisions be made between groups? Any potential conflicts anticipated?

Resources:

- Besides people/labor addressed above, what resources will be needed to achieve the goals of the campaign? Costs? Materials needed?
- How will the Campaign Committee acquire the needed resources?

Timeline:

- How long do the folks proposing the campaign believe the campaign will take? Note that some campaign committees might address a whole front - such as opposing police abuse of POC, which will involve many successive campaigns. This makes sense and is

fine. However, the committee will likely still benefit from mapping out its individual campaigns along lines similar to what is called for under this protocol.

- Can that timeline be divided into meaningful stages that can guide strategy or tactics?
- Exit Plan - once a campaign is over, how will the campaign committee coordinate wrapping up with allies and communities so as to avoid ghosting on people?

COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE SAN DIEGO CLOSED COMMITTEE

Closed Committee are for running the internal functions of CRSD, or for purposes which require a higher level of security and therefore should be limited to CRSD members. Closed Committees should be proposed by CRSD members, member orgs, or the Council. We ask that members proposing a Closed Committee bring a short proposal addressing the issues listed below.

Purpose:

- Internal business, such as the now existing Next Meeting, Structure, and Communication committees. Each of these is a working group dealing with specific internal functions of CRSD
- Other - there are other conceivable goals which may be best done only with CRSD members. If so, we ask that proposing members specify this goal(s).

Membership:

- Most Closed Committee are open to all CRSD members.
- A smaller category for security purposes. If members want to create a Closed Committee which is not open to all CRSD members, the proposing members should be prepared to explain a definition of who is allowed to join and why, and how the committee will be kept accountable to the democratic structures of CRSD.

Resources:

- Labor power
- Other resources

Timeline:

- Ongoing - some Closed Committees will likely be ongoing, such as Communications, Next Meeting, or Defense committees.
- Finite project or task - other Closed Committees will be based on accomplishing specific tasks or goals called for by a CRSD resolution (passed by Council and ratified by orgs and Campaign Committees).