

SOLIDARITY & DEFENSE:

Who We Are & What We Stand For

NOW IS THE TIME FOR SOLIDARITY & DEFENSE

WHO WE ARE

We are a network of people committed to providing solidarity and defense to communities under attack. We organize along directly democratic and participatory lines and are independent of all political parties and their affiliated groups.

We believe in and support people young and old; queer and gender non-conforming; immigrants and refugees; working people, students, the poor; indignados; the ungovernable and those seeking a new society. We remember Trayvon Martin. We fight alongside the Standing Rock Water Protectors and the people of Flint who struggle against the poisoning of our water. We stand with the New York Transit Workers Alliance and the masses at airports demanding to be reunited with their families. When we work together to realize a world where we can live and love as equals, we practice solidarity.

We are Solidarity & Defense Michigan and in order to live and love, we must fight!

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

We have already begun. We are currently witnessing a mass groundswell of people refusing to remain silent. We know that no one is coming to save us. It is ourselves alone, the mass of people under attack, that will turn the tide. Networks and defense committees are being organized for the social struggle ahead: to build solidarity with and between all those communities under attack and to engage in active and direct defense. We seek to expand and continue this work.

HOW DO WE BEGIN?

Solidarity is our best defense. We prioritize the following areas of action and methods:

AREAS OF ACTION

- *ANTI-RACIST AND ANTI-FASCIST ACTION.*

We support united action against fascist threats

- *IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE DEFENSE.*

We participate in campaigns against the government's deportation squads

- *LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, QUEER, TRANS & GENDER NONCONFORMING LIBERATION.*

To live and love, we must fight

- *REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM.*

We support people's right to choose and any active resistance to defend that choice.

- *SOLIDARITY WITH & DEFENSE OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE AND ASSAULT.*

We rely on personal networks to provide support to victims of abuse.

- *PUBLIC EDUCATION.*

We support and participate in teachers, students and parents organizing in the school systems.

- *EVICITION DEFENSE.*

Housing is a matter of justice. We intend to keep people in their homes

- *AGAINST POLICE TERROR, PRISONS AND REPRESSION.*

We support the movements that confront police terror. We seek a society without prisons and the (in)justice system. We are opposed to all forms of State violence and repression.

METHODS

1. STATEWIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK.

It is clear that the State is not going to protect us against assaults to our human rights. We must organize response networks to support our families, neighbors and communities who are facing increasing attacks. S & D Michigan is organizing to develop a system of rapid alert in the event of fascist organizing, racist, homophobic, sexist attacks in schools, immigration raids, etc. with the purpose of mobilizing as many people as we can to assist each other in responding to these emergencies.

2. POPULAR EDUCATION.

S & D Michigan organizes to help empower people to take control of their own learning and use education as a tool in the fight for social change. As the right continues to provide “alternative facts” we must aggressively counter the suppression of knowledge with creating opportunities to educate each other on issues that affect our communities. Our networking and education is aided by public events such as discussion groups, film showings and cultural events. We see Popular Education as one way to create space to learn about former and current political struggles as we organize in today’s repressive environment.

3. CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION.

We believe it is important to develop a database of resources, organizations, movements, and so on, with the purpose of expanding the network and being able to respond more effectively. This would also involve tracking legislation, political movements, and fascist organizing, among other things. The more informed we are, the stronger we can be in our organizing efforts.

SOLIDARITY & DEFENSE TIMELINE

Following the election cycle, the fascist promise of more deportations and more state violence, and the rise in hate crimes around the country, a small group from Detroit and Lansing began meeting and laying the groundwork for the Solidarity & Defense network

Multiple pro-Trump rallies filled with racists, fascists, and Nazis occur in Lansing. Both are disrupted by locals including Solidarity & Defense.

Lansing Rapid Response
Network organizing underway.

DEC 2016

MAR 2017

JAN 2017

APR 2017

Statewide S&D meetings occurring monthly. Rapid Response La Migra Watch organizing underway in Detroit to share information about and build resistance to I.C.E. raids.

Different groups in the neo-Nazi movement attempt to hold a rally in Pikesville, Kentucky. S&D traveled to the town in the days prior to the event and conducted an outreach campaign to talk to locals about their perception of the planned rally and the dangers of fascism. The subsequent anti-Nazi rally greatly outnumbered the Nazis themselves.



SOLIDARITY & DEFENSE TIMELINE

First publication of the Lansing Solidarity & Defense newsletter, called No More Illusions.

Solidarity & Defense works with multiple groups from around the state to organize a counter-demonstration to an anti-Muslim hate march planned in Lansing. The pro-Muslim side had three times more people than the anti-Muslim side. Organizing efforts included massive flyering around the state and educational flyers distributed to the targeted neighborhoods.

MAY 2016

JUN 10, 2017

JUN 2017

JUN 11, 2017

S&D locals are established in Detroit, Flint, Ann Arbor/ Ypsilanti, Lansing, and Grand Rapids

The immigration police conduct a massive raid of hundreds of undocumented Chaldean workers in the Detroit area. Solidarity & Defense mobilized people as quickly as possible to help community members physically blockade the final bus that was kidnapping their friends and family.



GET IN TOUCH!

[HTTP://SOLIDARITYNDEFENSE.NET/](http://solidarityanddefense.net/)

LANSINGSOLIDARITYANDDEFENSE@GMAIL.COM

[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/SOLIDARITYDEF](https://twitter.com/solidaritydef)

