

Towards a path to acuerpamiento*

In the words of the Latin-American & Caribbean Acuerpamiento* strategy focus group, "We gather around a path forged from and lived through our bodies. We gather around processes and organizations which tread a familiar path. We gather to keep on blooming through tough times, in the face of which we stubbornly insist on advancing and transforming the world".

Here you will find a route proposal, a path to collective support. It is made up of five phases or threads which intertwine to braid a way to the future. It is ever-moving and open to co-construction.

* The original article uses the word "acuerpamiento" which does not have an English equivalent. It derives from the word "cuerpo" which means "body" - therefore, the closest literal translation would be "embodiment." Nonetheless, "acuerpamiento" means something entirely different: the Association of Spanish Language Academies defines it as to "Support a person for someone or something, such as an initiative or a proposal", a definition that feminist movements have expanded upon. This is key to the correct understanding of this work.

I recognize that my body is my territory; through it, I feel, think, and act.
I recognize my personal history, my privileges, the oppressions, and the wounds that injustice has left me with.
I recognize that achieving a good, fair, and dignified life motivates me to mobilize.
I reclaim my affections, memories, and my ancestral knowledge, and recognize them as a part of my identity.
I reconnect my body, providing space for affection, spirituality, the ritual and the symbolic, through reason and wisdom.
I reflect on, review, and rewrite the scars of injustice in order to overcome them and I decide and take action to transform life, through affection for my body and my personal history.

EMBODYING

We recognize that injustices don't just "happen to me", and that there are others willing to transform their conditions of life.
We see ourselves in the experiences of others, embracing their pain and joy, from the plurality of differences.
We meet and share, we talk about what happens to us, we listen to each other and learn, recognizing our stories.
We bond through our diversities and everyday life, confirming that we are not alone and that transformation is possible if we work together.
We organize because we share the same wounds and the same aspirations of justice and change. And because together we are stronger.
We build community, we accompany, support and hold each other, both in-person and virtually; through the political, spiritual, symbolic and concrete aspects of cooking, eating, laughing, crying, knitting, dancing, marching, ritualizing, and walking together towards transformation.

COLLECTIVIZING

We sustain ourselves as a collective through practices of mutual care in the streets, fields and in the cyberspace. We protect and shelter each other. We take care of ourselves and our bodies and territories.

We recognize the power that lies in collectively healing the wounds of injustice, through ancestral, ritual, and creative means.

We navigate conflicts in a wise and respectful way. We listen to each other and speak from empathy and care, respecting our differences and building bridges between us.

We **look at and work** together on our exclusionary practices, such as racism, trans-hate, and all forms of discrimination.

We continually **look back on and review** our collective work.

We ask ourselves about what we need to transform and project our path.

DEFINITION OF "ACUERPAMIENTO"

We have defined

acuerpamiento as the **action** of speaking, planning, and walking with a shared purpose. This gathering and bonding in solidarity enables us to become a body larger than our own one. A body which also belongs to the people and organizations we meet along the way, connecting and mobilizing for the defense of life and the planet.

It is the **backbone and practice** that supports collective work, and assures us that we are not alone. It strengthens and ushers us collectively towards the transformation of the injustices we have come to know. When we rally together, we take back joy, strength, dignity, and affection. We revitalize our political, activist, and spiritual energies, paving the way towards affection, joy, pleasure, laughter, and the healing of our bodies, communities and the entire planet.

NETWORKING

We connect with groups beyond our own circles, establishing collaborative alliances with other organizations, groups, allies, movements and territories.

We foster new and safe spaces, ensuring coordinated, collaborative, and reciprocal relationships.

We build trust and agreements with other groups and allies, in order to act with the strength and conviction of being able to count on each every one of us.

We build and strengthen networks of solidarity that enable us to face whatever may come; we share and we transform together.

We share, exchange and expand on experiences, contexts, knowledge, good practices and tools between organizations and allies.

We promote, disseminate, support, apply and replicate actions of others.

We identify the most common urgencies and come up with quick and safe response protocols, and solidarity activation & alert mechanisms, based on specific calls for collective support from organizations.

TRANSFORMING

We recognize that all our causes aim to transform injustices, expanding our understanding of them and addressing them, due to a caring for life and for the planet.

We assume as our own actions carried out for a just, dignified, and good life.

We reclaim humanity and the memories of the peoples, to build alternative futures.

We build narratives and communications from a transfeminist and intercultural standpoints, full of our hopes for the future.

We create new arenas of action, through play, creativity and joy, and intertwine ourselves between our differences, territories and generations.

We co-build a movement where we share the purpose of social change with newer and future generations that extends beyond our own lives.

CARRYING OUT COLLECTIVE AND SOLIDARITY ACTIONS

We recognize organizations that are doing similar work to our own.

We contact these organizations, groups, and people with whom we share common goals, to get to know each other and plan and act together.

We build a shared objective and a political plan, combining advocacy, communication, strategies, research, etc.

We strategically **evaluate and communicate** what we need and what we can offer to contribute to the shared goal and plan.

We host spaces that build and foster unity, such as meetings, in-person and virtual assemblies, platforms like Track, instant messaging apps, or social networks.

We support different communities and movements by means of spreading manifestos, statements, complaints, street actions - among others -, disseminating and replicating it to resonate throughout different territories.

We spread awareness of specific cases to reach people that are not involved in these movements, to show them what is happening and why we ask for justice.

We solve practical problems with our communities, to expand the access to economic, climate justice, and sexual and reproductive rights, and ultimately, to live a life free of violence.

ANTIRACIST EDUCATION - TRANSFEMINISMS - DECISION
 DISPOSITION - POSITION - PRACTICE - BEING IN THE DOING
 PROCESS - STRATEGY - METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION.



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ON
THE **RIGHT TRACK**