

THE GREEN DECLARATION

On Friday morning we hope to issue a Declaration to the media. We want somehow to sum up what is going on here, we do we really mean by 'green politics' and what do we hope will come of the Gathering. This isn't going to be easy and no one person can sit down and draft such a thing. We need poets to give it that little extra bit of feeling. This has to be good because we'd like to see it on posters and in leaflets. It needs to speak from everyone at the Gathering to all those people out there waiting for our message....! More positively we need to give this Declaration a sense of direction, and purpose. Who are the greens and where are they going? The main purpose of the Gathering is that of green solidarity, how can we begin working together to build an effective political challenge.

I've drafted a few ideas below, I'm not particularly happy with it but I hope it will provide us with a beginning. Please amend this copy yourself, write separate sheets or whatever and hand them in at the Information Tent. The questionnaire on the back is also to probe what you feel about this. We'd like to get as much participation as possible and are therefore going to have a series of workshops - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at six o'clock outside the front of the Women's Tent. We can meet here and then find somewhere to discuss it. On the Thursday evening we want to be putting the final wording together for the Media Meeting on site at 11.00am on the Friday. Hopefully we shall then have something in front of us for all the Saturday Green Solidarity workshops when hopefully we can start looking at some concrete suggestions on where we go from here. Anyway without more ado, here's some of my ideas..... David Taylor

Thousands of us are assembled here at the Green Gathering to declare what we see as the essential principles of the green movement and to plan the building of this movement into a force for effective social and political change. Our vision effects all aspects of life but we see seven key principles as lying at the heart of our vision.

Firstly, we declare our opposition to violence, personal and political, implied or actual. The dominant worldview glorifies violence and suppresses our natural instinct to share and live peacefully. We know that a peaceful society cannot be achieved except through peaceful actions. The means are the ends and nonviolent action is the source of strength for this change.

Secondly, we declare our fundamental opposition to 'land ownership'. We belong equally to this planet and we all have a right to share in its bounty and beauty. Those who 'own' land often use it as a means of building their own personal power. We know that Capital can only be produced through applying Labour to Land and we know that people (Labour) can only exist through the life-giving qualities of the Land. Land access is thus fundamental to any programme for economic change.

Thirdly, we declare our opposition to a society dominated by distorted masculine values. We see men in positions of power in education, the army, government, the nuclear industry, business, science establishments and the churches. We cannot change their system by participating in it, our challenge is through the construction of alternative means of communicating and taking decisions. It does not depend on hierarchies or orders. We work through consensus and collective decision taking.

Fourthly, we declare that personal responsibility for the welfare of the planet, animals and people is our duty and birthright. This responsibility is denied us. We seek to redress the balance, ensure that it is not kept in the hands of the few and discover the power that we can have over our own lives,

We know that when we claim and exercise our responsibility we are releasing an untapped source of strength. We are discovering that we can choose the direction of our lives and through supporting each other, we can build those changes.

Fifthly, we declare the need of a fundamental re-distribution of wealth as a basic requirement in our programme for economic change. The right simply to exist, to eat enough, is denied to one out of every eight people. That and the guarantee of basic material security for all must be guaranteed in any radical economic programme.

Sixthly, we declare an end to boring politics, the politics of stuffy MPs and fixed, confrontational debates. This is the politics for the people, not the kind of politics designed to bore the people silly. Ours is a revolution of laughter, of self-expression and fun. We can open ourselves to the present and enjoy what is going on around us, the tinsel glitter of materialism does not attract us. Nor is work just a job, it is the creative outlet of our human energies. It is a vital part of our whole personality. Work cannot be defined in terms of monetary reward, nor isolated between the hours of nine and five.

Seventhly, we declare that none of these changes will happen unless we begin to look within ourselves. This political challenge is coming from outside the conventional framework. We challenge aspects and principles that are common to parties of the Left, Right and Centre. That is why we are greens, our challenge happens on a personal, cultural and political level. The three cannot be separated. It is a movement of liberation and discovery.

The inter-linked principles of ecology, feminism, nonviolence, direct democracy, social justice, playpower and personal development form the bedrock of our radicalism. We call upon all those who know and acknowledge these principles, to forge new bonds and to develop new means of working together that will allow us to build an effective political challenge.

~~PPHEEENW!!~~ I suppose that's something to be going on with, reads a bit heavy to me. Still, re-write it, cut it about or whatever, come to a workshop and hand this in at the Info Tent.

Questions

Do you think these seven principles sum up what you understand by green politics?

Is there anything here you disagree with?

What's missing and here we want principles not policies? How can we make it shorter and more lyrical? Please write your comments on a separate sheet of paper if there isn't enough space here.