

# DON'T PANIC, ORGANIZE!

## MEETING THE MOMENT OF A SECOND TRUMP PRESIDENCY



**Donald Trump has again ascended to the Presidency. What should we expect from a second Trump term and how should we respond?**

### 1. No Choice But to Fight

The "choice" of this election, like all elections, presented us with no choice at all: one program of open reaction and the other friendly-faced genocide. Still, a Trump victory was far from inevitable.

Presented with an opportunity to overhaul their platform, the Democratic Party instead swapped one stand-in for another without any significant change in position. This was most glaring in Biden and later Harris's willingness to sacrifice the votes of Muslim and Arab Americans by refusing to even slow—let alone stop—US facilitation of Israel's genocidal wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

But other factors prevailed too, including the Democrats' failure to articulate anything resembling a plan to address compounding crises around the cost of living, housing, bodily autonomy, and healthcare.

As well, let's keep in mind that Trump is no aberration. He is as American as apple pie, a product of the system of domination that structures our society.

So here we are. While you might be feeling fear, anger, and despair right now, it's not a time to back down. **It's time to step up.**

### 2. Hit the Streets

Mass demonstrations and protests play an important role in lifting spirits, creating a sense of shared purpose, and publicly displaying the potential power of organized movements. They are especially important in the moments immediately after a crisis or major event—like the one we're living through right now.

**But demonstrations won't be enough.** For decades we have seen the limits of mass protest marches. While symbolically powerful, they fail to create the kind of leverage needed to dramatically shift the course of events.

### 3. Get Organized

Bring the energy from the streets back home by getting organized and building power in everyday institutions of social life. This might mean organizing a union at work, tenant union at your apartment complex, an assembly in your neighborhood, or a student organization at school.

Don't get us wrong, none of these things are simple or easy to do—that's the point! If we want to create real material leverage that can meet the moment and ultimately transform society from the bottom up, we have to build popular power over the long term to control the places where we work, live, or study.

### 4. Put the Hurt On

Amidst Trump's first term, movements learned to focus collective pressure. For example, targeting airports with mass shutdowns and welcoming parties for migrants stymied his first attempt at a Muslim ban. Later, thousands set up encampments outside Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities to demand an end to the administration's vicious kids-in-cages and child separation policies.

To counter the repressive policies of the incoming administration, **we must identify strategic targets and force them to reckon with our collective strength.**

Still, while protest marches or even prolonged actions might disrupt the normal function of society for a short period, organization in everyday sites of struggle—our workplaces, neighborhoods, and schools—can create deeper, more prolonged disruptions that really put the hurt on.

Once we've built the organization and power, we have to exert it through labor, rent, and student strikes, as well as other confrontational mass tactics and approaches that can disrupt business and politics as usual.

### 5. Consolidate Popular Power

Organized disruptions give us a taste of our real power: we make this world run, and we can make it stop, too. But what would it look like to democratically control where we live, work, or study...for good?

We call this **popular power, the ability of combative social movements to give people the leverage needed to begin exerting control over their own everyday institutions.** Building the organization and power to confront our present moment is one step toward this greater popular power.

### 6. Find a Political Home

While organizations rooted in everyday sites of struggle are the frontlines of any effective mass social movement, we also recognize the importance of developing a set of political perspectives, strategies, and tactics that extend beyond this moment—towards a revolutionary horizon.

Black Rose/Rosa Negra is our **political home.** We strategize together so we can act together, all pushing in the same direction toward our ultimate objective of **social revolution and libertarian socialism.** We are fighting for a world without presidents, bosses, or billionaires; where all have enough to flourish and decisions are made directly and democratically.

**Ready to fight alongside us? Reach out.**



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