

Writing a Solidarity Statement

Considerations and Process Questions



Building Movement Project

Activating Nonprofits | Fueling Change



SOLIDARITY IS



Writing a Solidarity Statement

Process Questions to Consider

Sometimes, your organization may wish to draft and release a Solidarity Statement during crises, movement moments, anniversaries of important social justice events, and more.

If you are ready to write a solidarity statement, [Building Movement Project](#) and [SolidarityIs](#) have developed this tool with process questions that your organization might want to consider.

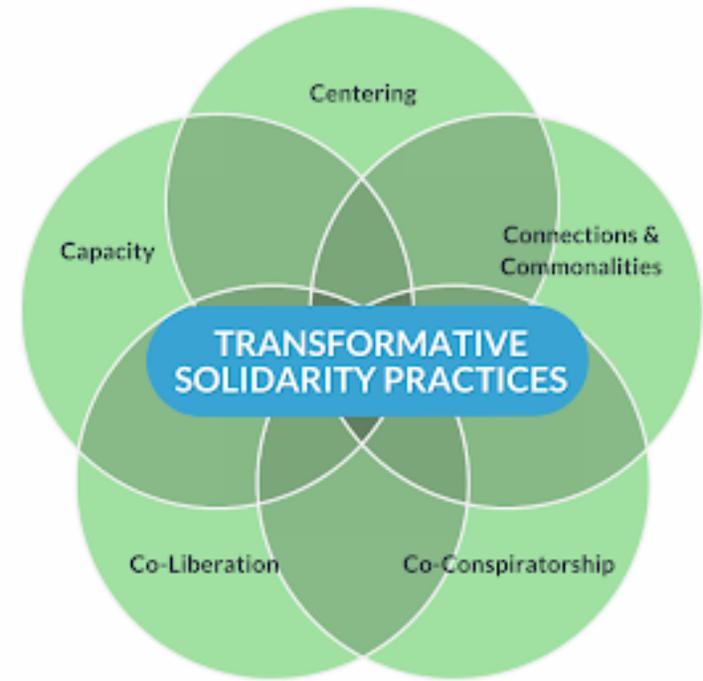
During this process, we encourage you to reflect on your vision and intended impact; identify audiences and core messages; build and sustain relationships; and determine your capacity and process.



Graphic notes: Onibaba Studio | Cori Nakamura Lin

What are the core elements of Solidarity Statements?

- They **center** the voices, needs, and demands of directly affected communities and organizations that represent them.
- They **connect** the common roots of systemic injustice across movements, while acknowledging that we all hold distinct and similar histories and experiences of dealing with oppression.
- They articulate **visions of co-liberation**, including mutual freedom and redistribution of power that recognizes that we can't all be free, equal, or whole if any community is being oppressed.
- They include ideas and examples of how we can be **co-conspirators** on the issue that the solidarity statement addresses, with respect, humility and accountability.
- They are not just used for a one time event but are **part of a sustainable, long-term, movement building strategy**.





Clarify your vision and intended impact

- What do you want your Solidarity Statement to convey? Take a look at the image below for ideas.
- Why should we make a statement right now?
- Have we made a statement before in a similar instance? What did we learn from the process?
- How can the statement draw connections between what happened and root causes or systemic or historic injustices?





Build and sustain relationships

- What are the partnerships you need to build to co-create the solidarity statement?
- What do your partners want us to do? What do you need to ask consent/permission to do?
- How can you stay accountable?
- How might you sustain these relationships beyond the solidarity statement?
- If you don't have the right partnerships at this moment, how might you amplify messages from impacted communities?





Determine the type of message you want to send.

Not all solidarity statements need to be a long press release or full expression of ideas. Sometimes, organizations will choose a lower lift such as sharing a partner's social media post. At other times, when an organization has strong partnerships or a track record of working on an issue, it may opt for a fuller statement. The graphic illustration seen here illustrates how solidarity opportunities exist on a continuum, and how they can send ripples of awareness and action.





Identify your audience and core messages

- Who are the audiences for the statement?
- What is the message you are sending to your community? To the communities affected? To the general public and stakeholders?
- What communities will our statement center? How can we be specific?





Determine your organizational capacity

- What challenges does our organization face in writing a solidarity statement?
- What is our organizational capacity to overcome obstacles?



This image includes a few reasons why organizations struggle, ranging from not wanting to seem performative or being concerned about their lack of authentic partnerships.



Determine process and decision-making

- Which staff will edit, vet, and approve the Solidarity Statement?
- Do we have a process for asking for input from our partners?
- What skills and/or resources does our organization need to have to write and launch a solidarity statement ?
- What is the timeline for creation and launch?



Assess the impact of your statement

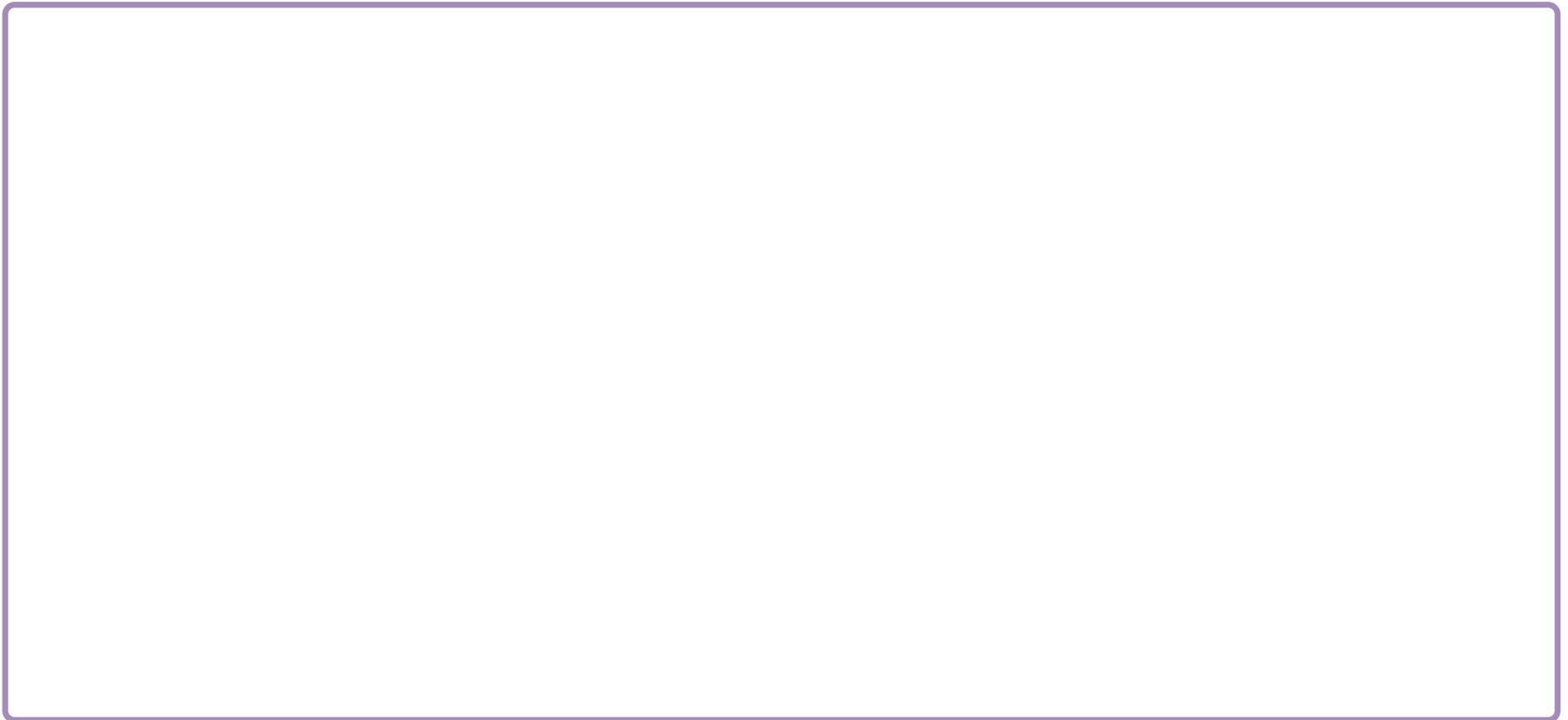
- What is the impact of the solidarity statement ?
 - Is this statement causing any harm to marginalized communities?
 - Are your constituents taking action ?
 - Does the statement build connections with new partners?
- How is your organization listening and incorporating feedback you are receiving?
- What happens if you get attacked or critiqued? How can your organization respond (if necessary) with grace, compassion, and accountability?





Debrief and Review

- How can we practice accountability with our solidarity? How do we continue building solidarity after the statement?
- What can we learn and change about our solidarity statement creation and launch process?
- How do we continue building relationships within and beyond our organizations/coalitions?
- How do we continue to work with our own communities beyond a statement? What programs or activities, conversations and dialogues can we spearhead/integrate?



Solidarity Opportunities: Examples



For your consideration: what opportunities are there for your organization to write a solidarity statement to show your support with diverse communities and issues?

For solidarity opportunities, check out [this calendar](#) of social justice moments in the coming months. We invite you to proactively be in conversation with community and colleagues around additional solidarity opportunities.

Note: this is not a comprehensive list - there are many times throughout the year that may be a call for your organization to show up in solidarity.

Disability Pride Month

Celebrated every July, it is an opportunity to honor the history, achievements, experiences, and struggles of the disability community.

Anniversary of the March on Washington (August 28th)

The 60th Anniversary of the history event which saw Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I Have a Dream Speech” and called for action to eradicate systems that perpetuate racism, poverty, and violence by standing for peace, justice, and equity.

Celebrate Bi+ Visibility Day (September 23rd)

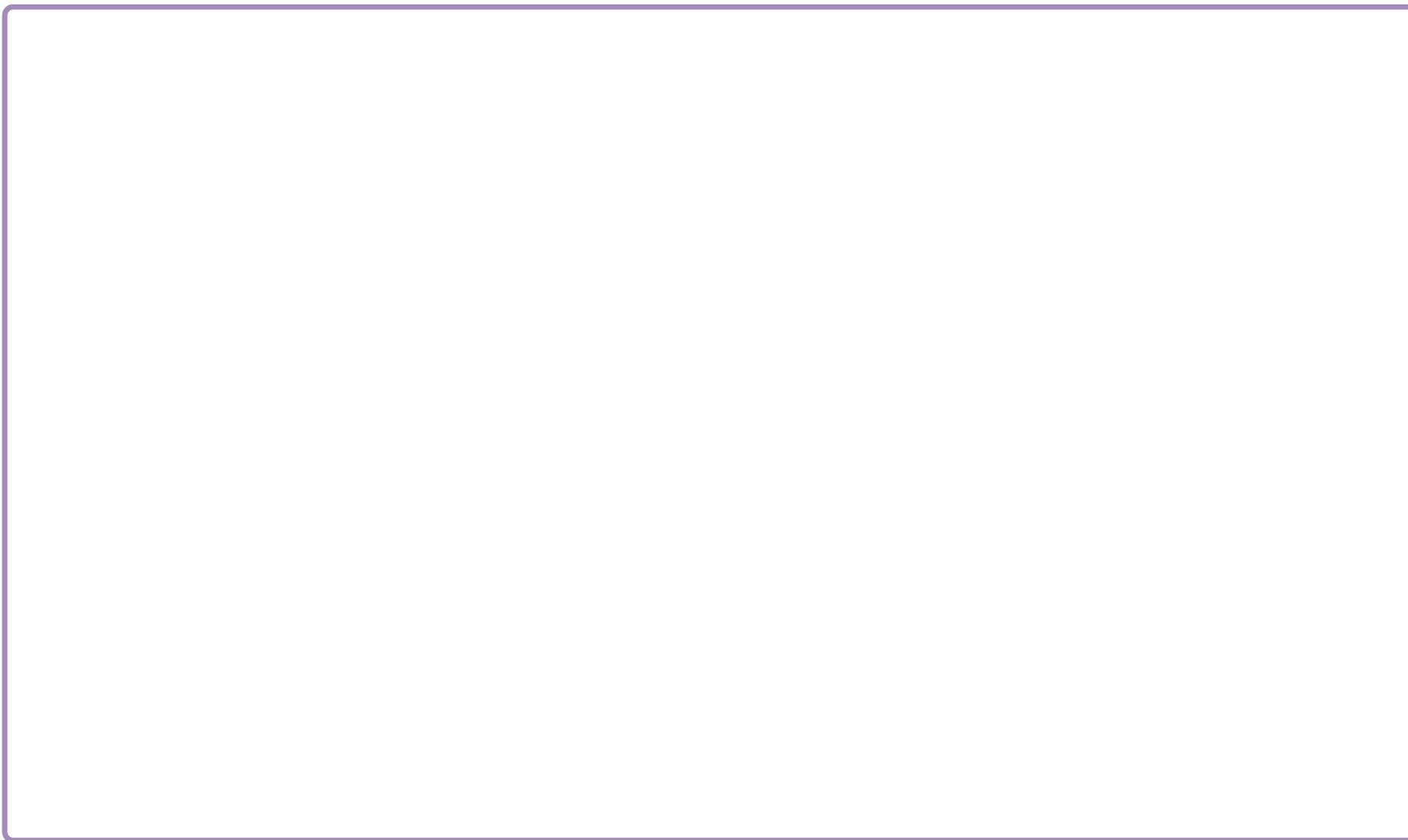
Bi Visibility Day is a call to recognise and celebrate Bi+ history, Bi+ community and culture, and all the Bi+ people in their lives. This is its 25th year.

Solidarity Statements: Examples

- Solidarity with the movement to stop Cop City & defend the Weelaunee Forest (2023)
- Bay Area Latinx and Asian Community Groups Unite to Support Half Moon Bay Victims and Survivors (2023)
- Movement for Black Lives Statement on Anti-Asian Violence (2021)
- Solidarity Letter from the Immigrant Justice Movement (2020)
- Lifted Voices Statement of Solidarity With the Water Protectors of #NoDAPL (2016)
- Statement of the Palestinian Youth Movement USA Branch in Support of the Weekend of Resistance in St. Louis and Ferguson (2014)



Your Notes and Reflections



About Building Movement Project and Solidarity Is

The Building Movement Project supports and pushes the nonprofit sector to tackle the most significant social issues of our times by developing research, creating tools and training materials, providing guidance, and facilitating networks for social change.

An initiative of the Building Movement Project, Solidarity Is generates tools, trainings, and narratives to facilitate transformative solidarity practices for movement building organizations and activists who are invested in meaningful social change.

We offer workshops to organizations, coalitions, and networks that are committed to social change, solidarity, and movement building, and are looking for language, resources, tools, and frameworks to strengthen their practices. If you are interested in partnering with the BMP and Solidarity Is team for a workshop or training, please contact us at solidarityis@buildingmovement.org.