

**Radical Strategies for Electoral Politics**  
**Gender JUST**  
**22 October 2016**

Radical Principles

1. Refusal to engage/refusal to participate in electoral politics is a form of reclaiming stolen mandates.
2. The capacity of office holders to implement radical policies is not dependent on the extent to which they as individuals espouse radical values.
3. Not all elections are created equally - some kinds of elections and office holders are more available to accountability to marginalized values and communities (e.g., municipal office holders versus presidential office holders).

For each principle, we invite you to respond to the following questions:

1. What are some examples of campaigns/actions/groups that exemplify the performance of this principle?
2. To what extent does this principle look the same or different when enacted by an individual versus by a community or organization? E.g., individuals may or may not vote, but both individuals and communities to choose to endorse or not endorse.
3. Are electoral politics the most critical intervention for an issue in need of transformative change? Or is it secondary to energy better focused elsewhere - such as on the shadow state (NPIC), a community, or a culture? E.g., educational accommodations for transyouth hold a very different value when their families and communities are supportive versus when they are not.

Resources:

W.E.B. DuBois's "Why I Won't Vote" (1956) <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/298.html>

Conrad Ryan, "I'm an Anarchist and I Vote" (2016)

<http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/37922-i-m-an-anarchist-and-i-vote>

Hari Ziyad, "Not Voting is Not a Privilege" (2016)

<http://blackyouthproject.com/not-voting-is-not-a-privilege/>

Ballot Ready: information on all offices and legislation on a US ballot anywhere

<https://www.ballotready.org/>

Vote for Judges: judge evaluations from bar associations, a basic measure of competence

<http://www.voteforjudges.org/>