



*CAPCR Shout Out*

## **CAPCR Statement on Diversity of Tactics**

“It is our duty to fight for our freedom.  
It is our duty to win.  
We must love each other and support each other.  
We have nothing to lose but our chains.”  
— Assata Shakur

Our love is the foundational building block of the revolution’s paradigm shift. “We must love each other and support each other” is the fundamental principle in the Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression’s (CAPCR) support for a diversity of tactics.

The police accountability community in St. Louis is fluid and goes through ebbs and flows of involvement. With the shooting death of Mike Brown and the subsequent Ferguson Uprising this community has grown and maintained a sustained front against police crimes and repression. With this coming together we are often faced with stretching our own perceptions, experiences of oppression, and privilege into an inclusive big-picture understanding.

Respect for a diversity of tactics compels each of us to recognize and affirm the diverse set of perceptions and skills each of us brings to the movement. This doesn’t mean that everyone has to agree with every tactic taken, but that each of us has a space for plugging in and making a difference. Reducing revolutionary actions to “good” or “bad” tactics splinters us and shifts the focus away from the issues in an effort to divide us, whether that be by intention or merely a by-product.

We are most effective when we can connect together the continuum of strategy and tactics into a single narrative so that our collective strength is maximized and the legitimacy of all our voices is recognized and magnified.

There are many ways in which to respect diversity of tactics.

One is to recognize when solidarity activists or grassroots groups plan actions it almost always develops around tactics they find most effective.

CAPCR recognizes the need to respect each action in terms of the intention of its planners. Therefore, we support the idea that when attending actions which are created by groups other than your own, people not bring their agendas with them but respect the parameters of that action.

This is in no way to be interpreted as a statement that any set of actions is more effective than others, but is a recognition of the complexities of reaching a much broader society and that each tactic is designed with specific goals and audiences in mind.

It is not always possible for organizers to let everyone know what all the goals are for a particular action. Some goals are kept off event pages and posts in order to not tip our hand. Anyone who finds themselves at an action in which they are uncomfortable always has the option to leave.

Whenever possible we need to schedule events separately to give each space, both in terms of time and distance. This way we won't diminish turnout to either events or create confusion about what someone is participating in.

Designated organizers of an action can be consulted, ideally before hand, to ascertain what kind of flexibility there will be to address related agendas or to lend support to other un-related issues within that action. Bringing this information up on site at the action is not the best time, but if need be it's best done in a discreet manner that allows for a timely response and does not disrupt or interfere with the action that is taking place.

If anyone is distressed by anything they witnessed, debriefing after the action is a good way to address this. Vaguebooking or calling out on social is probably the least effective way to resolve issues and often leaves us open to being manipulated by other forces.

We're still in the early stages of finding movement methods for communication that further our ability to assess actions while holding ourselves accountable. To that end, finding ways to apply ideas such as Restorative Justice and Unblocking Movement Chakras will provide positive and supportive spaces for working through our tactical differences that builds our revolutionary world.

Whether you're new on the scene or have been doing this work for years, recognizing and supporting a diversity of tactics necessitates each of us keeping an open mind and learning how to listen. The more we understand the strength, beauty and intelligence of our diversity, the stronger we become.