SOUTHERN MOVEMENT BLUEPRINT
a plan of action in a time of crisis

STRATEGIES TO PRACTICE LIBERATION
Organize initiatives that build infrastructure for education, communications, and sanctuary to increase collective power, health, safety, and sustainability.

BUILD SANCTUARY SPACES
Create spaces to gather resources, share skills, educate, prepare for crisis & healing

1) Bring our resources together.
2) Gather more people into organizing spaces like assemblies.
3) Learn & share skills through trainings, workshops, & education.
4) Implement local & regional strategies.

TEAR DOWN WALLS
Interrupt state violence & policies that harm, divide, and fracture our communities

BUILD NEW ECONOMIES
Political education on alternative economies that address elimination of jobs & work
Learn & share skills to transition from exploitation to just solutions
Cultivate land & create income-generating projects within communities
Support independent enterprises

GATHER OUR PEOPLE
1) Bring our resources together.
2) Gather more people into organizing spaces like assemblies.
3) Learn & share skills through trainings, workshops, & education.
4) Implement local & regional strategies.

PEOPLES MOVEMENT ASSEMBLIES
Practical function: Spaces to bring people together and create shared action plans
Political function: Organizing process for communities to practice governance & exercise power

Converge our collective force
Act in solidarity with freedom movements like Standing Rock & the nationwide prison strikes
Mobilize our communities for coordinated simultaneous actions

MUTUAL AID LIBERATION CENTERS
Community spaces in the legacy of mutual aid societies in the South, organized locally to gather resources, provide & refer services, share political education, create health & healing spaces, etc.

PRAC TICE LOCAL GOVERNANCE
COMMUNITY CONTROL
Build & expand community bases that exercise power through political participation, voting, & pathways to leadership
Develop movement communications infrastructure

CREATE SANCTUARY SPACES
Build legal & practical support networks within churches, schools, mosques, & neighborhoods
Create alternative accountability systems to address harm

Build & expand community bases that exercise power through political participation, voting, & pathways to leadership
Develop movement communications infrastructure

RIP DOWN THE WALLS OF OPPRESSION
Organize initiatives that interrupt unjust practices, defend against state violence in all its forms, including poverty, climate disaster, attacks on indigenous sovereignty, freedom of movement, and body autonomy.

CREATE SANCTUARY SPACES
Build & expand community bases that exercise power through political participation, voting, & pathways to leadership
Develop movement communications infrastructure

WE ARE BUILDING MOVEMENT POWER & INFRASTRUCTURE through three initiatives & coordinated actions that build:

NEW SOCIAL ECONOMY
PEOPLES DEMOCRACY
PROTECTED & DEFENDED COMMUNITIES

The three initiatives represent a strategic framework to connect all frontlines where we do battle for our lives, for our dignity and well-being, and for systemic transformation.

Since 2012, over 1,000 community leaders in the South have gathered at six Southern Movement Assemblies to discuss and analyze the pressing issues of our time, develop bold visions, and commit to action. Participants organize issue-based and community assemblies in their cities and towns to prepare for the regional Southern movement assembly. The Southern Movement Blueprint represents the synthesis of our collective work. We believe in a liberated South that honors the culture, dignity, and safety for all people. This vision includes the liberation of land, bodies, economies, and political power of all oppressed people. We are connected by shared Principles of Unity and organize in the legacy of Southern freedom fighters like Fannie Lou Hamer who said: Nobody is Free until Everybody is Free. More on SOUTHTOSOUTH.ORG

Disrupt Injustice & Defend our Communities
Dismantle social control & legal frameworks that criminalize, brutalize, & isolate
Create defense strategies to support populations experiencing racist violence at sites including prisons, schools, faith spaces, borders, and public spaces

Boycott & Divest from Entities that Harm
Identify, expose, and disinvest in corporate monopolies & anti-people policies that hurt our communities

Mutual Aid
Liberation Centers
Practical function:
Physical & virtual spaces to protect lives & provide infrastructure
Political function:
Space to organize local & regional initiatives, projects, and campaigns

We are building movement power & infrastructure through three initiatives & coordinated actions that build:
The Southern Movement Assembly coordinates just transition strategies that interrupt and confront extractive and exploitative economies and builds new institutions & practices like cooperatives, practices of community-based agriculture, land trusts, & participatory budgeting. The initiative develops education & organizing to generate knowledge and strategies for a people’s economy.

Southern Movement Assembly organizations build coordinated local community governance for movement power. We challenge legal barriers to political participation, expand civic engagement beyond the vote, organize voter education and mobilization campaigns, and we also practice local and neighborhood assemblies that deepen our public and civic engagement year-round.

The Southern Movement Assembly works to eliminate state violence in all its forms, including incarceration, social control, medical violence, and military violence that displaces people globally & locally. This initiative coordinates community resistance to violence, rapid response to crisis, disaster preparedness, and education to address systemic impunity.

Anchor Organizations produced the Blueprint in partnership with SMA participants

- Alternate ROOTS (regional)
- Black Workers for Justice (NC)
- Concerned Media Group (CA)
- Concerned Citizens for Justice (TN)
- Georgia Citizens’ Coalition on Hunger (GA)
- Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (regional, TX, LA, MS, AL, FL)
- The Ordinary Peoples Society (AL)
- University Sin Fronteras (regional)
- Women Watch Africa (GA)

National Council of Elders (Southern)
New Jim Crow Movement (FL)
Project South (regional)
SpiritHouse (NC)
The Ordinary Peoples Society (AL)
University Sin Fronteras (regional)
Women Watch Africa (GA)