

W.I.T.C.H.: STARTING NEW CHAPTERS

ANYONE CAN START A CHAPTER OF W.I.T.C.H.; THE PDX CHAPTER WILL NOT GATE-KEEP PARTICIPATION, BUT WE WILL ONLY ALIGN OUR OWN COVEN WITH THOSE WHO SHARE OUR VALUES: YOU MUST BE ANONYMOUS AND INTERSECTIONAL.

W.I.T.C.H. PDX IS NOT GOING TO DIRECT YOUR ACTIONS, VISUALS OR WORDS. HOWEVER, WE CAN OFFER SOME ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU GET STARTED.

- 1) DO NOT ORGANIZE ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH YOUR REAL IDENTITIES EXPOSED.** THIS INCLUDES PUBLICLY ASKING EXISTING CHAPTERS HOW TO JOIN ON INSTAGRAM ETC. - USE DMs. IF YOU'RE STARTING A CHAPTER, TAKE PEOPLE'S PHONE NUMBERS, ENCOURAGE THEM TO DOWNLOAD THE SIGNAL APP, AND COMMUNICATE SECURELY. (MEMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ARE NOT ANONYMOUS TO EACH OTHER.) IF POTENTIAL MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY POSTED ABOUT THEIR INTEREST PUBLICLY, THEY SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED.

CLAIMING AN INSTAGRAM HANDLE FOR A PARTICULAR CITY DOES NOT 'HOLD' THE CHAPTER FOR YOU. THOSE INTERESTED IN STARTING NEW CHAPTERS SHOULD SEARCH INSTAGRAM FOR EXISTING ACCOUNTS IN YOUR CITY, AND DM THE ACCOUNT OWNER TO ASK ABOUT EITHER JOINING OR TAKING IT OVER IF IT'S INACTIVE. IF THEY DON'T ANSWER, START A NEW ONE. IF YOUR CITY HAS MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS BUT NO ESTABLISHED CHAPTER, SEE IF YOU CAN BRING THEM TOGETHER INTO ONE. WE WOULD LOVE IT IF PRIORITY IN STARTING AND ORGANIZING CHAPTERS WERE GIVEN TO PEOPLE OF COLOR AND QUEER & TRANS PEOPLE.

- 2) **ANONYMITY IS CRUCIAL TO WHAT WE'RE DOING.** W.I.T.C.H. PDX AND OTHER W.I.T.C.H. INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE CHAPTERS WILL PUBLICLY DISAVOW CHAPTERS THAT FAIL TO ADHERE TO THIS STANDARD. YOUR COSTUMES DO NOT HAVE TO BE IDENTICAL TO OURS (SOME MAY WISH TO WEAR MASKS INSTEAD OF VEILS, COLORS OTHER THAN BLACK, DIFFERENT KINDS OF HATS, HOODIES/BANDANAS/SUNGLASSES - ETC.). HOWEVER, WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO WEAR, IT *MUST* SHROUD YOUR IDENTITIES AS INDIVIDUALS. BIG SUNGLASSES AND HALF-MASKS ARE NOT ENOUGH. IT'S BEST FOR EYES AND HAIR TO BE COVERED, ALONG WITH ANY IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS LIKE TATTOOS. WE KNOW THIS CAN BE CHALLENGING IN PLACES WHERE IT'S VERY HOT; SOME CHAPTERS CHOOSE NOT TO HOLD IN-PERSON ACTIONS DURING THE SUMMER. GAUZY, LIGHTWEIGHT GARMENTS MIGHT ALSO BE A GOOD FIT.

WHEN APPEARING AS W.I.T.C.H., YOU MUST BE ANONYMOUS IN PERSON AS WELL AS ONLINE, SO BLACKING OUT FACES IN PHOTOS IS NOT SUFFICIENT. CONSIDER USING VOICE

CHANGERS IN VIDEOS/INTERVIEWS, AND HANDING OUT FLYERS OR PLAYING ALTERED RECORDINGS AT EVENTS INSTEAD OF SPEAKING.

- 3) **WORK HARD TO MAINTAIN THIS ANONYMITY.** THAT MEANS VARYING MEETING LOCATIONS AND NEVER TAKING OFF YOUR VEILS IN FRONT OF STRANGERS. GUARD ALL W.I.T.C.H.-RELATED MATERIALS CAREFULLY. DO NOT DISCUSS ANYTHING W.I.T.C.H.-RELATED ON YOUR PERSONAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS. ONLY REVEAL YOUR PARTICIPATION TO YOUR PARTNERS/BFFs/COOL MOMS. IF ANYONE ELSE ASKS, YOU'RE NOT PART OF IT. ANONYMITY IS POWER.

- 4) **GIVE YOUR CHAPTER A UNIQUE NAME**, i.e. W.I.T.C.H. PDX, W.I.T.C.H. ROSE CITY, W.I.T.C.H. BROOKLYN, W.I.T.C.H. LONG BEACH. INITIALLY, WE ENVISIONED A SINGLE CHAPTER FOR EACH CITY, BUT INTEREST IS HIGHER THAN EXPECTED. TO KEEP YOUR GROUP SIZE MANAGEABLE (WE RECOMMEND NO MORE THAN 30 MEMBERS), SOME CITIES MAY NEED TO SPLIT INTO SMALLER INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS NAMED FOR NEIGHBORHOODS OR OTHERWISE DIFFERENTIATED. BE RESPECTFUL - INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS WILL WANT TO DO THEIR OWN THING AND NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR EACH OTHER, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE ARE MULTIPLE CHAPTERS PER CITY. AVOID COPYING ANOTHER CHAPTER'S ACTIONS.

WHEN ENGAGING WITH THE MEDIA PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT YOU ARE ONLY SPEAKING FOR YOUR OWN CHAPTER AND NOT W.I.T.C.H. INTERNATIONAL.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU COMMUNICATE AND/OR WORK WITH OTHER W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTERS IN YOUR AREA IS UP TO YOU

BUT ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER'S ANONYMITY.

- 5) **EXPAND YOUR CHAPTER BEYOND YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE SPEAKING FROM A VARIETY OF PERSPECTIVES.** IF YOU NEED TO - VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE. HOMOGENOUS GROUPS ARE BORING AND LESS EFFECTIVE. SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AS A WITCH IS HELPFUL BUT NOT REQUIRED. REMEMBER THAT WITCHCRAFT IS NOT JUST WICCA OR EUROCENTRIC PRACTICES. WITCHES EXIST IN A BROAD RANGE OF TRADITIONS AND SOME WITCHES ARE JUST BAD ASS ATHEISTS. W.I.T.C.H. PDX IS OPEN TO WITCHES OF ALL GENDERS BUT WE ASK STRAIGHT CIS MEN TO TAKE A SEAT.

- 6) **LIKE THE ORIGINAL W.I.T.C.H. MOTHER COVEN, W.I.T.C.H. PDX IS COLLABORATIVE WITH NO CENTRAL LEADERSHIP,** LENDING EACH MEMBER'S VOICE EQUAL WEIGHT. WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER DOING THE SAME. HIERARCHY IS A PATRIARCHAL CONCEPT.

- 7) **OUR COSTUMES DRAW A LOT OF ATTENTION. CONSIDER REFRAINING FROM JOINING EVENTS WHERE YOU MAY DETRACT FROM SPEAKERS OR THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE EVENT.** DON'T HIJACK OTHER PEOPLE'S SHIT AND MAKE IT ABOUT YOU. OUTSIDE OF MARCHES, IT'S GENERALLY BEST TO PLAN YOUR OWN ACTIONS. FOR PROTESTS ETC., YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK WITH ORGANIZERS FIRST (THROUGH YOUR CHAPTER'S EMAIL) WHETHER YOUR PRESENCE IS DESIRED. WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT IT OUT. THINK OF OTHER WAYS W.I.T.C.H. COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE, LIKE

POINTING TO FUNDRAISING EFFORTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/OR ATTENDING AS UNVEILED INDIVIDUALS.

- 8) **WHILE WE ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE EXAMPLES FOR COSTUMES, ACTIONS AND RITUALS VIA OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXAMINE WHAT RITUAL AND INTERSECTIONALITY MEAN IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY,** AND TO CREATE CONTENT AND CRAFT RITUALS THAT REFLECT YOUR OWN UNIQUE POWER AND MEANING AS WELL AS OUR GREATER SHARED VALUES. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS PUTTING THEIR OWN UNIQUE SPIN ON MANIFESTOS, ACTIONS ETC. INSPIRED BY THE CULTURE OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

- 9) **WE SEE W.I.T.C.H. AS A MIX OF POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT, SPIRITUALITY AND PERFORMANCE ART INVOKING THE SACRED FEMININE.** WE SUGGEST FINDING A GOOD BALANCE OF RITUAL, DIRECT ACTION AND ACTIVISM, WITH SATIRE AND HUMOR AS WELL AS SOLEMNITY AS APPROPRIATE. CONSIDER HOLDING DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACTIONS THAT ALLOW DISABLED AND NEURODIVERGENT MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE COMFORTABLY AND SAFELY AS WELL.

- 10) **KNOW THAT AS A FEMINIST GROUP YOU MAY BE TARGETED FOR HARASSMENT.** WE SUGGEST USING VPNs AND/OR PROXIES. MAKE YOUR DOMAIN INFO PRIVATE IF YOU START A WEBSITE. CHANGE YOUR PASSWORDS FREQUENTLY. USE A DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOUR CHAPTER'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ENABLE 2-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION. USE GOOGLE VOICE PHONE NUMBERS WHEN NEEDED. HAVE SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC ACTIONS, LIKE ASKING SUPPORT PEOPLE (PARTNERS/BFFs/OTHER MEMBERS) TO WATCH OUT FOR YOU

FROM A DISTANCE. HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. AVOID ESCALATING AGGRESSIVE HECKLERS. CUT ACTIONS SHORT IF YOU NEED TO. PAIR UP & WATCH OUT FOR YOUR BUDDIES. BE SAFE!

- 11) **YOU MAY USE OUR LOGO AND/OR MANIFESTO ONLY IF CREDIT IS GIVEN TO W.I.T.C.H. PDX WITH A LINK BACK TO WWW.WITCHPDX.COM.** PLEASE DO NOT POST OUR PHOTOS TO SOCIAL MEDIA WITHOUT CREDITING & TAGGING US @WITCHPDX AND DO THE SAME COURTESY TO ALL OTHER ESTABLISHED CHAPTERS.
- 12) **WE ARE ALL DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL W.I.T.CH. AND IT IS NOT FOR US TO COMMODIFY THEIR NAME** THROUGH THE SELLING OF MERCHANDISE. IF YOU WISH TO FUNDRAISE, DIRECT SUPPORTERS TO THE EFFORTS OF TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE ORGANIZATIONS (I.E., DO NOT HANDLE THE MONEY YOURSELVES).
- 13) **ONCE CHAPTERS ARE ESTABLISHED AND HAVE PERFORMED PUBLIC ACTIONS, THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN AN INTERNATIONAL W.I.T.C.H. ALLIANCE** WITH POTENTIAL FOR SIMULTANEOUS GUERRILLA ACTIONS. W.I.T.C.H. PDX WILL FACILITATE THE ALLIANCE FOR NOW, HOWEVER, ALL W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTERS WILL REMAIN AUTONOMOUS. CHAPTERS THAT ARE ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA BUT HAVE NOT COMPLETED AND DOCUMENTED PUBLIC ACTIONS *ANONYMOUSLY* WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE ALLIANCE.
- 14) **THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.** THINK EVERYTHING THROUGH. KEEP EDUCATING YOURSELVES, TAKE INEVITABLE CRITICISM FROM FELLOW ACTIVISTS GRACEFULLY, EXAMINE

YOUR PRIVILEGES AND LISTEN TO THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE THE SAME PRIVILEGES. GROW AND LEARN. SUPPORT EACH OTHER. IT'S OK TO BE IMPERFECT. WE WILL ALL MAKE MISTAKES. COMMIT TO IMPROVEMENT. WE'RE STILL LEARNING, TOO.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, YOU MAY DM US FROM YOUR CHAPTER'S INSTAGRAM OR TWITTER ACCOUNT.

OUR VALUES

ANTI-RACISM – ANTI-FASCISM – ANTI-PATRIARCHY – INDIGENOUS RIGHTS – GENDER SELF-DETERMINATION – WOMEN'S LIBERATION – TRANS LIBERATION – ANTI-RAPE-CULTURE – REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS – SEX WORKER SUPPORT – LGBTQIA RIGHTS – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – RELIGIOUS FREEDOM – IMMIGRANT RIGHTS – ANTI-WAR – ANTI-CAPITALISM – DISABILITY JUSTICE – PRIVACY RIGHTS – WORKER'S RIGHTS

WE DISAVOW ANY INDIVIDUALS OR COVENS CLAIMING THE NAME OF 'W.I.T.C.H.' AND FAILING TO UPHOLD THESE VALUES.