SMASH ALL OPPRESSION FOR RESPECT, EQUALITY & LIBERATION

RACISM = SPECIESISM = SEXISM

Revolutionary Struggle for Human & Non-Human Animal Liberation

A quick look at the interconnected relationship between sexism, racism & speciesist oppression

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What is Veganism?

Veganism is the rejection of the commodification and use of non-human animals. Vegans do not consume non-human animal products (meat, dairy, honey etc), wear non-human animal products, or use them in entertainment or research.

What is Speciesism?

Speciesism is the practice of treating members of one species as morally more important than members of other species. Speciesism is analogous to racism, sexism and other forms of irrational discrimination and prejudice.

Sexism

Within the speciesist discrimination towards non-human animals can be found the interconnected relationship between the sexual exploitation of non-human vagina-bodied individuals and rape culture in humans. Rape Culture is an environment in which rape is prevalent and where sexual violence is normalized and excused in the media and mainstream culture. It is the manipulation of emotions and abuse of power used to maintain dominance over others. All forms of dairy farming include the forcible impregnation of cows. Regardless of the size or scale of the dairy operation, the process of impregnation remains the same. This insemination process involves a person inserting their arm deep into the cow's rectum in order to position the uterus, and then forcibly inserting an instrument into the vagina. The restraining apparatus used is commonly called a "rape rack". A cow never gives consent to the insemination process therefore the rape rack is used as a restraint. The impregnation of any animal, human or non-human, against their will is an act of violence and in direct violation of that animal's autonomy. Non-humans are also metaphorically used to degrade vagina-bodied humans (bitch, chick, cow etc). In addition to degrading humans individually these insults marginalize entire species of non-human animals as well.

Racism

When white supremacy is projected onto veganism people of color who choose a vegan lifestyle are portrayed as white-washed or illegitimate. This further marginalizes vegans of color by assuming that health, non-human animal liberation or environmentalism only concern white people. Veganism is viewed as a classist movement by those who assume highly processed specialty foods make up the majority of a vegan diet. This assumption disregards the cost of meat, and upholds the subsidized meat and dairy industries in North America as representative of the world. Speciesism reinforces racism when discrimination is promoted to institute a global market operated by subjugating and enslaving non-human animals. Racism reinforces speciesism when non-human animals are referenced to describe, and justify discrimination towards non-white people. Historically, enslaved humans shared the same branding, whipping and beatings that non-humans receive today. Enslaved Africans and other people of color were viewed as “animals” in need of being domesticated therefore rightfully subjugated for colonial labor and profit. Native Americans captured and forced into slavery were often compared to non-human animals in an effort to justify their mistreatment. In various contexts, pigs, cows and dogs are considered dirty, unclean, ugly, unlovable beings. These serve as stereotypes that excuse and encourage their exploitation.

Re-claiming health and freedom through individual and community empowerment!

Community gardens are usually constructed in abandoned or unused parking lots and other neglected spaces. These are built by a community of determined people who are passionate about providing free healthy food for the community. Many community gardens have been created to promote a healthy vegan diet in direct action against local fast food franchises and other markets that sell processed foods and non-human animal products. Community gardens are examples of mutual aid, empowerment and sustainable health for a community of people. They create a combination of individual and collective power which helps build resistance against the capitalist food industry.

Polyculture is growing multiple crops in the same space, in imitation of the diversity of natural ecosystems, and avoiding large stands of single crops or monoculture. It includes intercropping, intercropping, companion planting, beneficial weeds and alley cropping. The larger variety of crops provides habitat for more species, increasing the local biodiversity. This is one example of reconciliation ecology, or accommodating biodiversity. In a vegan polyculture garden that resembles a natural system, plants keep the soil fertile. Non-human animals are not used for food or manure in vegan polyculture gardens. Instead they voluntarily enter as free pollinators, biological managers, and consumers.

Embracing a vegan lifestyle not only helps detoxify the body but revolutionizes the human animal interaction with non-human animals. It challenges the societal norm of species discrimination while promoting anti-oppression in eating and in perceiving one another. Civilization normalizes the enslavement of all sentient beings to one-sided exploitation within the economic prison of capitalism. In recognition that all oppression is conceptually interconnected, non-human, human animal and ecological liberation can only be achieved simultaneously through challenging the logic of this domination. Only when challenged together can sexism, racism, classism, nationalism, speciesism and all other forms of oppression be overcome.