

Psychology Politics Resistance

Draft documents

(A) Aims and Objectives

Psychology Politics, Resistance (PPR) has five principle aims:

- (i) to expose the oppressive consequences of current psychological ideas practices and institutions, to contest them wherever they appear, and to promote positive alternatives.
- (ii) to support those individuals and organisations who seek help in challenging the contribution of psychology to their oppression or exploitation.
- (iii) to provide whatever psychological expertise would be of use in supporting individuals and organisations in their struggles against oppression or exploitation.
- (iv) to contest the reactionary usage of psychological ideas in public debate
- (v) to persuade both individual psychologists and organisations of psychologists to adopt an active opposition to exploitation and oppression as a central aspect of their work and, in particular, to encourage such considerations as a key element in the education of all psychologists.

(B) Organisation

1. General principles of organisation

- (i) The organisation shall be known as Psychology Politics Resistance (PPR).
- (ii) PPR shall be open to all those who are opposed to the oppressive and exploitative consequences of psychological ideas, practices and institutions whether or not they are themselves psychologists.
- (iii) PPR shall seek to respond to an agenda as set by those who experience oppression, exploitation or exclusion and who are seeking positive and empowering alternatives. To that end, PPR shall make a priority of making links with appropriate individuals and organisations and shall seek to maximise their influence on its activities.

2. Principal activities

- (i) PPR shall use its network to monitor and contest oppressive exploitative or exclusionary uses of psychology and to promote links between those others with matching aims.
- (ii) PPR shall provide a network of psychologists who are able and prepared to respond when the organisation is asked to challenge oppressive, exploitative or exclusionary uses of psychology.
- (iii) PPR shall provide a network of psychologists who are able and prepared to respond when the organisation is asked to provide psychological expertise in the furtherance of campaigns against oppression or exploitation.
- (iv) PPR shall actively seek to reach students of psychology both through written materials and

by organising meetings in individual institutions.

- (v) PPR shall seek to contribute symposia and also to arrange fringe meetings at appropriate conferences both within and beyond psychology.
- (vi) In addition to its regular conferences, PPR shall, from time to time, organise special meetings around specific issues - where appropriate in conjunction with other relevant organisations.
- (vii) PPR shall seek to publicise our views through the media and shall provide an alternative network of 'experts' to respond to, comment upon and intervene in public debates.
- (viii) PPR shall publish a regular newsletter.

3. Constitution

- (i) PPR shall have a general meeting at least every two years at which policy will be decided and coordinators elected. This meeting will be the supreme decision making body of the organisation and shall be open to all members. In addition, organisations as invited by the officers or by previous general meetings shall have voting rights on a par with individual members. Contested decisions shall be decided by simple majority vote. Meetings will be called by the coordinators, or an emergency general meeting may be called by 30 members.
- (ii) The general meeting shall elect a coordinating committee to be responsible for the organisation of PPR between meetings. All those eligible to vote will be allowed to make up to six choices and the six individuals obtaining most votes shall be elected. The committee shall meet at least twice a year and meetings shall be open to both members and invited organisations. All attempts will be made to make decisions by consensus. However, in cases of irresolvable difference, only elected committee members will be entitled to vote.
- (iii) The committee shall allocate the following tasks amongst themselves: membership organiser, treasurer, newsletter organiser, conference and meetings organiser, coordinator with outside organisations, press coordinator and campaigns organiser who shall be responsible for arranging members to respond to requests for help. Such others as are willing to help shall be coopted to assist with these tasks.
- (iv) Individual membership shall depend upon payment of an annual membership fee. There will be a sufficient differential between waged and unwaged/low waged rates so as to allow all to participate on equal terms. Initially the fees shall be £4 waged, £2 low/un-waged.
- (v) There shall be a bank account in the name of the organisation. Any two of three named committee (to be named by the committee itself) shall be signatories. Accounts shall be provided to general meetings.
- (vi) All applicants who agree with the aims and objectives of the organisation shall be eligible for membership. Should the committee reject any applicant they will be entitled to appeal to a general meeting for admittance.
- (vii) A newsletter shall be produced at least twice yearly which shall be distributed free to members and sold to non-members. While the newsletter shall seek to be as open as possible and to promote debate, the committee member(s) responsible for the newsletter shall be empowered to reject any material that is contrary to the aims and objectives of the organisation.
- (viii) Any changes to this constitution shall require a two-thirds majority at a properly constituted general meeting