

## **RULES OF CONDUCT**

### **FOR THE FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR BLACK LIBERATION**

The following are guidelines for participation in the National Assembly. We expect every participant to read these rules and abide by them. The enforcement of these rules will be the authority of the chair of a session and a designated sergeant at arms (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serjeant-at-arms>).

1. **Unity:** Our general framework for conduct is unity-struggle-unity. We have a general plan to build a level of unity not seen for decades:
  - a. Unity-1: The first National Assembly is deigned to build general unity around our Draft Freedom Manifesto, based on what we can unify around (80%) and what remains as issues to be debated (20%)
  - b. Struggle: a two year period to distribute the proceedings and organize a national discussion and debate on the Draft Freedom manifesto and how it can give a framework for carrying out struggle on the battlefronts
  - c. Unity-2: The second National Assembly will bring together the consensus developed after two years of discussion, debate, and summation.
  
2. **Democracy:** The main form of democracy is not a structure of voting. Our first National Assembly will not be based on credentialing forms of representation. People are coming as individuals and as organizational representative. Our process of democracy will be based on the contributions of all Assembly participants. Everyone will be able to contribute their thinking and by doing so will start the national discussion planned for the next two years.
  
3. **Respect:** This is a critical aspect of the process, respecting people even when you disagree with them
  - a. No profanity will be allowed
  - b. No name calling will be allowed
  - c. No form of physical violence will be allowed
  - d. No form of discriminatory comments weill be allowed based on gender identification, age, or disability status
  
4. **Time:** This is a national meeting with limited time. There will be no exceptions to using too much time:
  - a. Chairs will have five minutes to open the panel and 10 minutes to introduce each panelist
  - b. Panelists will have 15 minutes for their presentation
  - c. Speakers from the floor will have three minutes for a comment/question

5. **Money:** A registration fee must be paid by everyone. People are responsible for arranging and paying for their sleeping accommodations, travel, and food.
  - a. Individual registration is early \$25, and at the Assembly \$40
  - b. Area committees are asked to contribute \$500
  - c. Everyone is asked to make additional contributions
  
6. **Speaking:** There will a time for open discussion at every session.
  - a. Everyone is asked to check the Draft Freedom Manifesto before making a comment
  - b. Speakers from the floor will have three minutes for a comment
  - c. Speakers are asked to focus comments on the 80% agreement that we seek
  
7. **Writing:** The main way that comments will get into the proceedings is when they are written and submitted to the chair of a session or a member of the proceedings committee
  - a. Draft resolutions are requested that sum up the local experience of fighting on a battlefield
  - b. Comments made from the floor during a session should be written and turned in, even if as bullet points.
  - c. Discussion between session should also be written up as they constitute an important part of the Assembly process
  
8. **Study:** The Draft Freedom Agenda is available and should be studied by every Assembly participant:
  - a. A hard copy will be given to everyone at registration
  - b. An online version is available: <http://www.alkalimat.org/fmb/manifesto.pdf>
  
9. **Proceedings:** A proceedings committee will publish the Assembly proceedings with four months of the Assembly