

# PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

VOLUME 4

**POWER U**  
CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



# **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

**ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**

**ERNISHA DORVILUS**

**KATIVON MAKARY**

**MIAMI DSA**

**AFFIRMING YOUTH**

**KAYLA SMITH**

**EMERLEYSHA CHARLES**

**BATISTHA LOUSSAINT**

**IAN WHITE**

**SAMUEL JEANTY**

**ANTWAN MCCLAIN**

# PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

**Power U believes that the systems of White Supremacy, Capitalism, and Heteropatriarchy are the roots of oppression in our society. To fight these forms of oppression and win Human Rights, Power U strives to uphold the following principles in ourselves, our organization, and our movement for social justice.**

## **Self-determination for all communities**

A community's people should have the right to control their own land, economy, politics and culture. They should be the leading decision makers for their communities.

## **Women's Liberation**

Heteropatriarchy uses sexism and violence to degrade and exploit women. Women should be free from domination by men and have the power to exercise the full range of their human rights. Our freedom struggles have always relied on the leadership of women. However, even our social justice movements have subjected women to a secondary position. Therefore it is essential that the leadership and contributions of women be prioritized, uplifted, and honored.

## **Youth Empowerment**

Young people are dismissed, ignored, criminalized, and exploited by adults. Their ideas are not respected and they are denied a voice in determining the future of their communities. Young people have the right to be treated with respect, to have opportunities to develop their skills and ideas and to have a space to enact their visions for the world.

## **Solidarity within and between communities of color**

All communities of color face racial oppression caused by white privilege and white supremacy. Different communities of color experience racism and discrimination differently. Solidarity within a community of color and between communities of color creates greater power to confront white supremacy and racism.

## **Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People**

The queer community has historically been excluded and forced into silence by a society that assumes the superiority and normalcy of heterosexual relationships and also imposes heterosexual gender and sex roles. The LGBTQ community should share the same rights and privileges as heterosexual people and should be free from humiliation and degradation.

## **International Solidarity**

The United States Government and American corporations exploit the people and resources of other countries for the benefit of Americans. This forces people from other countries to leave their homes and many of them migrate to the U.S. in search of opportunities. People of color and other oppressed people in the U.S. must support the struggles of oppressed people around the world to defend themselves from U.S. exploitation. This includes supporting their right to migrate to and receive equal treatment in this country

**Economic Justice**

The exploitation of the working-class and poor people benefits the rich. Global capitalism has left the majority of the world's people in poverty while a very small minority prospers and controls everything. Working class and poor people are at the mercy of rich people and a brutal system that seeks to strip them of their humanity. The resources of the world should be created, controlled, and distributed fairly to the benefit of all people.

**Black Liberation**

In the United States and across the world, the development of global capitalism and white supremacy has been and continues to be dependent on the exploitation and oppression of Africa and African descended people. Therefore, Black people cannot achieve the fulfillment of our human rights by simply fighting to improve our position within the existing system. In order for Black people to experience true freedom, the entire economic and social system of society must be transformed.

READ MORE ABOUT OUR  
ORGANIZATION ON OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.POWERU.ORG](http://WWW.POWERU.ORG)



# T'CHALLA



**“When the heart is right, the  
mind and body will follow.”  
- Coretta Scott King**

# Humanity's Quilt

I see humanity as a quilt  
That the oppressors have ripped to shreds  
Claiming each piece as property  
Distinct histories, cultures, and peoples  
Stitched together in unity  
Different fabrics, colors, and textures  
Coalesced into community  
But colonizers couldn't stand the full story  
So they cut at our seams of solidarity  
Bleaching over the real prophecy  
To exhibit different scraps in their museums  
Torn away from our homelands  
They embroidered borders to divide us  
When we weave the fragments back together  
We see our interdependence  
They think they can leave our common threads unraveled  
But our pain is cut from the same cloth  
And we've preserved our ancestors craft of  
Transforming tragedy into beauty

We knit together retrieved rags with present strands of struggle  
To repair the larger picture of liberation  
And restore the rest with future visions of freedom  
Into one art piece that warms all souls kept cold by capitalist cruelty  
No need for the master's machinery when history is sewn at our fingertips





**The Democratic Socialists of America is the largest socialist organization in the United States. We are a member funded and member run organization.**



We want to collectively own the key economic drivers that dominate our lives, such as energy production and transportation. We want the multiracial working class united in solidarity instead of divided by fear. We want to win “radical” reforms like healthcare for all, defunding the police/refunding communities, the Green New Deal, and more as we transition to a freer, more just life. We want a democracy powered by everyday people. The capitalist class tells us we are powerless, but together we can take back control!



@miamidsa



[www.dsausa.org/join](http://www.dsausa.org/join)

## **Youth's Perception on Personal Finance**

By Kayla Smith

Young people in our generation have mixed emotions about personal finances. As adolescents, we deal with many problems in the world right now, and finance is certainly one of them. One way to get key insights into our finances is through Money Habitude. Money Habitude is a fun, easy way to understand your personality as it relates to financial behaviors; It helps you think about money in new ways and reveals certain patterns about your finances. I found out my money message is to enjoy the moment and to be spontaneous with my money. The results of my Money Habitude helped me realize that although being spontaneous with money is exciting, it can also mean I am jumping into purchases too quickly.

I also surveyed local youths from Miami who are currently employed, to learn about their habits and attitudes on personal finance. According to the Financial Capabilities Survey I conducted on July 14th, 11 responses were recorded and 6 of the youths felt as if they are very organized when it comes to managing their money day to day. Also 5 of the 11 respondents are either occasionally struggling or having a real problem keeping up with their bills. Most of the youths surveyed (7 out of 11) will be able to make ends meet for at least a week if they lose their main source of income. Despite what the general population believes about our spending habits, the overall majority of the youth surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statements that they have enough money saved for a rainy day. We are well attuned with our finances, evidenced by 91% (10 out of 11) of the youths checking their bank account balance at least once a month - and about 73% ( 8 out of 11) of the youths check their account at least once a week.

Although this small sample size does not reflect the entire population, it does provide some key insights into how we view and manage our finances. While financial stress is not too heavy of a burden to every youth from our generation, we are conscious about the way we spend our money. Most of the youths agreed that it does matter a lot with how we handle our money.

# ROE VS. WADE

BY SPACE BABY



**SCAN TO LISTEN**



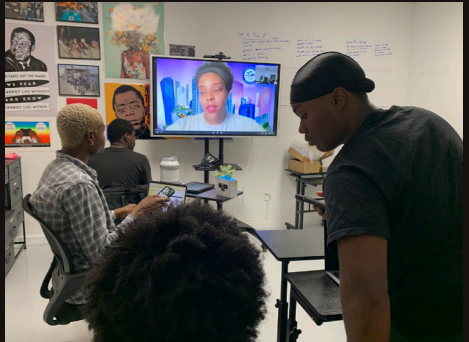
**@OOHLALASPACEBABY**

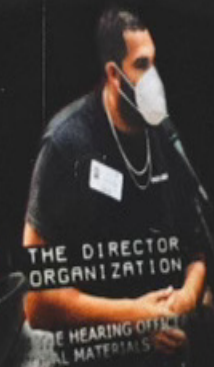
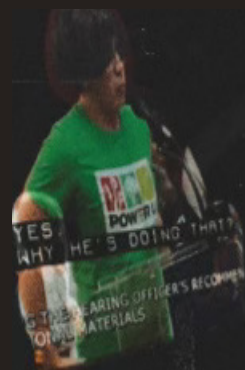


# SUMMER 2022 INTERN REFLECTIONS

Power U has been a very awesome experience. I wish I never had Covid so I could get to see Power U faces. But everyone has been kind and friendly to my coworkers and me. I felt at home the first week I walked into that building, like they accepted me and everything that came with me, which significantly impacted me. I had a hard time opening up to anyone, but the stories I heard made me feel like they weren't the only ones, and when I told my story, they had their eyes on me like I never felt any other attention harder than that. Power U was a great experience. I wish this summer were longer so I could spend more time with the friends I've made.

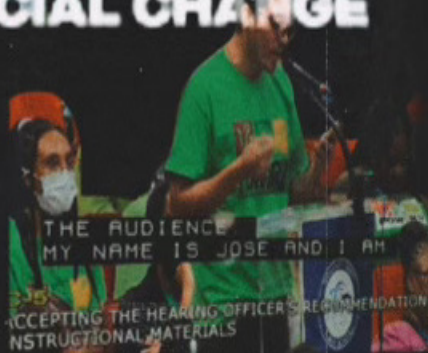
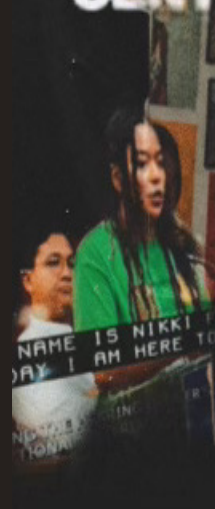
- Samuel Jeanty





# POWERU

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



This summer I had the privilege to intern with PowerU. It was not like any other internship and I am happy that this organization chose me to be one of their interns. I got to know the social injustices that were happening in our community and that has happened in society today. PowerU is probably one of the best experiences that happened in my life and I can't wait to see what's next. -Emerleysha

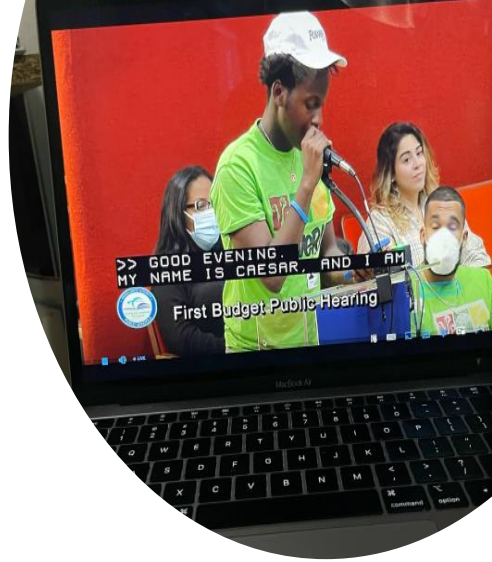
# SUMMER 2022 INTERN REFLECTIONS

I enjoyed Power U for the time I was there. Everyone welcomes you with open arms, and everyone is different. But we all have one thing in common: fighting for what's ours. One day Power U WILL GROW and be noticed as a great organization. Power U, you have given me the chance to canvass, I always thought it meant painting, but it's actually a little challenging. Some days were not so satisfying, but I still made the best of them. It brought out my inner social me. I had to converse with interesting people while trying to persuade them to support us. Even so, they also helped me solve problems inside groups. I usually want to work alone in every situation, but now I don't mind others' input or help. Power U gave me skills I can take with me to future experiences. I made many connections with people I didn't typically associate with. If I would recommend an internship or place to work seasonal, it would definitely be Power U. I thank all the staff, organizers, and youth for their participation in my life this summer.

Sincere,

Antwan.





VIII



STRENGTH

8

# GET INVOLVED WITH US!



SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR OUR  
VOLUNTEER LIST

CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING  
EVENTS



# Drowning

Life has two sides a ray of sunshine and a ball of darkness

A monstrosity of emotions people and expectations

A world where desires rule and Knowledge is laugh upon

Where emotions are suppressed even erased hidden like their never existed

People even laugh at people for being emotional and not logical

An ask an absurd request for people to survive in an ocean of despair without shedding a tear

This ball of darkness is called life only it had 2 sides now let talk about that ray of sunshine

Speaking of sunshine closed your eyes and what do you see

Some people say darkness

However I say a gateway

It so easy to see darkness when looking for darkness

An ironically so it difficult to look for sunshine when it comes from within you

A ray of sunshine is just like a breath of fresh air when waking up in the morning with that bright star we call the sun

It simple as being grateful for what you have

An ask an absurd request for people to  
survive in an ocean of despair without  
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This ball of darkness is called life only it had 2  
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An ironically so it difficult to look for sunshine  
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A ray of sunshine is just like a breath of fresh  
air when waking up in the morning with that  
bright star we call the sun

It simple as being grateful for what you have  
but never satisfied because to become  
complacent is a great individual downfall

Hints drowning into this ball of darkness

So remember to check in with that ray of  
sunshine.

# **POWER U**

**CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

Power U Center For Social Change (Power U) was co-founded in 1999 by renowned organizers, Denise Perry and Sheila O'Farrell. Being originally based in Miami's Historic Black Community, Overtown. Much of our early work centered on environmental justice, affordable quality housing, and fighting gentrification. Currently, our central focus is on organizing young people to fight for safe and supportive schools. We are building Power U chapters in different high schools and fighting for schools that prioritize human development over profit, where all youth have the resources, access, and opportunity to reach their full potential and where they are treated with dignity, regardless of race, gender or economic situation.

**READ MORE ABOUT POWER U'S HISTORY AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.POWERU.ORG/ABOUT](https://www.poweru.org/about)**



# Share Your Reflections

How did you feel when you first looked through this in vs. now?

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Were you touched or aligned with anything shared? If so what?

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Is there anything you would do differently after reading this?

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# THANK YOU

TO OUR SUPPORTERS & CONTRIBUTORS







