

Statement from the Founding Conference of the
CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH ANARCHISTS (CBA)

AIMS

Anarchy means 'absence of authority' and as anarchists we are committed to building a society without authority, government or rulers.

We appreciate that the only way to work towards this goal is to act and organise in a non-authoritarian fashion, for the means we adopt will determine the ends we achieve. We are concerned not to impose a dogma but to draw out popular creativity and initiative.

We believe freedom cannot be given; it must be taken.

Anarchists do not believe that the basic motivations of mankind are greed, fear and aggression, but tend more strongly towards mutual aid, solidarity and the desire to be free.

We therefore want a society which is built from below, not imposed from above, in which all could participate and have equal access to the limited resources of the earth.

We are against all forms of manipulation and control, physical or mental, by any state, army, police force, bureaucracy, institutionalised religion, multinational corporation, or political party.

The only free and ethical society can be one in which people rule themselves. ANY government is the rule of the few over the many.

Libertarian society would be a decentralised one, organised around self-managed communities and collectives. These would be federated on a larger level, transcending false barriers such as nationalism, racialism, sexism and patriotism.

Production would be based rationally and ecologically, for need, not for profit. Work should be a pleasure--as education should be for learning and self-development, not preparation for a role.

We regard the earth as a common heritage and we believe in equality as well as freedom of expression, discussion and pleasure.

ORGANISATION

The basic unit of anarchist organisation is the affinity group which is completely autonomous; that is, the members of the group are self-selecting, not appointed from without. The members themselves decide the basis of membership--ie, local or work-based, open to all or by invitation, whether there are formal subscriptions or not, whether adherence to particular principles is necessary for membership or not, etc.

The second stage of anarchist organisation is the regional federation, which consists of anarchist groups in a particular area. Finally, groups and regional federations can form a confederation covering the entire country.

Agreed by conference at Warwick University, 14 February 1976.