

We Want You to Join NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism

We have grown out of struggle against war and cuts to education in New Jersey. We formed a banner making party on March 6, 2010. We have mobilized for anti-war demonstrations in Washington DC, New York City, New Brunswick, an Immigrant Rights May Day march in Hightstown, worked with community members protesting a shooting death by New Brunswick Police, among other movement experience.

Goals:

Educate youth about war and its impact on its victims, including those being killed and the youthful soldiers being ordered into combat. We will organize educational meetings, leaflet distribution, music and theatrical presentations and other means of communication and dialogue. We also will educate around the issues of how a war-based economy contributes to joblessness, homelessness, inadequate education and other economic crises domestically.

Engage larger sections of our generation as part of an active, caring force united and working toward an end to the wars and a reordering of priorities so that human needs are met instead.

Provide a means of communication into all of the high schools and colleges and to youth who are not in school in all of the cities and towns of New Jersey.

Connect youth up to other organizations that are struggling around these issues.

Mobilize youth to participate in every aspect of planning through participation in actions toward these goals, be they standing on a corner with our banner and passing out fliers, to helping to arrange buses to national marches, to supporting national days of action for education and other important issues as well as social events like concerts, picnics, bashes and other fun ways to unify into a stronger force.

Make youth a vital part of a mass movement aiming to make changes around these issues of concern.

Why are we against war and imperialism?

Simply put, imperialism is the system powerful nations like the United States use to control other weaker nations. Imperialism pursues the goals of maximized profit for multinational corporations as well as exerting strategic and military muscle into other regions of the world. War and occupation are the most extreme methods of imperialism. Other means could include economic and political manipulation, threats, secret and not so secret involvement in affairs of other countries, sabotage, assassination, support for insurgent groups with weapons, training and intelligence, blockades and sanctions and many other forms of interference. If we want to prevent wars from occurring, we need to challenge the system of imperialism which is constantly laying the groundwork for future wars.

We want YOU to be part of our organization and our movement to transform the youth into a force of history that will play the role that it should in opposing war and imperialism and supporting a system that meets the needs of all people, with justice and equality.

Contact us: NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism, PO Box 163, Belle Mead, NJ 08502, 908-635-3285, NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org / <http://NJYouthUnited.org> Blog: <http://NJYouthUnited.org/wp/>

YO! WHAT UP!! WE ARE!! .

Welcome to the first issue of YO!, The Youth Organizer, printed by NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism. In this issue we touch on many of the issues facing NJ's youth, not the least of which is imperialist war without end. We share points of view of different sectors of NJ's youth communities. YO! shouts out for a unified and active youth struggle for the survival of our generation.

We have many problems: no jobs, rising tuition, school budgets cut, teachers dissed, some going to prison, others going to war, CIA and NYPD spying on Muslim youth and their families, ICE agents patrolling looking for immigrant youth and families, LGBT ending up in the streets, war recruiters patrolling the school halls, our free speech challenged, urban and impoverished youth feeling these issues ten-fold and police monitoring any efforts to organize.

At the same time, young people are getting our act together. We are occupying, printing and handing out papers like YO!, Filipino students are pulling together, immigrant youth are learning to struggle, LGBT youth are banding together, radical musicians are drumming and strumming in the streets . . . a new day is upon us and youth are getting ready to make our move.

YO! is a resource for you - Contact us immediately to get copies and get them out. Use it for discussion.

Give it to the teachers in your school - some are ready to move with us.

We don't claim to have all the answers but we are pressing the questions - we know part of the answer is to organize, to educate, to discuss, to mobilize and to struggle and if things go well - to unite. If we ever unite, there is nothing that we can not do. YO! We are getting ready! Hopefully you are too!

Want to be a writer,
distributor, producer, editor
of YO! for the next issue?
Call 908-635-3285
immediately!

Does your organization have a youth outreach plan? We can help you get started. We offer support to like minded organizations that want to figure out how to better reach out, organize, unite and help youth get involved. If you think your organization could do more to reach out to youth and you want some support in doing so, please contact us immediately at 908-635-3285.

Getting started at your middle or high school, campus or community:

1. Contact us. **Click join button at <http://NJYouthUnited.org>**
2. Are there any groups that are approachable around issues of youth activism, war, austerity, etc? Make contact with those groups. Attend there meetings and present proposal to get started.
3. Get a location for first meeting, either at a library meeting room, at a local pizza or cafe shop, in the school commons area or wherever you can meet quickly without red tape. Spread the word in social network, with fliers, word of mouth, e-mail and phone.
4. Propose an initial small scale activity like handing out YO! newspapers, protesting military recruiters, showing a film or having a discussion, inviting a speaker, etc.
5. See where it goes.

Contact us as you go. We can help you figure out how to navigate obstacles to get things gong. We all have to think of ourselves as organizers. The first step is within each of our minds when we make a decision to act. Call or write for more details: 908-635-3285 / NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org

Getting Your Individual / Bulk Copies of Paper / Distribution

To get a copy of paper mailed to you, send \$1 bill and two standard postage stamps to our mailing address (below). You can also request that we mail individual copies to others - furnish postage and mailing addresses.

Be a distributor: Donation suggestions include postage: 100 copies, \$25. 50 copies \$15, Other quantities, contact us, If you want to see about picking up the copies and saving mailing costs or discuss larger quantities, discounted donation rates, contact: **908-635-3285 / NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org**

Make donation checks payable to **NJ Youth United AWI.**

Send requests and donations for individual or bulk copies to **NJ Youth UNIted, PO Box 163, Belle Mead, NJ 08502** (Please call or e-mail to let us know if you are doing a bulk order)

Free Speech in Our Schools - Not Really! Evade Administration Censorship to Get YO! Out in the Schools

by Rob C-Dub

In school, one of the first things that we learn as students is our constitutional rights, one of which is freedom of speech. We learn about how America has fought several wars throughout history for our ideals of freedom and democracy. The intense fear of communism during the Cold War, and the anti-communist propaganda, and the covert operations of the CIA and other government agencies were all supposedly to protect our own rights to free speech. The schools teach us about how the wars in which the United States is involved are being fought for the purpose of bringing democracy to other nations. However, if a student ever tries to exercise this constitutional right, a student may find that the First Amendment is often a myth.

In most high schools, there are regulations on flyer distributions, as well as student groups. Any paper, leaflet, or group often has to be approved by the administration before organizations can be formed and flyers distributed. Even if these media of student expression are approved, they are often strictly regulated, or may be subject to restrictive editing. These same rules do not apply to military recruiters, who do not have to get their methods of recruitment approved, but an antiwar newspaper will probably have to be modified if one takes it to get it approved.

This writer made a public service announcement via the school TV network about an upcoming antiwar March on Washington, and it was a pain to get it approved by the administration. First of all, the speech was delayed a few days, causing some information in the speech to be irrelevant. Also, some of the stronger antiwar language was edited out of the speech.

As far as getting our paper YO! Youth Organizer out, we don't expect the administrations to approve of it, so it is no use asking for approval. However, there are ways to get the paper out that are less obvious. You can distribute them **in the**

The following contributed to the production of the first issue of YO!:

Robert Colby-Witanek, Barbara Brown, Alan Broughton, Baruti Kafele Jr., Waqas Malik, Lily Naha, Yves Nibungco, Bea Sabino, Aleksandra Taranov, Kayla Walden.

Newspaper laid out wiith public domain Scribus <http://www.scribus.net> (download and you can help with next issue)

Looking for: distributors (to get this one out) and writers, photographers, graphics, layout volunteers, donations and fundraisers, ads, promoters and other help to get this issue out and the next issue to the printer.

Blog with us! Sign Up Today:
<http://njyouthunited.org/wp/>

Help from Activist College Students Needed

College students can be helpful to organizing high / middle school students. Think of it as fertilizing the grounds. Many have youger brothers and sisters and friends still in high school. You can reach out to them and ask them to get together with you next time you are "in town." Bring our paper YO! and other written materials and offer to mentor them in starting up activities at their school level.

You can put them in contact with our organization or form a high school chapter of whatever group you are part of. The ideal would be if all of the campus activist groups made a project of organizing the younger students "back home".

That way the organizing would go smoother in coming years on thee campuses as incoming students would already be familiar with the ropes of organizing. In Latin American countries (like Chile, Guatemala) when students fighting the fees shut down the colleges and the right wing professors try to organize classes at the local high schools, they are ejected by the high school student movement. If only we had that level of action here! There is no reason why we should not move in that direction. Please use the join button at **<http://NJYouthUnited.org>** to contact us to help with the high and middle school organizing.

hallways, at the bus stop, or in the commons or lunch room. Also, a good time to hand the paper out is **after school hours when there are fewer teachers, staff, and administrators** in the building. Also, it may be a good idea to **look to teachers to help distribute the papers.** We also ask **teachers to please look the other way** while this paper is getting distributed and remember that we are supporting collective bargaining rights for teachers and other workers, and that we demand support for education. Encourage **teachers to use YO! as a curriculum resource** for class discussion.

Make a list of students who are more likely to be agreeable to our paper and be sure to get it into each of their hands. Identify organizations like LGBT-straight alliances, civil and human rights student groups, amnesty groups, cultural organizations and attend their meetings, introduce the paper and pass them out. Ask teachers if you can do the same, especially in social study classes.

(If you have additional ideas, please suggest them and we can include them in final article.) We can get a collection of papers to you for bulk rates (see inset for details).

Part of the role of a youth movement is to fight for greater democratic rights and that includes free speech rights in our schools. If you feel that a school is stepping on your attempts to organize, contact us - we want to know about it and if appropriate, we will do what we can to support. The system, including the schools, will not make it easy to organize an effective movement to challenge systemic issues like war, imperialism, austerity and oppression so we will need to be creative and take risks as we work to get our word out and our papers into the hands of the students. At the same time, we can build a vast communication networks within the school corridors - it is virtually impossible for the administrations to get absolute control of the halls. That is what we need to do!

Get Your On-Line NJ Student Rights Handbook:
<http://www.aclu-nj.org/downloads/2011studrghtsweb.pdf>