

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY/STATEMENT ON IMPERIALISM:

At the last NSCM, the organization decided that we should draw up principle of unity and a definition of imperialism, with the idea that these would replace the 10 objectives and avoid some of the problems with those objectives. The principle of unity and statement on imperialism were drawn up at a workshop held in April. Since the last NSCM and April workshop, many chapters, regions and the National Office have been thinking about these two things and discussing how principles of unity and a statement on imperialism could be used by VVAW/WSO. This discussion was also held at this meeting. In this discussion it was explained that programmatic unity is the basis of unity for our organization. People learn through their day-to-day struggle and VVAW/WSO's task is to build the struggle of veterans and GIs. Because of this, we don't need detailed political statements as to what our membership should agree to, and we don't need to continually re-define ourselves through written statements. Instead, the organization is our fighting program. The principles of unity and statement on imperialism do not reflect this. We have too often turned inward to define VVAW/WSO (through the many discussions around the objectives and the drawing up of the principles of unity). Instead of continuing to do this, we should be turning to the masses of vets and GIs and bringing them into struggle, building those struggles, and winning people to fighting around our national program. Because of this, the following proposal was made:

PROPOSAL: That VVAW/WSO not adopt the Principles of Unity and Statement on Imperialism. Also, we should do away with the 10 Objectives.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

It was discussed that the "What is VVAW/WSO" should remain in WINTER SOLDIER as a mass statement of what the organization and our fighting program is all about. This statement should change, when necessary, to reflect the struggles VVAW/WSO is involved in.