SANCTUARY: A MANIFESTO

WHAT IS SANCTUARY? HOW CAN SANCTUARY BE CREATED? HOW CAN SANCTUARY BE PROTECTED?

1. SANCTUARY IS NOT YET AN EXPERIENCE—IT IS THE HORIZON.
2. SANCTUARY IS SAFETY, THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE TO CREATE SAFETY, AND A PROCESS TOWARD HEALING. SANCTUARY IS PROTECTION.
3. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY ACTIVELY ASKING WHAT IS REAL AND SAFE, AND ADJUSTING ACCORDINGLY TO THE CHANGES THAT HAPPEN AROUND US.
4. SANCTUARY IS HAVING BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND BEING ABLE TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY.
5. SANCTUARY IS A STRATEGY FOR NAVIGATING THE OPPRESSIVE STRUCTURES WE EXIST WITHIN, FOR CHECKING AUTHORITY, AND MATCHING THE AUTHORITY’S POWER.
6. SANCTUARY RELATES TO AND AFFECTS POLICY. SANCTUARY CAN BE PROTECTED BY LAW BUT IT CANNOT BE DEFINED BY IT.
7. SANCTUARY WILL BE CREATED THROUGH A REFLEXIVE PROCESS. SANCTUARY EXISTS IN A MOMENT; IT IS FLEETING, FLUCTUATING, AMORPHOUS, OUT OF SIGHT, AND UTOPIAN BY NATURE. SANCTUARY IS NOT RIGID; IT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE ONE THING.
8. SANCTUARY IS AN INTERSECTIONAL CONSTELLATION: IT IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL AND IN A CONSTANT FLUX. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY EMBRACING NON-BINARY IDENTITIES.
9. SANCTUARY HAS FLUID BORDERS THAT CAN CHANGE FORM DEPENDING ON THE CONTEXT AND NEEDS AT HAND. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY ACTIVELY ACKNOWLEDGING WHAT WE ARE COMING UP AGAINST AND THE LIMITATIONS OF WHAT WE ARE CREATING.
10. WE COME CLOSER TOWARD SANCTUARY BY BUILDING A CULTURE OF ALLOTHYMPATHY UNDERSTANDING THAT OTHERS ARE PART OF WHO WE ARE AS INDIVIDUALS. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY CONSIDERING THE ROLE OF ALLIES IN THIS PROCESS.
11. WE COME CLOSER TO CREATING SANCTUARY WHEN WE ABOLISH PRISONS.
12. SANCTUARY WILL BE DIRECTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT.

13. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY KEEPING IT DECENT.
14. SANCTUARY IS DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE. WHATEVER VERSION OF SANCTUARY WE CREATE NEEDS TO BE MALLEABLE AND ACCOMMODATING OF THOSE DIFFERENT VISIONS; MANY VERSIONS OF SANCTUARY CAN COEXIST SIMULTANEOUSLY.
15. SANCTUARY IS NOT SOMETHING ANYONE CAN DEFINE FOR SOMEONE ELSE. YOU CAN ONLY DEFINE IT FOR YOURSELF.
16. WE CANNOT STEP ON SOMEONE ELSE’S SANCTUARY TO MAKE OUR OWN SANCTUARY.
17. SANCTUARY IS NOT A PHYSICAL SPACE. IT CAN BE A MOMENT, A FEELING, OR A STATE OF BEING.
18. SANCTUARY IS INSIDE OF YOU. FINDING YOUR INNER SANCTUARY HAS TO DO WITH RECOGNIZING YOUR OWN POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND THE ROLE YOU CAN PLAY IN ANY SITUATION. HOW DO YOU CARRY SANCTUARY WITH YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO?
19. SANCTUARY IS AN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO RESPECT AND TRUST ONE ANOTHER. THAT RESPECT AND TRUST WILL MORE THAN SUBSTANTIATE AND ALLOW PEOPLE TO ACT AS A SINGULAR ENTITY.
20. SANCTUARY WILL BE CREATED BY YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE: WHO MAKES THE CUT?
21. SANCTUARY COMES OUT OF UPRISING.
22. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY BUILDING SOLIDARITY, BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THE IDEA OF SANCTUARY.
23. WE CAN BUILD SANCTUARY BY LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO PEOPLE WHO ARE OUTSIDE OF OUR COMMUNITIES.
24. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY ACTIVELY AND CRITICALLY REVIEWING OUR WORK, ACKNOWLEDGING NUANCE, AND PRACTICING THESE SKILLS.
25. SANCTUARY COMES OUT OF RECIPROCAL RELATIONS. DELEGATE LABOR: FIGURE OUT HOW YOU CAN BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE. WE HAVE DIFFERENT SKILLS AND ARE IN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES—EVERYONE DOES WHAT THEY CAN DO.

26. SANCTUARY COMES FROM GIVING SPACE TO ONE ANOTHER. DON’T ASSUME WE HAVE THE SAME PRIORITIES. WE NEED TO NAME OUR BASIC NEEDS AND THEN IDENTIFY OUR ROLES.
27. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY LETTING GO OF OUR EGOS.
28. PROTECTING SANCTUARY MEANS PROTECTING PEOPLE’S HISTORIES AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY.
29. WITHIN OUR SANCTUARY, WE WILL NOT RECREATE OPPRESSIVE POWER STRUCTURES AND DYNAMICS THAT WE ARE WORKING AGAINST.
30. WE CAN PROTECT AND CREATE SANCTUARY BY LOVING OTHERS AND PRACTICING EMPATHY.
31. SANCTUARY IS BEING PART OF A CULTURE THAT DOES NOT PUSH ASSIMILATION, BUT RATHER EMBRACES AND ACCOMMODATES FOR OUR DIFFERENCES.
32. SANCTUARY IS CONTINGENT; IT IS AN INFINITE VENN DIAGRAM.
33. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY ACTIVELY WORKING TO MAINTAIN IT.
34. WE WILL BUILD SANCTUARY THROUGH A GLOBAL NETWORK OF COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT.
35. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT NOT EVERYONE IS CAPABLE OF EMPATHY AND BY ACCEPTING PEOPLE FOR WHO THEY ARE.
36. SANCTUARY IS SACRED. SANCTUARY IS VULNERABLE. SANCTUARY IS FEELING SEEN AND ACKNOWLEDGED.
37. SANCTUARY CAN BE DEFINED BY HOW WE CREATE AND PROTECT IT. THE PROCESS OF CREATING SANCTUARY CAN BE A SANCTUARY IN ITSELF.
38. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY CREATING A PLURALISTIC SOCIAL CONTRACT OF VALUES AND IDEAS TO WHICH WE ALL AGREE. WE CAN PROTECT SANCTUARY BY SHARING RESPONSIBILITY TO SUSTAIN THE THINGS WE VALUE.

ABOUT THE MANIFESTO: To cultivate the collaborative building of this manifesto, over the past year, Press Press has hosted a series of workshops in Baltimore, New York City, and Chicago. For each workshop, we invited local individuals who have a relationship to cultural passage, as well as members of our community in Baltimore, to gather over a dinner and have a discussion with one another about themes related to building sanctuary. Press Press is supported by a grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.
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