

Statement Against RiseUp4AbortionRights

Posted as Google Doc

We, a coalition of grassroots pro-abortion organizers, publicly denounce RiseUp for Abortion Rights.

Our movement needs to be strong and united. Most repro groups have turned their backs on RiseUp privately since their inception. It is vital for all repro groups to now unite in discrediting RiseUp publicly.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of our concerns about RiseUp, and why we strongly urge pro-abortion activists to join us in rejecting its leadership and demanding the group step back from pro-abortion spaces:

1. RiseUp is a cult and pyramid scheme.

RiseUp is an offshoot of the RevCom (Revolutionary Communist Party) group. Over the past few decades, [RevCom has emerged as a personality cult](#) revolving around its white male leader Bob Avakian. While RevCom fervently [denies accusations of it being a cult](#), [RevCom's own website](#) claims the only effective way to achieve social change is to follow Avakian's leadership and teachings. Similar to its parent group RevCom, RiseUp's only goal appears to be gaining more followers in order to raise more and more money. Both essentially function as pyramid schemes that prey on social movements.

2. RiseUp diverts money from social and racial justice movements.

RevCom and its fronts — RiseUp and Refuse Fascism — are notorious for raising tens of thousands of dollars and using those funds to pay RevCom leadership, and to purchase marketing materials (to raise even *more* money). Refuse Fascism [exploits civil unrest to recruit followers](#) (as it did during the [2014](#) and [2020](#) uprisings), and RiseUp is now repeating the same scheme. [The RiseUp website, for instance, features urgent prompts to donate](#) with no information about where this money goes. What we *do* know is that this money never goes to abortion funds ([which they argue are not a strategy to defend abortion access](#)), providers, practical support groups, or *anyone* actually working to increase abortion access.

3. RiseUp stigmatizes abortion and perpetuates harmful myths.

RiseUp is currently focused on its 'Save Roe' campaign, which involves the wearing of white pants painted with [fake blood](#), [die-ins](#), and [coat-hanger imagery](#). These theatrical tactics further the extremely harmful idea that abortion is a violent procedure and safe self-managed abortion is not possible. In fact, RiseUp has not *once* raised awareness about medication abortion as a post-Roe tool, and its only aim is "saving Roe", despite this never having been enough historically.

4. RiseUp perpetuates anti-Blackness and does not center intersectionality.

RiseUp's leader, Sunsara Taylor, has been a [controversial figure in pro-abortion spaces](#). She and her followers are known for swooping into town and leeching off of existing BIPOC-led grassroots efforts across the country. Additionally, RiseUp frequently likens abortion bans to "female enslavement," which is profoundly disrespectful to Black, Indigenous, and POC comrades.

5. RiseUp has a homophobic past, and remains transphobic.

RiseUp leadership frequently others trans and non-binary folks and excludes them from its speeches, writing, and conversations. In responding to feedback in Instagram comments, RiseUp admitted they focused on "women and girls" and referred to trans and non-binary folks getting abortions as "others" (we have screenshots).

RevCom also has a homophobic past. Up until 2002, [the group's official position was that homosexuality contributed to women's oppression](#), amongst other nonsense. While RevCom and its fronts have since begun to include platitudes for the rights of LGBTQ+ peoples, they have yet to apologize for this past or issue a statement or position in defense LGBTQ+ rights.

6. RiseUp continues to intentionally exclude sex workers.

Sunsara Taylor, the brain behind RiseUp's grift, is explicitly [against sex work and the porn industry](#) (see her prior activism with [Stop Patriarchy](#)). Sunsara Taylor's stance is harmful to the fight for abortion, which we believe must be intersectional.

We urge everyone to share this message widely to prevent fellow organizers and friends from getting further involved with RiseUp and its affiliated fronts.

We also encourage everyone to point folks to reputable alternatives.

Take action at dobbs-response.carrd.co.

In solidarity,

NYC for Abortion Rights
Reproductive Justice Collective
United Against Racism & Fascism NYC
Fund Abortion Not Police
Feminist Collages NYC
Shout Your Abortion
Washington Square Park Mutual Aid
Buckle Bunnies (Texas)
Mujeres en Resistencia NY/NJ

Abortion Access Front
Reproductive Freedom Fund NH
The Jane Fund (Massachusetts)
Reproductive Rights Coalition (Charlotte, NC)
Tigers for Choice (Texas)
Chicago Abortion Fund
National Institute for Reproductive Health Action Fund
SWOP Brooklyn
Brooklyn People's March
Forward Midwifery
SMAbortionActivists
New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Women's Information Network of NYC (WIN-NYC)
Chicago DSA Socialist Feminist Working Group

Additional sources:

Why Do Texas Feminists Hate This Pro-Choice Group? (2014)

<https://slate.com/human-interest/2014/07/stop-patriarchy-interview-find-out-why-texas-feminists-hate-this-pro-choice-group.html>

Petition from pro-abortion comrades in Texas to stop Sunsara's previous org, Stop the Patriarchy:

<https://texansforrj.tumblr.com/>

In Texas, Activist Group "Stop Patriarchy" Draws Criticism (2014)

<https://www.bitchmedia.org/post/in-texas-activist-group-stop-patriarchy-draws-criticism>

Why Texas Feminists Hate This Pro Choice Group (2014)

<https://www.thecut.com/2014/07/why-texas-feminists-hate-this-pro-choice-group.html>

(2017)

<https://usefulstooges.com/2017/03/31/sunsara-taylors-perpetual-revolution/>

Meet the Abortion Rights Group Texas Feminists

Oppose (2014) <https://www.salon.com/2014/08/14/%E2%80%9CCare the white women wearing actual chains%E2%80%9D meet the abortion rights group texas feminists oppose/>

Sunsara being a SWERF in her own

words: https://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/hot_topics/article/69

The Fraud of Rev Com: Why the Revolutionary Communist Party is Neither Revolutionary nor Communist (2019)

<https://jamesjjackson.com/2019/06/17/the-fraud-of-rev-com-why-the-revolutionary-communist-party-is-neither-revolutionary-nor-communist/>

The Eclipse and Re-Emergence of Political Cults (2017)

<https://medium.com/@miguelrr/the-eclipse-and-re-emergence-of-political-cults-e81575f98241>

What The Heck Is The 'Revolutionary Communist Party' Doing In Ferguson? (2014)

<https://talkingpointsmemo.com/dc/left-wing-radicals-ferguson-missouri-protests>

Free Bob Avakian! Oh, he's already free? Never mind. (2008)

http://archive.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2008/01/27/free_bob_avakian/?page=1

The Far Right Thinks a Violent Antifa Overthrow Is Coming Nov 4 — But the Truth Is Far Stranger

<https://www.mic.com/articles/185680/the-far-right-thinks-a-violent-antifa-outrage-is-coming-nov-4-but-the-truth-is-far-stranger>

<https://skepticroview.com/tag/revcom/>

Left of Bernie

<https://harpers.org/archive/2016/02/left-of-bernie/>

Bob Avakian: Dangerous, yes, but not to capitalism (1979)

<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ncm-5/call-avakian.htm>

The RCP's current solution to the gay question.(2016)

<https://libcom.org/article/rcps-current-solution-gay-question>