

# Where are we heading to and what do we actually want?

About the climate movement and where it can go



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**Triggerwarning:** institutional & sexual violence, Police, S3lf-4arm (\*1)

## Introduction

Hey, we are angry and frustrated anarchists from Lützerath.

We are a group in different positions referred to privileges, but our majority is *white* and not cis-gendered (\*2). We are not affected by ableism, but are struggling with psychological problems.

We question discrimination from our side and try to work on it. We stand in solidarity with all of the affected. We want to present you our view on Lützerath, but also the climate movement as a whole..

Since a few months we live here and take part in the life of the occupied village. We are active in several structures of the camp and help to shape the local life.

In the past weeks we had to watch RWE digging far too close to Lützerath and creating a new wall which is supposed to cut us off from Keyenberg and is also extending the enclosure of the coal mine. All of this happened without any counter defense. Only a few small groups were motivated by the situation to do something and distract further digging. The people of the village have joined the activities reluctantly or not at all and preferred to watch how the circle is tightening around us.

Therefore also structural problems like sexism, racism and ableism and other forms of discrimination have sadly not been a rarity. After several incidents the village is now in a reflective process, which is unfortunately put on ice at the moment, but already has made people think about their own behavior and made them reflect on their own privileges. For example people wearing „White Locs (\*3)“ that, after they talked and learned about this topic, came to the conclusion that they can not represent this hair in this racist system and cut them of.

This and also other reasons have motivated us to take part in several actions around the place as well as disrupting RWE's destructive operations here and there. Our goal was to reclaim space and get the village out of the hands of RWE. It angers us a lot that we are so far away from doing as much as we wished for. We have not seen much support from the village for bigger actions in and around Lützerath.

## The Situation of the Climate Movement

For some time now nothing new happens in the climate movement even though there is the potential for a mass movement, which could actually shake up the given circumstances. But the movement seems to be standing still. Coal mines are being blocked in smaller or larger actions, demonstrations are walking unenthusiastically through cities. Whoever is stuck in wage labor has certainly voted for the Green Party to do their part in climate protection or is donating money to NGOs so that they fix it for them.

We hang around in climate camps. Live in occupations. But we aren't even able to do the easiest reproductive work without being called out by FLINTA\* (\*4) to do so. We are always stuck in the same old tortuous discussions without being able to arrive at a long term fundamental consensus. For example at least covering „White Locs“ or the basic understanding, especially of cis men, to do reproductive work or night shifts.

BIPoC (\*5) as affected people are left alone to call out racist structures and behavior again and again. The same is happening in the case of ableism and sexism. Not to mention Antisemitism, which is usually neither recognized nor countered.

And it's not on the people that are threatened by discrimination, to come to us and talk about what needs to be done. It's us, the mostly white and privileged climate movement, which needs to question them self and change their own structures and behavior and take responsibility, so that marginalized people can find their place in our community and feel safe, without always explaining them self. Because how are we supposed to build a better world, when we are not even able to manage that in our own structures?

In Lützerath there is a strong BIPoC community that really hit the ground running. There was a Antiracism-Working Group, which is not existing anymore. But only after a lot of appeals there was a slow progress, for example a short anti-racist input in every camp plenary. This can't be enough, as meanwhile only a few BIPoCs are even coming here (at this point we don't want to talk FOR BIPoCs, but to share their perception, since we were involved in the reconditioning of racism and racist incidents around the camp).

The climate movement is full of hierarchies, which we as anarchists want to abolish. From hierarchies on knowledge to patriarchal, racist, ableist, structural and personal hierarchies. With working groups we try to spread the work on several shoulders. But this is itself producing hierarchies inside the camp, because there are people who are active on a longer term. We should question us, how we imagine our future life and working together. Paying just a little more attention to the struggles of Rojava or Chiapas would surely give us guidance.

We are building up a life in this place, knowing that at some point the state in form of cops will come to destroy everything. Watching this more or less powerlessly, we let ourselves be evicted and take a lot of repression risk on us. In doing so, we only achieve longer eviction stress and higher eviction costs. All of these are no strategies to neither cut down existing Co2-Emissions nor confronting climate change in a sustainable way. Therefore this doesn't help to change the circumstances of people living in the global south, which are most affected by climate change.

But what we as activists experience by continuing with the current strategies, is more than harmful: We suffer from mental and physical harm, up to long term psychological issues. Every eviction is throwing us back and at the next place we start from the very beginning. We never achieve anything consistent, on which we as a movement can connect and build upon. Personal experiences by themselves don't help the movement as a whole in the longer term. We need positive collective experiences. It's good that we have so many forest occupations in the german speaking regions. But what does it help us, when most of them are being held by a few people who are burning out in the process of doing that? Wouldn't it be nice, if we all turned the tables around to instead set fire to state and capitalism?

## What now?

As you may have noticed, we are not using the term „justice“ when we talk about the climate movement. Why so? Because we don't see any justice in this movement.

Discrimination is not being investigated, neither personally nor collectively and is therefore also not fought. Exceptions may exist, but they remain exceptions. Small successes are good and necessary, but not part of a continuous process that will bring the movement in a proactive direction. The same applies to the way of political actions: Squatting, eviction, repressions. And again. that's not the way to „change the system“ or simply holding a forest or village. What is going to change on the activities of state and companies, when a few hundred people are squatting down somewhere to get carried away? We need to stop talking about maintaining blockades and need to start talking about defense. We need to stop interacting with the rulers, they will neither save us nor the planet. We need to rethink our strategies, we need to get out of our passivity. We need to attack the rulers!

We must start with our self, if it's in Lützerath or other places. Let us find out who we are, who we want to be and where we want to head to. Let's question our privileges in a way of solidarity and consequence. Let's talk about the discrimination that we reproduce, without forgetting to criticize our self and to break down any discrimination with solidarity. We wish, that Lützerath and all the other places can turn into a more welcoming place for everyone, since the fight for the climate is as any other social fight, one that we can only win all together!

For that it is important that everyone gets the opportunity to communicate their dreams and wishes. Also our fears and needs will help us to be there for each other. Emotional rounds for example may be long and exhausting but incredibly important for our mental health and thus our basis for revolutionary perspectives. It is important to learn to be there for each other.

By getting to know each other we will strengthen ourselves and form stronger bands. Just a few resolute people can already move things on several points. But what will happen if we unite in dozens or hundreds of powerful bands?

Proclaiming Lützerath as a ZAD (zone à défendre, french: area to be defended) was a good first step. But more than that didn't happen. There are not many differences between any other forest occupations. The occupation here at the moment is defending quite a little. The court still has the decision about our sake in their hands and people are still hoping that the state will take a climate friendly decision.

If the court decision is positive for us in the end, this is just another small extracted concession that we get from the state time to time. This is supposed to pacify us that we are not starting to claim the whole cake. But we don't want pieces nor the cake we want the whole bakery!

Let us look at the state and their institutions as what they are: Racist, patriarchal, suppressing, destructive and first of all: never partners to cooperate with.

As said here in Lützerath things are mostly running as in any other occupation or camp. We prepare to wait for days, until we get beaten out of our home. streets and structures remain open and it's always the same few people which put their energies in preparing the village that it doesn't need to come that far and that we can take the course of events in our hands. Let's get some life into that big word ZAD and start acting, before the state wants to show their supposed power in this place too!

What it needs is a basic change of our strategies and resources. We need to start thinking whether it is finally the time to perceive the conditions as what they are. We will not stop climate change (look at: readdesert.org). But if we organize fast and strike, we could theoretically prevent „the worst“ or at least make the conditions under the climate crisis bearable. That we all can survive and instead of

stealing our bread from one another, steal it from the state. But at the moment it doesn't look like this will happen.

No state, no political party or NGO will save us. There will be no global peace if we strongly believe in it. capitalism is not going to turn green. It will continue to destroy everything that gets in their way. It's the time to cease all demands and fight as individuals and especially collectively for our goals and dreams. It is on us to inspire people on a better world, that we together with new companions can displace state and capitalism.

We need to get away from „getting-yourself-evicted“. We need to get away from watching passively and powerless how we get abused and beaten up. Watching our home being destroyed. We need to get away from „giving-yourself-to-the-state“. We want to emancipate and strengthen our self. Take the course of events in our hands and change it to our sake. No one should get into the hands of cops. Stick together.

We can't allow that our companions are getting arrested, beaten up and drowned in repressions. That is only falling back on us. It's binding our capacities in counter-repression work. In the whole movement the fundamental will and capacity to organize offensively is missing. That also means, that we shouldn't just sit on streets or in tree houses to wait on the violent hordes to tear us out of our lives and lock us up. We need to start meeting on campfires to make plans. Let's create future defense offensive, that cops can't even come to our structures.

Freedom is something that we shouldn't give up freely, let's do anything in our power to fight in freedom.

Solidarity with all prisoners, so that there will be no more!

## **The only way: Revolt!**

Fact is, we need to start defending ourselves. In our understanding ZAD is an autonomous zone where state, cops and capitalism have no influence anymore on how we live and think. It's the most important things we can have in times of the climate crisis – freedom, solidarity, justice.

We need to change our strategies and radicalise our resources. Strike back and get into the offense. Let's not get cocky and watch out that everyone is going home safely and without repressions! Everyone with their own capacities and skills.

Lützerath can be the attempt to go this first step. We are not going to loose in the upcoming fights, the rulers already took everything from us. The fear that stays will be our drive to defend us and all of the ones we love. The resources we need to use are going further than sabotage and throwing stones. Get creative and be inspired by other fights in this world (Hongkong, Chile, Greece, France, Colombia, Zapatista, Rojava) and spread your knowledge and experience.

Meanwhile we shouldn't romanticised militant action. This must be used in a targeted and sensible, but still in a consequent manner. Therefore we also need to say that we don't see militant action as a tool of profiling and question it critically on toxic masculinity. Stop posing with pyro on indymedia or twitter, use your time for meaningful actions. Our occupations are full of militant banners, but in the end we do the least. Let's turn ACAT into reality!

For going into offense it needs bands that know each other well and could say blindly what the others would do next. In german we have the saying „Bildet Banden (Form Bands)“ which we hear again and again and actually it gets annoying. And often this stays an empty phrase. But if we start with it, get to know and love each other, than there is not much that can stop us anymore.

To achieve all of this it needs a lot of awareness on our self, our friends and all our companions. We need to set boundaries, respect and communicate these. Especially respecting boundaries of others is important to build a consistent community.

So talk to your friends about your expectations for a better world, about militant defense of your home and about emotional issues and fears. Then you will see that you are not alone and that it gives a lot of strength to know that the people around you feel in similar ways.

Our love sticks us together! Our fear makes us invulnerable!

## **And what does all of this have to do with Lützerath?**

Under the existing circumstances Lützerath will fall when the the law case of the citizens turns out negative, how we expect. Therefore we must start to change the situation. But for that it needs a lot of people here in Lützerath.

Now we could call like any other occupation for people to come here. But why shall we do that? Wouldn't it be better if Lützerath is calling you magically by giving you a perspective and new hope? So that when you hear from Lützerath you desperately want to go there because you want to be part in the process and not just get a taste of revolution once in a year on the first of May.

That would be our wish. That we were able to give you a new perspective and hope with this text, to achieve something new and to go on.

Now it's on you. Do you want to stay in your city, wage labor or wherever you are in the conservative society? Or do you want to explore new paths, discover dreams and fight for them? It doesn't matter if you are around as a climate activist or somewhere in the so called leftist scene. Lützerath can be the place where the r evolution starts in this country.

Now you may think: Revolution? They exaggerate. On that we can only say: No, we don't. The term revolution needs to be unromanticised. There won't be a (global) uprising and no suppressed class will lead the world to a better state. Every single day we are in Lützerath, building structures and barricades, talking about strategies or simply keep the life in the village running by doing reproductive work is an revolutionary day. Where else is an occupied village where so many diverse fights can get together?

But: with every day which we spend in Lützerath the eviction days are coming closer and more and more things are popping up that need to be done helping us to defend the village. And the more close the eviction days are coming the bigger becomes the weight we carry. We don't just talk about the fear of destruction through the forces of capitalism or the violence of cops. We talk about losing a fight again, losing companions to prison and psychological loads. Let's not get our friends get taken away from us, take care of each other!

Of course we could leave Lützerath if everything gets to stressful for us. To go back to our cities, move on to the next occupation, the next forest. We could continue our search for a better life and watch the destruction year after year until we break down. But that's not what we want, we want to break with all that has held us captive until now. Especially with all the problems and structures of the so called left. We want something new, chaotic, something lovely. We want to destroy the old, try us out and build something new.

And that is the point where we say, we need you out there. Not only as support, as fighting ones on our side. That we can bear the weight and fear together so it gets lighter and we can fight this battle with all of our strength.

That Lützerath stays and we start to win! - Our desire for love and freedom is only achievable by militant defense!

Bijê berxwedana Lützerath!

- Anarchist from Lützerath, 31.12.21

\*1) We write some terms illegibly, because these terms themselves already trigger

\*2) cis-gendered: means people who can identify with the gender that was assigned to them at birth

\*3) „white locs“: White locs" are described as matted hair worn by white people. The criticism as a hairstyle in white people comes from the fact that "locs" / "dreads" are worn by black people as a sign of liberation from slavery. "Locs" on white people thereby represent cultural appropriation.

\*4) FLINTA\*: describes Female, Lesbian, Inter, Non-Binary, trans and agender People. Which are the majority of the most suppressed by the patriarchy, These groups are mostly toxic (masculinity), gender orientated or other violence effected.  
Inform yourself more about the FLINTA\* definition, we can't provide you a all inclusive definition.

\*5) BIPoC: describes Black and Indigenous People of Colour, people that are not *white* and suffer and being suppressed and disadvantaged by the racism of the conservative society.

\*6) Rulers, in our understanding, are people that are profiting of capitalism and use their power to suppress others. As well as politicians that are acting for lobby and private interest and not for people.





I STILL BELIEVE IN  
FREEDOM

