

THE /LEFTYPOL/ CONSTITUTION



Current Staff of /leftypol/:

Webmaster and Sysadmin: Krates

Volunteers: antinous, Ausfaganon, Barbara_Pitt, Beirut, Caballo, Comet, Discomrade, Krates, m00dy, pask, redlidmilk, un_dolphins, wow, wvobbly

Technical Staff: antinous, Barbara_Pitt, discomrade, Krates

Honourable thanks goes to all former moderators and staff!

Rules for users: Articles 1-3. Rules for staff: Articles 4-6.

ARTICLE 1: OUR MISSION

The mission of /leftypol/ at leftypol.org is to provide a fun and enjoyable space for the working masses around the world, as an anonymous community of non-sectarian leftists united in common cause against the forces of capitalism, fascism, and liberalism. Our goal is to act as a centre for serious political discourse and less serious informal discussions on various topics related to leftist thought.

We aim to be the negation of /pol/; anti-fascist, materialist, better read. Our mission, above all, is to learn, and help others learn, the philosophical tools necessary to elucidate the interrelated and ever-increasingly complex space of self, society, and politics, from the local to the global scale.

An important part of /leftypol/'s unique character is our opposition to identity politics. We believe that conflicts between genders, races, sexualities, and so on are distractions from the wider class struggle that are intentionally fanned by the ruling class. This does not mean that oppression based on personal characteristics does not exist, but that it should be approached from an egalitarian perspective which is not personally accusatory and does not assign 'victim' and 'oppressor' groups. The rights of individuals to live according to their own wishes is a fundamental part of leftism.

More broadly, leftism as understood by this document is defined as; "*A broad set of ideological forces which are dedicated to, by one form or another, dismantling the current material way of things in capitalism and building a new egalitarian system to replace it.*" If a point of view or ideology claims to represent socialism or communism, yet is so divisive and anti-egalitarian that it fails to offer a reasonable alternative to the current order, it may be considered as non-leftist.

/leftypol/ is run by group decision of the moderation team, who are empowered by the constitution to take up the task of enforcing the rules, ensuring the smooth operation of the site, and adhering to the above mission statement through the powers entrusted to them by the community. Moderators are always expected to act with a consensus mandate between themselves.

leftypol.org is named after its main board, /leftypol/, but also hosts other boards. In this document, the term /leftypol/ will be used as a shorthand to refer to the entire website unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE 2: /LEFTYPOL/'S BOARDS AND THEIR USES

leftypol.org consists of multiple boards which each have their own purposes and uses. Users should adhere to these guidelines when deciding which board to use for which purpose, and posts that are outside of these boundaries are likely to be moved or deleted.

/leftypol/ proper is the original home of the community and should be used for specific political discussion as well as general discussion which has a political aspect and does not fall under the purview of one of the other boards.

/b/ is a 'random' board in the vein of 4chan's /b/, and has very lax rules and moderation standards. Its main purpose is to contain 'shitposting' or other kinds of random posting, as well as pornography. If a topic does not fit into any of the other boards it may be moved here.

/hobby/ is a board that is designed for discussion of hobbies and lifestyle topics such as cooking, exercise, movies, and so on, which are not required to have a political aspect (though this is not prohibited and often occurs).

/tech/ functions similarly to /hobby/ but is designed for discussion of programming, computers, and other electronics-related subjects. It may also be used by /leftypol/'s technical staff to solicit feedback or suggestions.

/games/ is a general purpose board for both videogames and traditional gaming (ie, tabletop or boardgames) which also functions similarly to /hobby/.

/anime/ is for discussion of both anime and manga, which again is similar to /hobby/.

/music/ is a board intended for the discussion of existing music, archiving of leftist music (historical or contemporary), and collaboration and advice for musicians.

/draw/ is a board devoted to art and OC production, hosting how-to guides and sharing of portfolios.

/AKM/ is the /leftypol/ equivalent of /k/, a board for discussion of weapons, tactics, militaria, and military history.

The /meta/ board is a board intended for feedback, comments, or general discussion related to the site itself. It should also be used for moderation complaints relating to all boards by users.

/GET/ and /ref/ are sister boards to /leftypol/ which are located on their own domain at getchan.net. These boards are not administered by the /leftypol/ staff and operate according to their own rules, but are also leftist boards which are run by friends of the site.

ARTICLE 3: THE RULES FOR USERS

In short, the rules are enforced to provide an entertaining and edifying space for all posters to enjoy, and should serve to keep the board easily usable and free from spam and on topic, with discussion productive and open. In addition, content which is illegal in the United States will be removed.

FIRSTLY, ABSOLUTELY NO CP SHALL BE POSTED ON THE SITE. Anyone posting child pornography will immediately face a permanent ban and their IP will be logged and recorded to be handed over to the authorities (if this is ever required). Content which 'doxxes' another user or person will also be removed. Other content which promotes or endorses illegal activity may be removed as the discretion of the moderators.

No spam is to be tolerated. Spam from a bot is subject to a permanent ban or more severe actions to preserve site security. Spam from a user may also be subject to a ban, the severity of which depends on the situation and is at the discretion of the volunteers.

Pornography should not be posted on /leftypol/ or /meta/ without good reason. In addition, images which are excessively offensive to the eye or to civilised sensibilities may be removed without warning (for example, gore, shock images) and punished with moderator action.

Posts should, overall, be conducive to an informed and productive discussion. /leftypol/ is not an academic journal, but it also should not be a cesspit of back and forth bickering and pointless insults. Users should attempt to argue for the point they are presenting in an honest and open way and should be receptive to information or arguments that do, in fact, challenge their views.

Reactionism and liberalism, or any other kind of non-leftist positions are not banned per se, as we will endeavour to allow and encourage people of other political philosophies to explore leftism through /leftypol/ so long as they follow the rules contained herein. However, non-leftist users are ultimately to be considered 'guests' and thus will be removed if they prove a nuisance or disrupt the normal functioning of the site.

In addition, /leftypol/ is committed to the ideal of left unity, or at least that the left should have an avenue for open discussion, so all 'mainstream' leftist ideologies will be permitted (so long as they do not violate the conditions set out in Article 1). /leftypol/ does not adhere to a specific leftist ideology.

To ensure a basic level of quality, topics or posts will not be tolerated when contributions are not conducive to well-intentioned discussion. Therefore, posts or topics are likely to be removed at the discretion of moderation staff if they;

1. argue under false pretences ("false flagging")
ie. "Hey fellow commies, did you prep your wife's bull today?"
2. imply reactionary or false positions of the userbase as a form of group shaming
ie. "Why do you guys all hate trans people?"
3. are of an overly derisive and mocking nature
ie. "haha, btfo commies hitler rulez"
4. are of a gratuitously offensive or hysterical nature
ie. "I hate fucking Mudslimes, we need to hang them all before they rape our children"
5. are debating inherently reactionary topics where no reasonable debate is possible
ie. "In what way should be exterminate the lesser races, guys?"
6. are low effort sectarian bait rather than good faith discussion
ie. "Tankie/Anarkiddie hate thread" or "Why does this theorist suck so much?"
7. are likely to create pointless and unconstructive arguments about 'idpol' (as defined in Article 1)
ie. "Why can't I have women as sex slaves?" or "Why are whiteoids like this?"

These examples are low quality posts that are considered, at best, bait, but are better described as spam. Any poster that violates this rule may be subject to a ban, and any post that violates this is subject to deletion, subject to the discretion of moderators, if they feel that the topic may be an avenue for productive discussion.

Volunteers may remove other posts according to their own discretion which they feel do not contribute to the stated mission of /leftypol/, but they should try to adhere to the standards of the community and of their fellow moderators, and to refrain from arbitrary decisions. Where there is disagreement among moderators, the matter will be decided by informal consensus of currently active moderators. If there is still disagreement, the matter should be escalated to a formal vote.

Once a ban is issued, it should be followed by the user and not contravened. The evasion of bans will lead to continued bans and possibly an escalation of moderator action against a user. In addition, it is prohibited to attempt to imitate a moderator, or to give the impression of being multiple users at a time (for example to falsely make one's own opinion appear more popular).

Users have the right to question and challenge any bans or post removals, or other moderator actions, which they feel are unfair or do not live up to the spirit of the rules. This may be done in the moderation feedback threads on the various boards, or on the /meta/ board, but comments should be considered and constructive, and should not devolve into polemics against the volunteers. Ultimately, the judgement of the moderation team is final.

ARTICLE 4: THE EXPECTATIONS FOR STAFF

The staff is expected to act as transparently as possible given the unique conditions of imageboards and of /leftypol/, and should generally try to act in accordance with the wishes of the user-base of the site's individual boards and that of /leftypol/ as a whole.

While individual contributions are both expected and welcomed, staff members should ultimately try to serve as vessels for the will of the users of /leftypol/ as far as can be reasonably achieved given the constraints of the medium of imageboards.

Staff members are expected to never issue unwarranted or unjustified bans, move or lock threads without valid justification, or otherwise attempt to undermine the democratic will of the users of the community.

Staff members must review the post history of a user before issuing an IP-wide post deletion in order to prevent unintended deletion of important posts or threads. A user's posts should only be wiped as a whole if they are consistently lacking in quality or merit or consist of spam.

Staff members must give an explanation for all bans along with the ban when it is issued. This might consist of one word in simple cases, like "spam", or a longer statement, like "posting in bad faith, trolling". The ban reason should let the user know in plain terms why they are banned, and should also not be used to insult a user.

When threads are anchored or 'bumplocked', the acting staff member must leave their justification for the decision in the offending thread. In the absence of such a justification the thread should be unanchored, or else the action justified by another staff member. The thread may still be unanchored at the discretion of a consensus of other staff members even if a justification is given.

In addition, anchoring decisions should primarily be made based on the content of the original post and posts by the original poster. Ideally, threads should not be arbitrarily anchored due to later derailing or disruptive posts which are out of the control of the original poster, and the offending posts should simply be removed.

Moderation actions should ideally be recorded in a public board log which tracks deletions, bans, and so on, under the names of the individual mods who made the actions, so that moderators can be held accountable by the users and by their fellow moderators. In addition, the moderation team should announce major changes to the userbase, even if these do not involve moderator votes, so that the community can be made aware of any new expectations or rules.

While individual interpretations of the rules and agreed practices may differ somewhat, this manifesto is intended to provide the 'be all end all' authority on how /leftypol/ should be run, and should not be contravened except by a formal, critical, majority vote. The actions of the staff and users should follow from a straightforward interpretation of the text herein.

ARTICLE 5: CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS

All matters shall be decided by vote of the staff and if possible should the opinions of the community as a whole will also be considered. The nature of international anonymous imageboards makes capturing user opinion difficult. The staff is expected to try to gauge the general opinion of the boards objectively as possible and use that information to guide their decisions.

Matters which have a relatively low impact, such as removals of individual posts or new threads which are without merit, or short term bans of individual posters, volunteers may act on their own initiative. However, the removal or modification of longstanding threads with a large number of posts, or matters which affect entire boards should be decided by the moderation team as a whole as a consensus.

When other staff members are not available for consultation for non-obvious bans which are urgent, the staff member is expected to list and share the details of the ban so that other staff members can review their decision and provide oversight at a later date.

The modification of site or board rules, the modification of the manifesto, or other decisions with a profound impact should be subject a formal vote among the staff on /meta/.

For a formal vote to be called, a mod must clearly propose the matter in the proposals topic on /meta/. Each proposal must have 3 'ayes' (this includes the original proposer unless they state otherwise) after three days (72 hours) in order to pass. The original proposer can choose to withdraw their own proposal for revision, or for any other reason, even if it has received three ayes. Moderators or users can have their say on each proposal (including voting nay) in the topic, however any votes other than aye are only indicative.

Once a proposal has been agreed by three moderators, it can then be posted in the voting topic on /meta/. Moderators can vote yes (aye), no (nay), or abstain from each vote. A vote must, after three days (72 hours), have more ayes than nays to pass. If a vote receives 7 aye votes, it is considered to have automatically passed and can be implemented immediately (unless there are 7 or more nay votes).

More detailed discussion is possible and encouraged where ambiguity or controversy exists. If possible, the moderation should come to a rough compromise between themselves on the matter where all perspectives are considered, though in some cases this will not be possible.

For non-critical matters, there is an option to fast track a proposal. A non-critical proposal may be fast tracked if there are three or more staff members which respond positively (including the original proposer) within **TWO HOURS**. The fast tracked proposal will then be considered de facto agreed without objection **TWENTY-FOUR HOURS** later, and if possible other staff members should object during that time.

Critical matters shall include the election of staff members, moving well-established and popular threads between respective boards, and the amendment of these articles and otherwise matters that transcend the rules and jurisdictions of individual volunteers. When the presidium deems a matter as critical, the matters will have a minimum of a **SEVENTY-TWO HOUR** voting window and are ineligible for fast tracking.

When the votes are deemed as concluded by the majority of the staff, a decision will be made and the matter will be considered closed and ready to implement, if applicable. A decision which has been made should not be revisited without significant change in circumstances or extenuating circumstances for at least a period of one month. A member may choose to withdraw their own

proposal during the proposal or voting stages, in this event, the matter will not be considered 'closed' and can be revisited as required.

Unless the matter requires secrecy for operational reasons, votes should be listed in the voting topic on /meta/. The post should be identified in an official manner (ie. using admin/volunteer IDs). For matters of 'internal security', votes will be conducted in private in the moderator voting room on Matrix.

The user-base should be measured for their opinions of the matter wherever possible, and the staff should use this feedback to inform their proposals. Staff should try to balance the sometimes competing desires of different users in the best way possible but should not ride roughshod over the wishes of the userbase in general.

To this end, special rules are used for the creation of formal site polls – these can be proposed by the approval of only two staff members, and votes must run for only **TWELVE HOURS** before being accepted by a simple majority and implemented. Due to their speculative nature, internal polling votes will not be disclosed to the userbase until their success and the creation of the poll. Official polls should not be conducted outside of this mechanism due to the possibility for confusion.

A public log of all moderation votes and their results should be maintained for the later reference of both staff and users, and to ensure that decisions are recorded and followed.

ARTICLE 6: TRIAL AND REMOVAL

All efforts will be made to guarantee due process for all users of /leftypol/. However, due to the transient nature of imageboards and anonymous users, the process for users must take place informally in moderation threads and internal chats. For staff members however, there must be a more formal procedure.

The staff has the right to begin trial or adjudication procedures against any staff member for any reason, but typical reasons may include failing to comply with moderation guidelines, seriously disruptive activity, abuse of other staff or users, contravening or attempting to contravene site security, or intentionally causing damage to the site or user-base through any means.

Staff members so accused should have the right to speak before the staff, the right to a full adjudication, the right to present their own case, and the right to a fair vote before the majority of the volunteer/administration team, with any users who may have a severe personal conflict of interest abstaining.

Removal of staff members should at all times require a critical vote in moderation channels. However, due to the nature of site security, the accused may have their moderation powers removed from them during the trial or before the trial begins for reasons of safety, to be returned immediately if they are found not guilty by a majority of moderators.

This trial process is not intended to determine the absolute truth of matters per se, and matters should be judged on the preponderance of evidence; whether it is more likely the accusation is true than that it is false. In addition, users who are found guilty by the letter of the rules or the accusation may regardless be found not guilty of committing an offense that deserves their removal by the moderation team through the process of jury nullification.

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**Drafted and written by Comatoast (despite his sins), Antinous, Caballo, and Wvobbly.**

**Signed and approved by a majority of volunteers.**

**This document is the 2022/02/06 revision, which supersedes all previous versions of the constitution/manifesto (which have now been merged into a single document).**