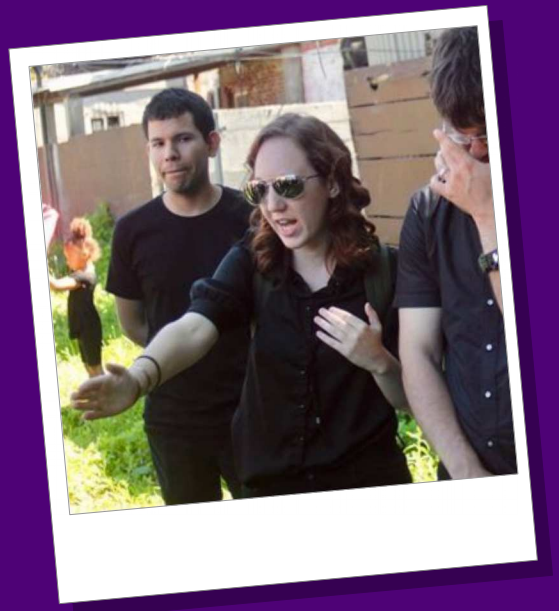
SPARKING CHANGE:

WHAT FREE SOFTWARE CAN LEARN FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

M. K. Fain

ABOUT ME

Software Engineer, Grassroots Organizer, Feminist Writer



FREE SOFTWARE AS A SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE

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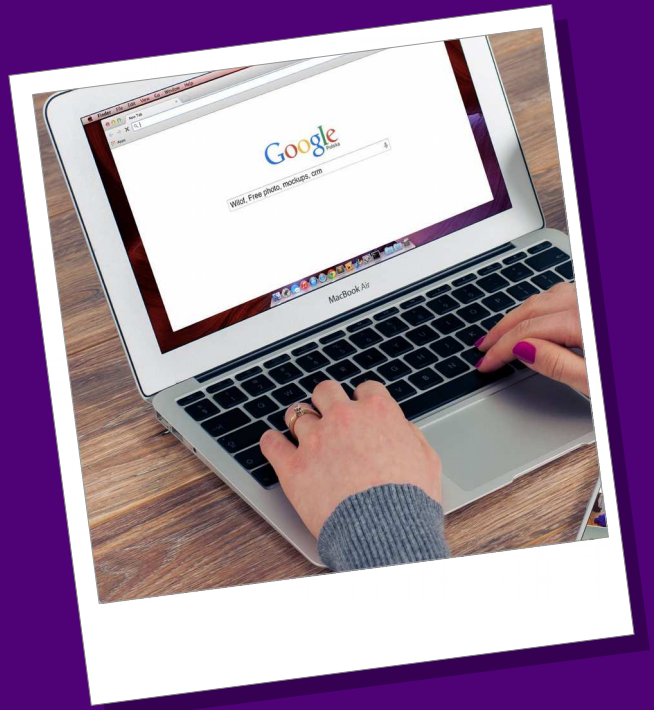
> Every non-free program is an injustice. The fact that it exists is a social and ethical problem for society; and the goal of the free-software movement is to put an end to that.
>
> – Richard Stallman

NEGATIVE PEACE

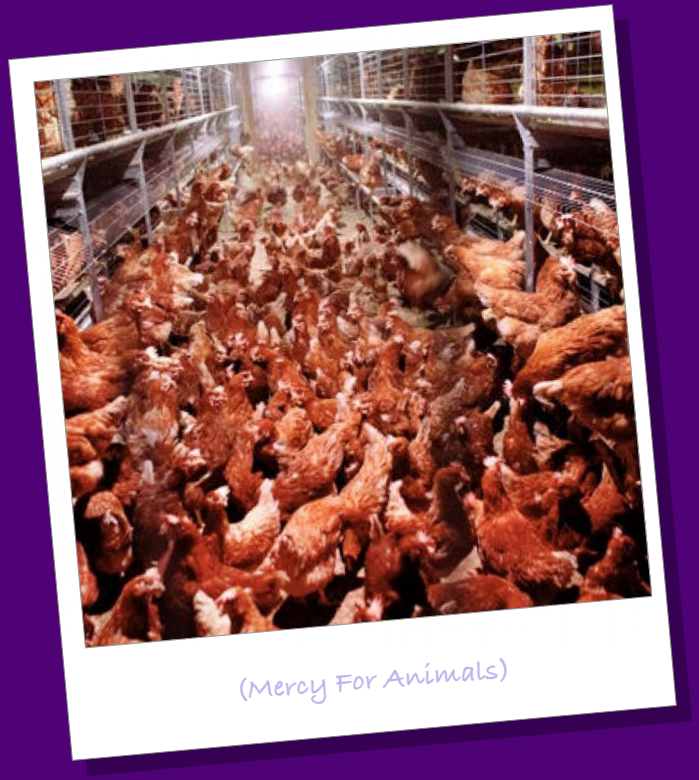
"The Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action;"

- MLKJ, Letter from a Birmingham Jail

NEGATIVE PEACE
IN THE STATE OF SOFTWARE



STATE OF THE MOVEMENT



(Mercy For Animals)

Welfare vs. Rights

STATE OF THE MOVEMENT

(Mercy For Animals)

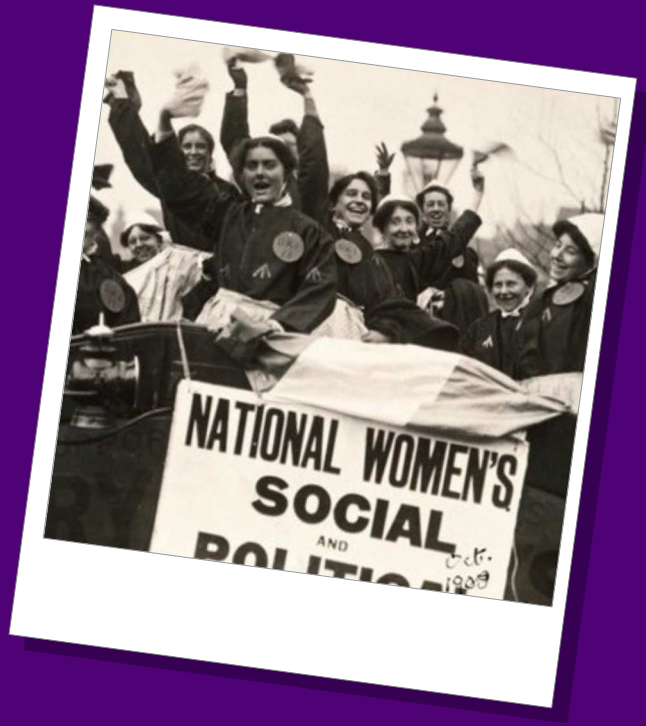
(info.microsoft.com)

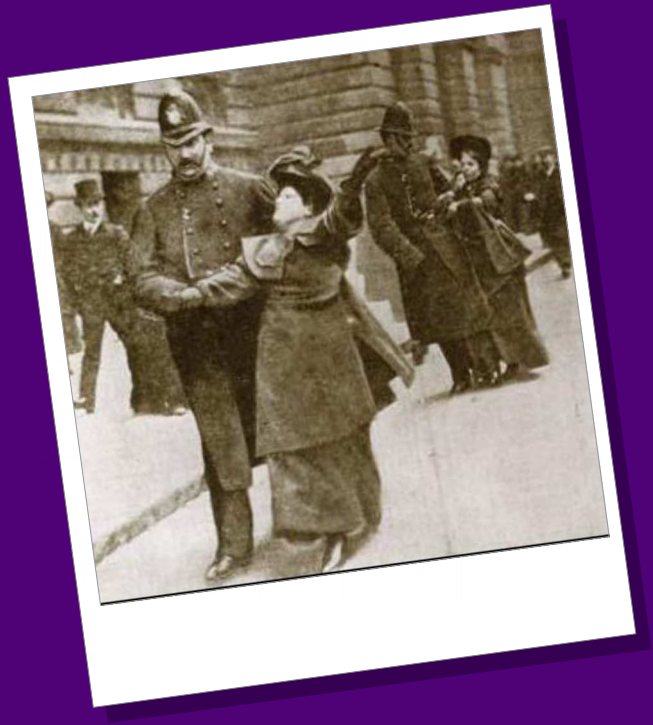
STATE OF THE MOVEMENT

Average user feels apathetic, hopeless, or sees no reason to change their behavior.

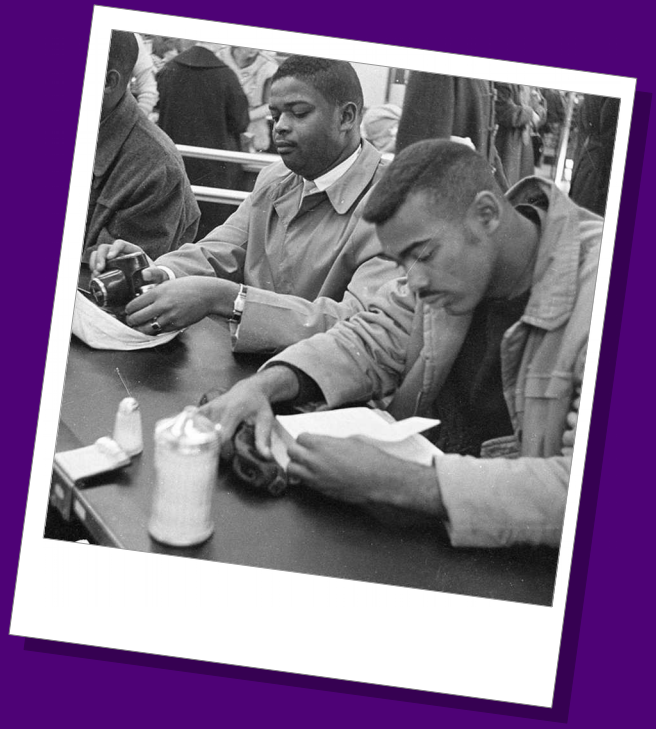
HOW HAVE PAST SOCIAL MOVEMENTS SPARKED CHANGE?

WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION

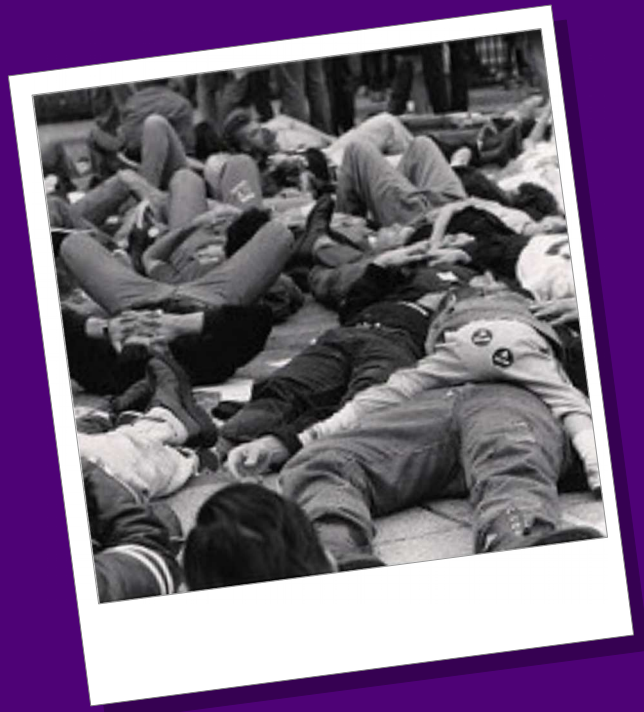


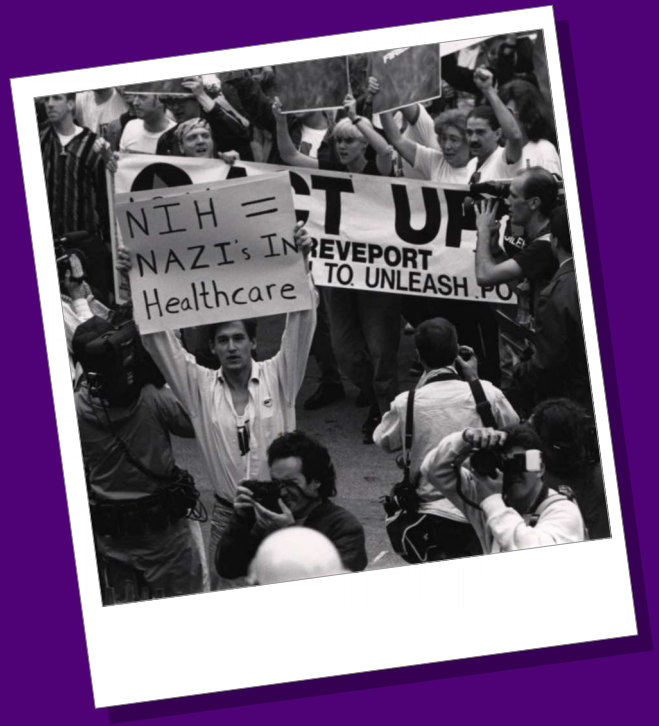


AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



AIDS AWARENESS





ОТРОР!

(CC-BY-SA Joulupukki)

(Tony Cartalucci)

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198 METHODS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION

The Methods of Nonviolent Protest and Persuasion

Formal Statements

1. Public speeches
2. Letters of opposition or support
3. Declarations by organizations and institutions
4. Signed public statements
5. Declarations of indictment and intention
6. Group or mass petitions

Communications with a Wider Audience

7. Slogans, caricatures, and symbols
8. Banners, posters, and displayed communications
9. Leaflets, pamphlets, and books
10. Newspapers and journals
11. Records, radio, and television
12. Skywriting and earthwriting

Group Representations

13. Deputations
14. Mock awards
15. Group lobbying
16. Picketing

The Methods of Social Noncooperation

Ostracism of Persons

55. Social boycott
56. Selective social boycott
57. Lysistratic nonaction
58. Excommunication
59. Interdict

Noncooperation with Social Events, Customs, and Institutions

60. Suspension of social and sports activities
61. Boycott of social affairs
62. Student strike
63. Social disobedience
64. Withdrawal from social institutions

Withdrawal from the Social System

65. Stay-at-home
66. Total personal noncooperation
67. "Flight" of workers
68. Sanctuary
69. Collective disappearance

HOW MANY OF THESE TOOLS ARE WE UTILIZING?

HOW MANY
COULD WE BE USING?

NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION FOR FREE SOFTWARE

- Protests, sit ins, and marches to demand software freedom and educating the public

- Creating symbology:
  what is our red ribbon?

- Build IRL grassroots movement

APPLYING CONFRONTATION TO OUR DAILY LIVES

Challenge the normalization of proprietary software by refusing to use it, and becoming comfortable with non-violent confrontation.

CREATE SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Help others find freedom using free software, and support total liberation.

THANK YOU!

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