

CALIFORNIA DREAM CHARTER

The representatives of the World Council of the Paulo Freire Institutes, coming from every continent on Earth, meeting at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2012, for the VIII International Paulo Freire Forum, whose central theme was "Imagining a World Where It's Easier to Love: Paulo Freire's Social Justice Education", consider that:

a) created in the West, in the second half of the 11th century, the University has been developing a trajectory that oscillates between "corporativism" and the universal spirit, generally with the hegemony of the former, benefiting the elites that have access to it, while damaging the interests of the majority of populations on the Planet.

b) in the beginning of the third millennium, the so-called "Society of Knowledge" emerged, in which social justice is considered legitimate only when it advances the socialization of the scientific and technological communities.

c) Higher Education, known for centuries as a prerogative of intellectual leaders and vanguard minorities, has recently been recognized as the right of all, so, from now on, it must be universalized, overcoming the old thesis that the majority of humanity is condemned to mechanistic, repetitive and dehumanizing work.

d) The University presents itself, in this second half of the XXI century, under various institutional matrices - like the classic European models inspired by Bonaparte and Humboldt and the emergent neoliberal and popular ones as well - announcing an academic conflict rich in debates and full of new institutional possibilities for the development of public science (tuned to the interests of the majority of the population) as well as the so-called "Pluralistic Cognitive Democracy".

e) The fact that Paulo Freire was recently proclaimed the "Patron of Brazilian Education" makes Him the *ethos* of the whole Brazilian Educational System at every level of scholarship.

f) In 2013, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Paulo Freire's first public experience of alphabetizing 300 peasants in Angicos, in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, demonstrating that education based on a critical reading of the word and the world is the key for the conscientization and liberation of human beings.

g) Paulo Freire created the conditions for the development of a powerful theory of Higher Education and the role of intellectuals in society, in the seminar that he developed in Mexico City in 1994, asking that his followers reinvent rather than repeat his ideas in every new context.

Considering all this, we Freireans are hereby committed, in the next two years, to:

1) Re-inventing the legacy of Paulo Freire in Higher Education, with the intent to create a Popular University, responsible for Public Science, tuned to the liberation and the interests of the oppressed.

2.) Constructing a university that will take responsibility for the formulation and implementation of education as social engagement and that will not turn a blind eye to dialoguing with social movements or with the sciences and epistemologies of the oppressed.

3) Inspired by the Freirean legacy, we want to make visible knowledge produced by freedom-loving students in traditional schools, particularly those of Higher Education.

4) Fighting for the inclusion of knowledge created outside the Walls of the Academy, we will construct a truly Pluralistic Cognitive Democracy, which will transcend the narrow concept of the socialization of science and technology produced within those Walls.

5) Finally we will fight for own transformation into true Public Intellectuals who stimulate others to do the same in their universities or wherever science is produced.

California, September the 21st 2012.

Handwritten signatures and notes are present throughout the page, including names like Anderson, Silva, Hiliana, Marcella, Daniel, Babara, and others, along with various scribbles and additional text in blue ink.