

Stroud Red Band: Statement of Principles

- Music is liberation:

We are a creative and democratic collective that brings together - and celebrates - the individual talents of its members.

Music is a celebration of life and human creativity. We use music and artistic expression as a response to oppressive society, to sustain and build our movements, and as a reflection of the world that we want to live in. The Red Band is a group of musicians of all levels who use music to support causes of a broadly Left nature.

- Racial and Social Justice:

We aim to challenge and eliminate all forms of domination (including racism, class oppression, sexism, sexual orientation discrimination, ageism and disablism) both within our group and within the broader society. We embrace people of all religions and those who have no religion. SRB supports working people in their struggle for a decent standard of living and equality of all kinds.

- Diversity of political strategies:

We agree that we will work together, making art to contribute to progressive struggles without promoting any particular political group. We work in the spirit of unity, particularly through trade unions and organisations for change and protection of our planet.

- Respect for Culture:

We work towards a society that respects all cultures, to promote cross-cultural understanding, social justice and human solidarity. We attempt to do this in a manner that avoids exploitation, stealing or ignorance of the world's cultures.

- Respect for the Earth:

We work to reverse the trend of domination and misuse of the world's natural resources. Many of us are against capitalism because the destruction of the world's environment has reached the level of ecocide.

- Respect for people:

We are all suffering, some more than others, the effects of class and capitalism such as austerity, insecure employment, high prices, insufficient health care, poor diet and inadequate transport systems.

We observe gross distortions of the truth in Parliament and in those parts of the mainstream media that serve the interests of the few.

We support non-violent action aimed at removing power from those who hold it undeservingly and seek to exercise it over society.