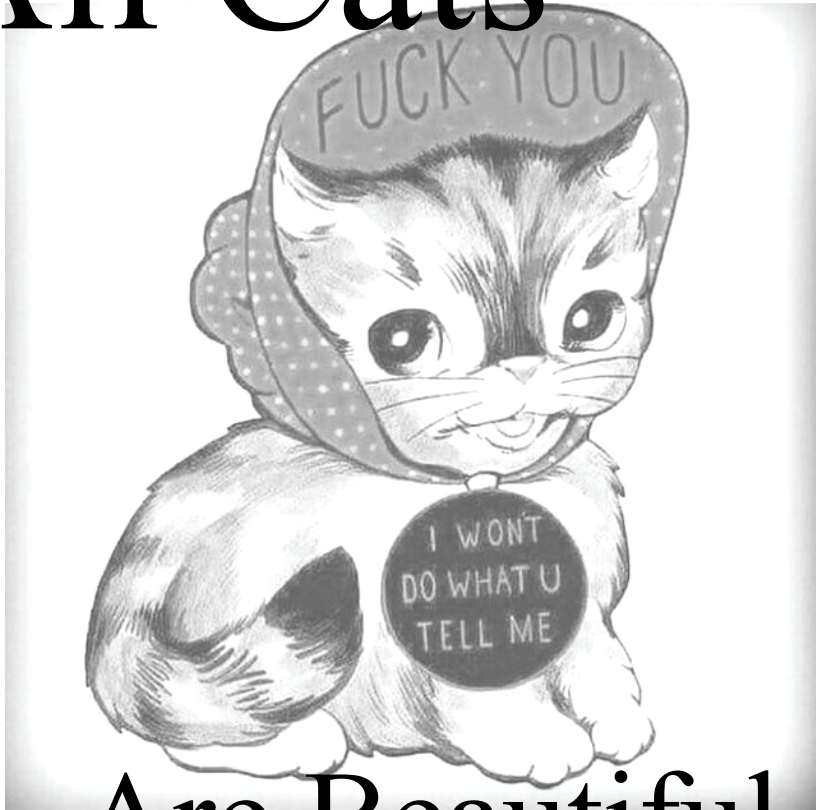


written on stolen land known as
vancouver, canada...

All Cats



Are Beautiful

ACAB for beginners

★ Cats understand that
cops don't keep us safe ★



Part 1

Winter 2019
anonymous



<https://distro.black>

ACAB for beginners
Winter 2019
anonymous



DON'T TALK TO COPS

**Copy and distribute freely
Show this to your liberal friends**

**Winter 2019
anonymous**

Recommended Resource List:

> **Revolutionary Left Radio - Red Hot Take: DON'T TALK TO COPS!** (podcast)

<https://revolutionaryleftradio.libsyn.com/red-hot-take-dont-talk-to-cops>

> **Beat the Raid - Raiding Resistance: Updates on anti-pipelines graffiti raid in Vancouver, BC against anti-pipelines organizers, indigenous warriors and anarchists**

<https://beattheraid.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/raidingresistance.pdf>

> **Pivot Legal Society - Know Your Rights When Speaking to Police**

http://www.pivotlegal.org/know_your_rights_when_speaking_to_police

> **Cindy Milstein - This Is What Community Self-Defense and Solidarity Looks Like, or Should!**

<https://cbmilstein.wordpress.com/2016/11/12/this-is-what-community-self-defense-and-solidarity-looks-like-or-should/>

> **Sprout Distro: zines on security**

<https://www.sproutdistro.com/catalog/zines/security/>

> **Anti-Police Power Surrey**

"Anti Police Power Surrey (APPS) is a grassroots organization committed to building collective resistance to police and the systems of power and domination they uphold: capitalism, colonialism, and white supremacy. We are active on the unceded, stolen territories of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlem nations, occupied by Surrey, British Columbia. "

<https://antipolicepower.org/>

> **A World Without Police: Study Guide**

"This study guide is intended to help activists understand the police and craft strategies to abolish them."

<http://aworldwithoutpolice.org/study-guide/>

Life tips

> **Don't talk to cops!** Not even friendly chit chat! Not even if you didn't commit a crime!

> Spread the word that no one should be talking to cops!

> **Don't snitch on others!** Say nothing about anyone!

> **Know your rights** so you can say as little as possible when detained or arrested. See **Recommended Resource List**

> Don't say anything in public or in text that you wouldn't want read back to you in court.

> **No bragging about crime**

> Joking about blowing stuff up, if caught on the record, could potentially get you a conspiracy charge

(see "*Toronto G20 Main Conspiracy Group*" zine in **Sprout Distro security zines list**)

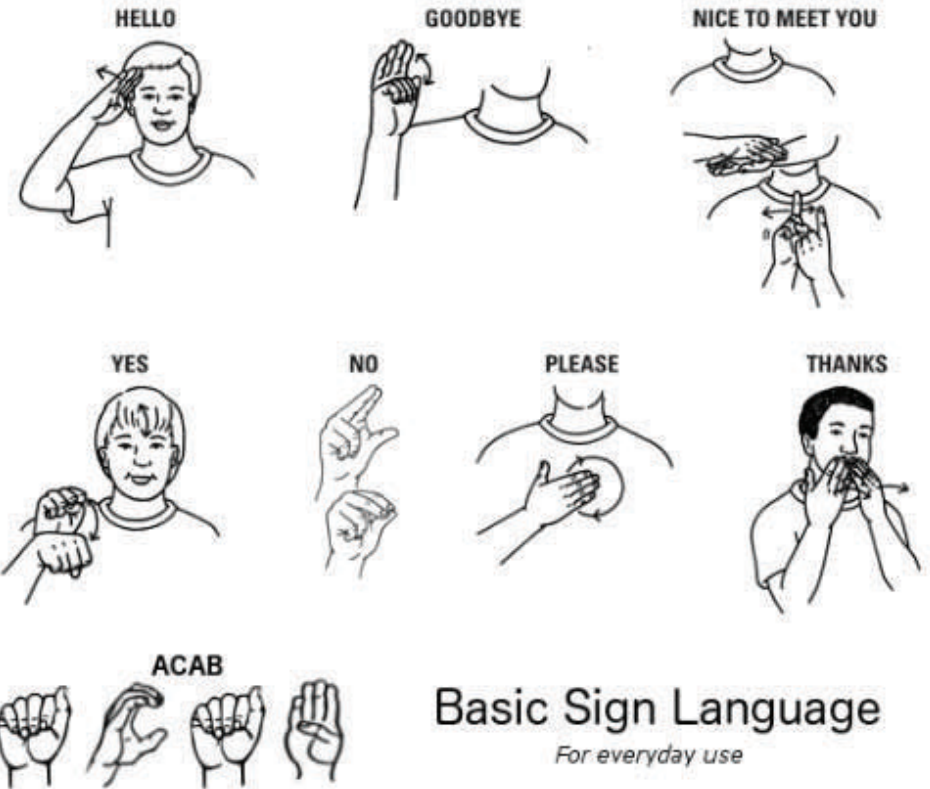
> Think about how well you know your comrades and work toward growing trust. **Build relationships that are impossible to infiltrate.**

> Encrypt your devices. Don't leave incriminating things in your home. Know what to do in the event of a police raid.

> **Don't be quick to involve the cops** in the event of a conflict between people. Cops can escalate a situation and make it worse, but there are some situations where they can genuinely help.

> **Research your country's prison system.** How do you get in contact with people inside prison? How can people help from the outside? You and your friends should have a realistic view of prison and an understanding of whether your organizing will inevitably result in confronting the legal system.

> Think about what **community self-defense** would mean within the context of your community.



Basic communication with deaf comrades

acab for beginners



ALL COPS ARE BASTARDS.

But we're not saying that cops are all necessarily "bad people"...

When we say ACAB, it really means the *existence of the social position of "police officer"* is the real bastard. But we also say it when cops predictably use their authority to go above and beyond the call of regular bastardry!

All Cops Are Bastards, and not because they are flawed as individuals. They are our enemies just for ***being police*** and carrying out the duties of their jobs.



source: the internet.

This meme captures the general gist of things, yet definitions of "good", "bad", and "morally unacceptable" shouldn't go unquestioned. Also there ought to be another way to point to bastardy actions without invoking clinical designations like sociopathy and psychopathy.

You actually don't know that a functional society without police is impossible. Such a society wouldn't resemble this one at all, so you don't know how humans would relate to each other in vastly different circumstances.

A world without police is a whole other thing, too, because that consists of many societies coexisting with each other. But here and now, a community that actively works to not depend on police and avoids contact with them whenever possible is another thing itself.

And it is possible.



Some of us are lucky enough to have friends who also understand ACAB and aspire to support each other with relationships that don't entail domination. It'll be a fact of life that some people will just want to dominate others, so it's in our interest to learn how to defend ourselves together.

We have to use what we have, and we carry the baggage of toxic cultural messaging that has warped our senses of self and our ways of relating. Just trying to deprogram ourselves, teach each other, and help each other survive is so important. We don't have to frame every action as a step in a process toward some larger revolutionary moment that'll restructure everything. We just don't want the police in our lives.



We want our world within ourselves to have no need for police, and that means knowing how to deal with violence and conflict in our own communities.

We want to evade repression and capture, so we have to know how to stay under the radar and what to do and say when cops come around.

We want to grow each other's capacity together, and that means killing the cops in our heads that tell us that possible things are impossible.

"But what kind of world do you want?"

"Then how *should* things work?"

I don't have to lay out a blueprint for a new world order to know that we shouldn't have police. I just don't wanna dominate others and I don't want anyone to dominate others either.

I'm not saying we should abolish police and change nothing else. **Consider instead a situation where there is no authority that has the power to "abolish" an institution or a concept.**

NO CLASS OF PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO SET THE TERMS AND LIMITS OF OUR LIVES.

The point of criticizing the police and wishing for a world without one isn't to move everyone from point A to homogenizing utopia B. It's worthless to propose a solution that replaces the functions of the state and the police for everyone because **there shouldn't BE a system that exists to administer everyone.**

There probably won't be a moment where everyone decides that enough is enough, so there is no point in dreaming of a "society" that encompasses the entire world.

Practically speaking, **we should be organizing on a much smaller scale** if we want everyone affected by collective decisions to have a say in those decisions. Representative democracy is so obviously insufficient for this purpose.

Within a country or even within a city, there are too many conflicting interests, including those of nonhuman lives, for a centralized governing structure to meet all needs meaningfully. Think about the lifeways being disregarded and paved over, like the indigenous ones that would be perfectly reasonable to want nothing to do with any world-swallowing design.



In general, isn't it just sensible for people to directly participate in creating and choosing the conditions of their own lives?

The existence of laws, rights, police, courts, prisons, nation-states, and borders form a context that is completely antithetical to this basic freedom.

On the level of what their occupation is for, **cops are paid wages to maintain status quo business as usual.** That means a few businessmen get to accumulate inconceivable amounts of money while billions of people spend their lives as literal slaves. *This is lawful "order".*

The police are our enemies for their willingness to use force to protect the interests of their employers. Their employers, as a class, **only want us either gainfully employed and productive or dead.** Cops are fighting class war on their behalf.

But it's not just that cops are Bastards for accepting money to fight against our interests.

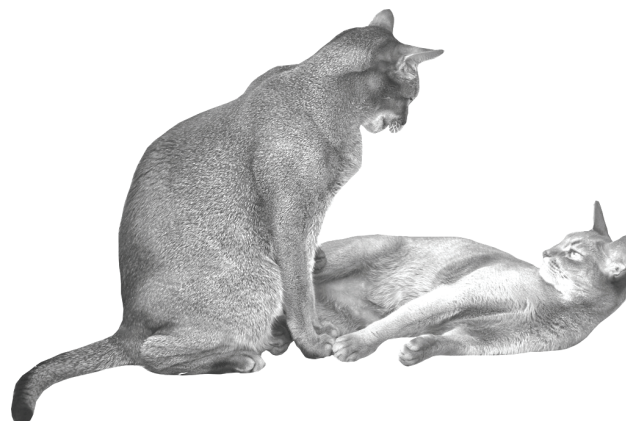
Police have the weapons, willingness, and social sanction to torture us till we do as they please, and we're not allowed to defend ourselves.

They get to dominate us by virtue of their occupation, as enforcers of the law. Laws are the basis on which police get to surveil, harass, assault, and imprison us. Everyday we choose to self-regulate to avoid attracting attention from the police. When meeting our needs is at odds with obeying the law, we have to think about and weigh which is worse - forgoing those needs or risking getting caught and punished.

We are not freely deciding how to act.

We live in a state of constant coercion.

Therefore, the institution of policing is wholly incompatible with any social arrangement where we get to have meaningful agency and self-determination.



PART 1:

Cops are Bastards for "just doing their job"!

No one's denying that cops have a function in our world as it is. Sometimes they do help people and save lives while performing their duties as law enforcers. But this is all taking place in a context where law is defined to suit the interests of people who prioritize business bottomlines above all.

This is an environment where some people are so deprived and alienated that hurting or stealing from fellow wage-slaves and societal rejects makes sense as a survival strategy. We lose sight of who **actually** deserves divesting, and the obfuscation of who's setting us up to lose is on purpose. (Organized crime that targets the truly rich, anyone?)

This is also an environment where acting according to your conscience and saving lives can be criminalized if it directly conflicts with the profitability of powerful business interests.

Consider "crimes" like trespassing, public drinking, stealing from walmart, or sabotaging fracked ("natural") gas pipeline construction. *Who benefits from these laws? Who actually gets hurt when these behaviours are enacted, and who gets hurt because they're criminalized?*

Illegality can be one person's only way of getting by in the world and another's most ethical course of action. Yet cops will hassle folks in technical violation of the law just because they feel like it, regardless of the actual social harm done. Cops always have the option of looking the other way! Sometimes they do. And you already know what kind of people cops show lenience to and who they bear down on with as much violence as possible...



"exploited migrant workers pick my vegetables, kids mine minerals for my electronics and make the shoes I wear to the gym, oil tankers only spill once in a while, we can just plant new trees to replace the ones

we cut, and it's a shame about those other countries torn apart by imperialist war and resource extraction, but it's got nothing to do with my life, and I pay my taxes and work my job everyday so I'm doing my part to grow the economy by making more jobs, and that really, really helps people."

Part 4:

"but what would we do without police?"

"some people don't deserve agency and self-determination because they'd hurt others"

"Society can't function without police because it'd just descend into mob rule. Anyone with the muscle and firepower could make everyone else do what they wanted"

It shouldn't be normal and acceptable for anyone to force you into behaving according to their will with violence/the threat of violence. **But that is the world we live in now.** Rich fucks get to buy off people with muscle and gunpower - police, security guards, gangs, the military, paramilitaries, etc - to trample all over everyone else. Canada is really good at building big habitat-wrecking mining and energy operations that the people affected clearly do not want. I already mentioned how cops get to strong-arm us if we do anything they don't like. And the law is used as a bludgeon wherever it corresponds to the needs of those who can leverage it.

We know the law is not equally enforced. We know laws are written by corrupt, corporate-funded politicians. Law does not protect the weak. Law is all about ensuring the continuation of normal economic activity, which is extracting profit through the exploitation and abuse of those with less power.

Can we call the current state of affairs "functional" or "peaceful" and worthy of protection? Only if you ignore the people targeted by police surveillance and repression. Only if you ignore the people who are criminalized for coping with a shitty fucking world that bills you for existing and charges additional fees for having no money.

**Can you really assume
there are no better alternatives?
This is already so bad.**



**CAPITALISM AND THE POLICE NEED EACH OTHER.
THE STATE AND THE POLICE NEED EACH OTHER.
COERCIVE, ABUSIVE WAYS OF RELATING ARE ALL CONNECTED
IT ALL HAS TO GO.**

Policing only seems to keep "us" safe if you exclude huge swaths of humanity from your sphere of ethical concern. Precisely, you'd only associate cops with safety if you're not including the people who are victimized by the police for using the means available to them to survive, for holding their ground and defending what little they have left.

If you're paying any attention to what's happening in the world, cops represent danger!



Hopefully, you don't hate poor people yourself. Even if you're of the unimaginative sort who'd say that anyone who's poor brought it on themselves and just isn't trying hard enough, *do you really think the way cops single out and abuse people helps them?* I'm not suggesting cops ought to function as social workers. *I'm saying cops should leave people the fuck alone. In fact, all cops should quit their jobs and start doing work that actually challenges the structural violence and power imbalances that constrain all our lives.* There's definitely a way for people to cope with the social problems of an urban hellhole like ours without cop violence setting the limits of acceptable social behaviour. It takes imagination and people doing work in their own communities. People can manage themselves without state intervention, but the trick was making us believe that we never have done it successfully and certainly couldn't do it now.

Really, a world without police is only unimaginable because there's no way these bastards are going to give up their power willingly.

TO PROTECT AND SERVE? TO CONTROL AND HUMILIATE POOR POC.



You really wonder why cops would choose a profession that is all about making our lives harder, just to help the rich get richer? I'd guess at least some of them have probably been deluded into thinking they're helping make the world better, when all they're doing is sheltering the moneyed class from reminders of the pointless, desperate poverty made by everyday economic activity. Pretty understandable considering the narrative we're brought up with from childhood onward. From where I stand, it goes like so:

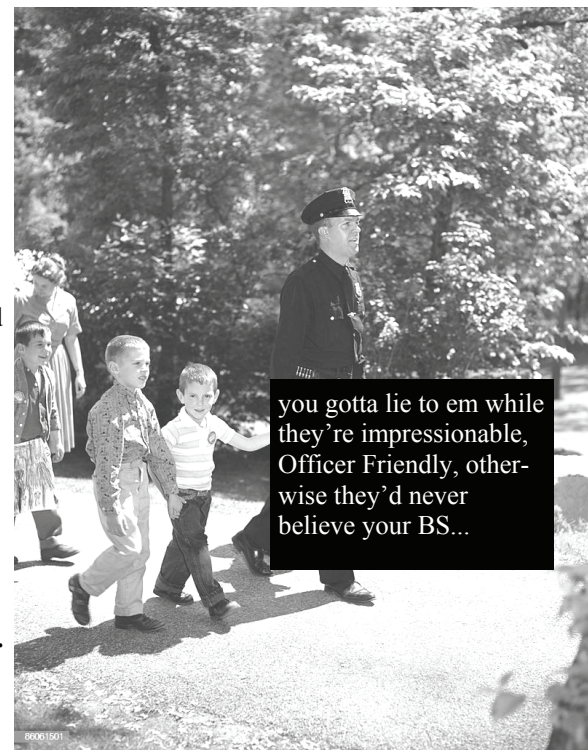
Most people are good and well-meaning, but some people are bad. They will hurt others for selfish gain. We've decided as a society what behaviours are harmful and therefore undesirable, and we've defined these as "crimes" in the law. Bad people commit crimes. We have also encoded into law the punishments for committing these crimes, which are proportional to the damage done. We need the law in order for us to all get along, because without rules and punishments we would be overrun with crime, which is violent and destructive.

The higher-level purpose of policing is to keep us all safe by making sure everyone obeys the law, which makes for a peaceful society. Police officers are hired to prevent crime with their presence, but also to intervene when people commit/are about to commit crime. With enough policing, it is possible to suppress and eliminate crime.

This narrative is what we call "bullshit". Laws are not democratically-determined. In the first place, the entire state apparatus and its injustice system are colonial constructs with origins in the murder, enslavement, and suppression of indigenous people on their own territory. **Laws encode the violent domination of one small group of people over everyone else.** Some laws may ostensibly exist for the purpose of social welfare but law on whole clearly reflects the moral, aesthetic, and economic sensibilities of the law-makers.

Furthermore, "legal" and "illegal" don't neatly map onto the divide between "good" and "bad", "pro-social" and "antisocial".

This is evident if you pay any attention to who gets tazed and shot, who gets teargassed and beaten, who gets arrested and fined, and **who gets to keep on hoarding clean water and selling it back to people or dumping toxic waste into rivers because it's cost-efficient.**



Regardless, it's not a matter of refining the law so that legality better reflects some notion of "morality". Whether the laws are "fair" or "just" does not matter. They still represent a form of social control. **We do not have bodily autonomy and freedom of movement when our lives are framed by state and law.**

If something is illegal, cops can tell you to stop doing it. They are allowed to threaten you with pain if you don't stop.

Or even before you get a chance to stop and explain, they may cause you pain and shout at you to stop resisting.

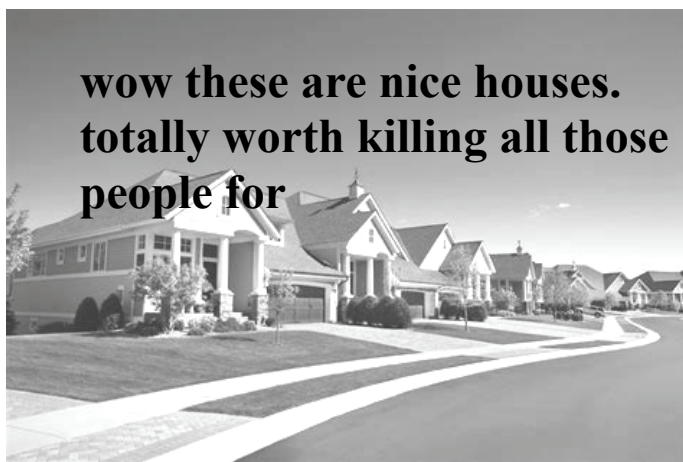
They may subdue you with weapons and continue applying those weapons well after you've been incapacitated, well after you pose a threat to anyone.

They may forcefully relocate you. They can remove you from where you are and take you to an office, a holding cell, a courtroom, a prison.

Stripping people of their agency and making them bleed is a condition of their jobs, because we aren't going to naturally orient our lives around helping corporate executives speculate million dollar art pieces in offshore warehouses.

We aren't going to submit to abusive wage labour relations without the threat of starvation and homelessness. For those of us who know who the real public enemies are, it takes the threat of getting our asses beat and put in a cage to not just fucking riot.

Our reward for letting the police line up our bodies in their desired order? *Some snooty white people get to have nice houses and clean storefronts, and the true beneficiaries of this arrangement get to hoard yachts and research how to colonize mars.*



Also, we get to live to work another day...

ACAB BECAUSE THEY HATE POOR PEOPLE

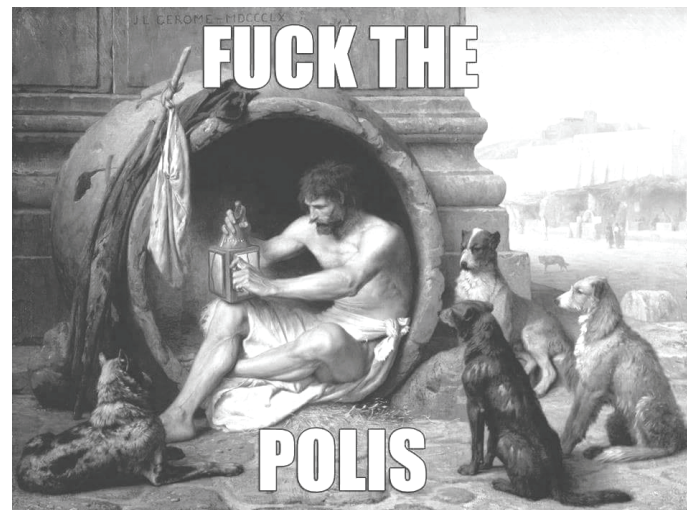
Police are hired to protect private property and real estate values. **They are hired to protect the upward flow and accumulation of profit for a few.** They do not serve the general human population, as that is inclusive of the unruly poor.

If you think about which neighborhoods are "nice" and "safe", you'll notice the absence of anyone who can't afford an inoffensive business casual veneer. Missing are the signs of life lived without that money: grafitti and temporary shelters and loitering spots and spent drug paraphernalia and food wrappers.

ALSO THERE ARE A LOT OF WHITE PEOPLE.

If you find yourself wondering why that is a bad thing -- why we shouldn't welcome gentrification or clean up our streets and storefronts -- you have to think about the logical conclusion of eliminating unsightly people and things from your line of sight. When you throw garbage away, it doesn't disappear. It stays forever in a fucking garbage dump. When you throw people away, they have to go somewhere. Forced relocation tears away at whatever support they had managed to build in their former homes.

The way police focus their attention on certain people and not others comes from assumptions about who deserves to be there and who's at home. Panhandlers, people in precarious housing situations, addicts, sex workers, poor and rowdy youth, and the "mentally ill" aren't allowed in "nice" neighbourhoods, they are pushed out of gentrifying ones, and in the "bad" neighborhoods they are hassled for carrying out their everyday activities. **It's like if you're not buying stuff and not working for a wage, they don't want you anywhere at all.**



PART 3: on acceptable targets of policing (aka police violence)

Even if you can accept that cops routinely do bad things, maybe you still think some people truly, actually "deserve it"?

"If you obey the law, you have nothing to fear and nothing to hide. you only hate the police because you're doing bad things."

If you've ever said or thought something along those lines, maybe you're not part of a demographic that learns to fear and mistrust the police as a part of staying alive.

If your habitual behaviours and aspirations fall within the ambit of lawful, socially-approved forms of life, you may not have ever noticed how All Cops Are Bastards. But some of us live lives and dream dreams that inevitably place us outside of normative middle class (white, bougie) morality, and by extension, legality.

Consider, though, that people get confronted, apprehended, and assaulted by the police despite not breaking the law.

Look into the practice of carding in Canada. Racial profiling is a real thing they do, no matter how much they try to copspeak their way out of admitting it.

Talk to people in the DTES about how the VPD act like huge assholes if you just take up space and look like you don't have a day job.

Consider that cops can and do lie, pinning folks with trumped-up charges and faking evidence because it's their word against yours.

Just look up police abuse and use of force against indigenous people.

Look up police repression against environmental, anti-globalization, anti-racist and anti-pipeline protesters.

And consider how often you act illegally. Maybe you don't follow the letter of the law all the time, but you can afford invisibility or are in a position to navigate the proper bureaucratic channels to mitigate the consequences.

Maybe you look clean-cut enough that you get a free pass on doing a lot of things others get thrown in jail for, illegal or not.

Maybe you have no aversion to police because you have the ability to buy solutions to problems (e.g.: purchasing food and paying rent) while others have to resort to "crime" (dumpstering food and squatting).

Even if you've always felt safe around cops, you'd be ridiculous to claim that all it takes for anyone to feel the same is to "stop making bad decisions".

**YOU FORGOT THAT COPS
GET TO BE FUCKIN RACIST**



Part 2: Some Cops Are Real Bastards!

Some cops are "nice people" and do their best. Sure. *And others are rapists, abusers, murderers, thieves, liars, and general scumbags* who do so much damage they had to be brought to court (not that all of them get a meaningful punishment).

It's not just that there's a greater proportion of "bad apples" than people would think.

Lying bastard behaviour is normal within policing.

Lying is necessary for the police to keep its good social standing while completely flouting the law. Terrorizing marginalized populations is necessary for maintaining the sanctity of "private property" and protecting the rich from getting fucking guillotined.

We have a 2-tiered justice system that enables cops to do reprehensible things and get away with it to do more, while mass culture is committed to narrowly framing the discussion so people are prone to forgive the profession (if not the individual bastard cops) and find ways to blame the victims.

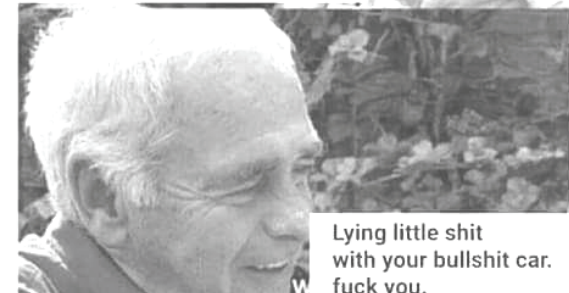
If you're skeptical that more than just a few extremely aberrant rogue cops are the problem and there is no endemic of bastardry particular to the police, maybe it would do you good to look up statistics and news articles. Images and videos seem to drive it home for people. If you search for instances of police brutality, corruption, negligence, and general cruelty, you'll find the victims have extremely varied circumstances, so you'd be extremely disingenuous to dismiss all of them as "deserving it".

I recommend /r/Bad_Cop_No_Donut/ for easy-to-digest information:

https://www.reddit.com/r/Bad_Cop_No_Donut/



That's a stupid fucking car.
You don't protect and serve.
You never protect and serve.



Lying little shit
with your bullshit car.
fuck you.

If you do your research, you'll notice a few undeniably rotten things about the way cops operate, such as...

- > how often they **kill dogs** (a website that tracks cop-killings of animals -- <https://puppycidedb.com>)
- > how they justify threatening, shooting, and killing people by claiming they saw a weapon **when clearly there was none**, and sometimes they just fucking plant weapons on people after the fact
- > how they are **blatantly racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic**, etc.,
- > how they seem to harass and beat people for **no reason other than sheer pleasure or vindictiveness** (see how they act toward protesters and rioters, but also civilians)
- > how they get to **lie in court, lie to the press, lie to us** to get us to surrender information on ourselves or others
- > how they receive **little to no punishment for murder, rape, and other serious crimes** that would get a normal person a very long prison term -- temporary leave with pay, a change in position, the lightest prison sentences legally possible or even less.
- > how when a cop is accused of a crime, the **police force gets to investigate itself**. They invariably find nothing wrong was done.
- > how **cops punish cops who whistleblow**, further entrenching cop bastardry.

If any of this is unfamiliar to you, maybe it's because news and social media and TV choose to showcase *copaganda* instead - pro-cop propaganda that humanizes and endears police officers to the public.

So instead of any honest look at the corrupt, hateful, and abusive tendencies of police, we get aggressive PR campaigns pushing videos of cops dancing and singing or playing with kids or cuddling abused dogs in little police vests.

There is a subreddit for this too:

<https://www.reddit.com/r/copaganda/>

On police dogs:

Dogs have to be repeatedly conditioned with fear and punishment to fiercely attack humans on demand. These dogs come from breeders. They were brought into existence solely to have a chance at becoming a tool of repression and control. They were not born for any other reason. Most dogs who are subject to this training do not proceed to "work" as police dogs. They get adopted out, traumatized for life with no guarantee of a good life afterwards.

See:

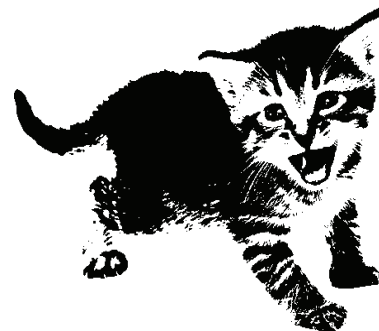
http://www.pivotlegal.org/the_tragic_truth_of_police_dog_training_practices_in_bc

The standard operation of police is a huge social problem that has dangerous consequences for many, many people. Yet mass media is determined to tell a different, completely dishonest story of why police exist and how they operate. When it acknowledges a problem at all, talking heads insist that the status quo abhorrence of police practice can be solved with reform -- new laws, regulations, oversight, and a better cop culture. But the content of the reforms miss the point, often attributing good intentions but locating the problem in a lack of information/misunderstanding/lack of trust between cops and civilians. And of course, there are the "bad apples".

This framing for identifying solutions will not address the actual problems.

No changes within police will change the fact that they are mercenaries for the rich and enforcers of normative middle class morality.

No amount of police reform will change the fact that police possess an immense power over our lives that no one should have.



**A FEW BAD APPLES
ROT ALL THE
FUCKIN' APPLES IN
THE BASKET.**

**COMPOST
THEM ALL!**