



# Riveters Collective

***“We Are Doing It”***

Civic Action in Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan Counties

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## ★ 2021 Platform ★

Adopted on February 22, 2021 by a unanimous vote of the board of directors.

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Riveters Collective discovers, develops and promotes effective progressive civic action in Whatcom County and neighboring communities. We envision a diverse society of informed and empowered community members engaged in progressive political activism to improve the lives of all. We engage our local governments and elected officials, challenging them to adopt and pursue this bold community vision, supporting them in taking calculated risks to achieve this vision of a more just future, and encouraging them to reflect openly on unintended outcomes.

Achieving our vision requires our self-reflection, critical dialog, and awareness of the interconnectedness of systems, issues, and people. Toward these ends, we submit this platform statement, detailing both general and specific positions, to be revised annually.

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## **Commitment to Honoring the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe**

Riveters Collective honors the People of the Salish Sea with gratitude, and acknowledges with humility that the land and water we now refer to as Whatcom County and the Salish Sea have been their territory since time immemorial. We commit to supporting the work and mission of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe. We believe in tribal sovereignty and self-governance. The voices of the Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation should also be included meaningfully in Whatcom County government decisions. We believe in protecting and restoring the Nooksack watershed and Bellingham Bay to protect clean water and improve salmon habitat as salmon are central to their culture, subsistence, economic vitality, and preserving their way of life. We acknowledge Tribal Treaties to be the supreme law of the land and call on the United States to fulfill their promise and obligations made in the Treaty of Point Elliott as interpreted by the Nooksack Tribe and the Lummi Nation. Specific elements of focus include water for salmon, culturally-relevant education, access to high quality healthcare including mitigating the disproportionate impact of COVID-19, and respecting their treaty rights for land, fishing, hunting, water, and the environment. We further commit to raising our awareness of our complacency by initiating and growing partnerships with the

Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe in efforts to understand Indigenous perspectives and governance. We commit to using our power and influence to: dismantle ongoing settler colonialism and white supremacy, advocate for bold solutions and legislation to ensure water rights for salmon, combat climate change, ensure the health, economic vitality, and longevity of future generations, and do no further harm.

## **Human Rights**

Riveters Collective acknowledges and respects each person's agency over their own humanity. We make space for the leadership of marginalized people in their own empowerment. We support tribal sovereignty, self-determination of sovereign peoples, and the protection of treaty rights. We support the work of groups representing people oppressed for their race or ethnicity.

We believe Black lives matter. We all need to be involved in anti-racism work, countering systemic racism and white supremacy. Systemic racism permeates all the areas addressed by our platform and works to oppress people of color while benefiting white people. This cannot continue. Racial justice and equity require action within ourselves, by individual community members, and by community leaders so that we collectively avoid further harm. We believe it is essential to listen to BIPOC voices, and use our position in the community to work toward anti-racist platform goals.

We support the civil rights of people facing barriers to legal immigration status. We call for dismantling the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency and reverting to pre-2003 immigration enforcement agencies of the US Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Federal Protection Service. We oppose for-profit detention centers, detaining families, separating children from their families, immigration raids, and retaliatory detentions. In this state, we specifically call for closing the Tacoma Detention Center.

We value self-determination regarding gender and sexual orientation, including asexuality. Trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people exist. People should use the bathroom they are most comfortable in. Menstrual trash cans should be available in all bathrooms. Reproductive rights are also transgender and intersex rights and related medical treatments for transgender and intersex people are a matter of self-determination and body autonomy. Gender transition health care is necessary and important, and should be controlled by patients and their doctors, not employers or legislators. Gender equality is central to Riveters Collective's work, and we call for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

We value the separation of church and state, and respect the right to peacefully practice religious beliefs and customs.

We work toward an inclusive, barrier-free community that protects the fundamental basic rights of people with disabilities, in which dignity, self-determination, health, and quality of life are promoted.

## **Civic Engagement**

Riveters Collective facilitates civic engagement and we believe that it is incumbent upon us all to participate in civics. We recognize that each individual has a responsibility to behave as a global citizen, bearing in mind that our actions impact not only our families and local communities, but also the world. We support election reform, including automatic voter registration, a national holiday on election day, publicly funded elections, presidential elections by popular vote, verifiable and publicly owned voting systems, and restoration of voting rights for formerly and currently incarcerated people. We support efforts to fix gerrymandered voting geographies and support instituting a non-partisan electoral boundaries commission. We support government transparency, public process, and believe that Washington State legislator communications and schedules should be available for FOIA requests. We believe that holding elected officials accountable, preparing and electing capable people with diverse experience, and serving in public office are essential tasks of citizens. We support ranked-choice voting and proportional representation systems to ensure that the proportion of seats matches the proportion of votes, and to guarantee that every vote counts.

We believe government best serves the people when elected officials reflect the demographics of the people they represent, especially valuing representation of groups facing institutional oppression. We support women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, indigenous people, as well as others who possess qualities and experiences that are reflective of the diversity in our community to run for public office. This includes efforts to recruit and provide candidate training, as well as to give weight to people's diverse attributes in the selection and endorsement of candidates.

## **Economic Equity and Access**

Riveters Collective recognizes that income and wealth (economic) inequality are growing, and are destabilizing and dehumanizing forces in our community. We support efforts to reduce income and wealth inequality, and because we understand that economic inequality is intricately coupled to systems of discrimination, we recognize that efforts to reduce economic inequality will be futile if not aimed at eliminating discriminatory and biased practices in hiring, compensation, housing, banking, education, and food systems. In practical terms, this means that all policies and laws must be anti racist at the core.

We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated income and wealth inequality in our community and across the nation, impacting marginalized communities most. We call on elected officials to take immediate action to provide economic support to those most in need.

We believe in the dignity of workers. We believe that all people have the right to meaningful work that is safe, respected and compensated with living wages and benefits. We support the right of all workers to organize and collectively bargain with employers. We support minimum wage increases

locally and nationally. We support the development of vocational opportunities that will build a sustainable local economy and provide living wage jobs, including re-education for those displaced from the workforce due to changes in the economy.

We support a return to a fair tax system that allowed the American middle class to thrive. We support progressive reform to make Washington's tax system equitable, which includes a capital gains tax and income tax.

We support pay equity, affirmative action, and reparations for communities harmed by historic and continuing systemic racism, such as redlining, slavery, and colonization.

We support policies and institutions that eliminate banking deserts and discriminatory banking practices.

## **Ecosystem Health**

Riveters Collective believes that no discussion or policy related to ecosystem health can take place without honoring and including the voices of the original and continuing stewards of the land, the indigenous people who have lived here since time immemorial, which includes the Lummi and Nooksack people in Whatcom County. We support processes and decisions that minimize negative impacts on living systems and that restore integrity to those we have degraded. We acknowledge that authentic progress on addressing climate change and ensuring clean air and water - especially for those most vulnerable and least powerful, including future generations, will involve substantial change and collaboration on personal and institutional levels. We believe that solutions lie not in continuing on the same path at a slower rate, but rather in changing course entirely. Our goal is restoration of ecosystem health, not merely slowing decline. We believe that reaching this goal of restoration will require changes in every aspect of our current economic, regulatory, and legal system, and we believe the framework and urgency in the Green New Deal provide an important start in moving us toward achieving these goals. We support environmental policies and laws that work towards environmental justice and equity, and that involve, engage, and elevate the voices of communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, and the specific environmental issues that affect them.

We support best-available-science based processes and solutions for the preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity. Key elements of these solutions include native species, buffers, habitat connectivity, and movement corridors and protection and restoration of riparian areas. We support landscape-level planning for healthy populations of native fish and wildlife.

We support the development of green infrastructure to build the resilience of human and natural systems to climate change. We support a rapid transition to fossil-free energy, active-transportation infrastructure and investment, and carbon neutral economies. As carbon pricing is a high-efficacy

tool for incentivizing our transition, we call for carbon pricing that supports the transition of lower-income, gasoline dependent residents and other impacted communities. We support carbon-neutral public transportation infrastructure such as shared small-mobility, electric buses, streetcars, and high-speed rail within the Cascadia corridor.

We recognize that protection of tribal treaty rights requires protection and restoration of habitat, water quality, and instream flows for salmon and other species. We support an adjudication of WRIA 1, for which local tribes have petitioned. Doing this will resolve conflict over water use in Whatcom County. We believe it is important that resolution of the conflict does not impair senior water rights and provides sufficient instream flows to support salmon recovery and water quality goals.

## **Education**

Riveters Collective believes free, equitable, safe, quality public education is essential for a healthy democracy. All people, regardless of immigration, disability, or economic status, should have equal access to an education that will prepare them for their roles in civic action, environmental responsibility, creating a just and equitable society, leadership, and 21st century careers. In order to ensure all future citizens understand the possibilities of our democracy we support all high school students taking a US government and civics course. The right to education should begin with childcare and preschool, and end with a bachelor's degree or other post-secondary certification.

We oppose charter schools and the harm they cause by taking taxpayer money from public districts while not being held to high standards of transparency and accountability. We oppose high stakes tests since they are inherently biased. We support sustainable and equitable state funding that fully funds all school districts in our community, including living wages and benefits for childcare workers and for preschool and public school teachers, and includes librarians, nurses, and counselors in every school. We support schools in prioritizing the most impacted students in pandemic-recovery resource allocation decisions.

We believe politicians from the state to school boards should work to diminish the worsening disparities related to COVID safety for staff, students, and families as described in the Health Care section below.

We believe leaders should push school districts to demonstrate that they are actively anti-racist, anti-discriminatory, equitable, and inclusive both in their curriculum and in their treatment of staff, students, and families. We urge districts to hire staff that are reflective of their diverse communities and student populations. Districts should be required to provide antiracism training for all staff. All students, families, and staff should feel represented, “seen”, included, and physically and emotionally safe at school. Schools should reflect and respond to the unique identities of the communities they serve in the classroom.

In order to achieve this, we believe it is essential that legislators and school districts center the needs of and seek direct feedback from students, families, and staff from marginalized groups. State leaders and school districts should enact evidence-based policies, procedures, and programs based on these needs and feedback. Outcomes of these efforts should be measured independently of the district, should include feedback from students, family, and staff who are directly impacted, and should be reported to the public. The state and schools should increase efforts to measure, report, evaluate and then address (based on what the data show) racial and economic disparities in: suspension rates, other disciplinary measures, enrollment of students in gifted programs or high level courses (e.g. AP classes), and graduation rates. Additionally, legislators and districts should invest in infrastructure to support increasing equity in response to this data on an on-going basis.

We call for accountability for the full implementation of the Since Time Immemorial curriculum in all Washington public schools. It's an important law that isn't being carried out in many districts.

## **Family and Child Welfare**

Acknowledging that supporting families facilitates positive outcomes for children, we support paid parental leave and early parenthood support. We believe families belong together whenever possible. We recognize the power inequity in the court and child welfare systems. We advocate for increased funding for public defenders to reduce caseloads and provide parents with more effective representation. We advocate for family group homes as opposed to placing children in foster care away from their family. We believe addressing poverty would reduce most child removals and family separations and we support direct relief and anti-poverty measures.

## **Health Care**

Riveters Collective believes that racism is a public health crisis and supports community engagement and government action to remove all of its tangible forms from our public health, education, justice, economic, government, housing, environmental, and safety systems. There is a disparity in health outcomes for people from diverse backgrounds and communities. This is unacceptable. We believe all Whatcom county leaders should review and implement the recommendations from the [Racism as a Public Health Crisis resolution](#) adopted in November of 2020.

We believe politicians, local leaders, business owners, and the public should work to diminish the worsening disparities related to COVID safety for everyone. We support funding for implementing health and safety measures to protect all employees in all workplaces: requiring safety protocols to include access to vaccines, adequate ventilation, masks that cover the nose and mouth except in cases where health does not allow, ample janitorial/custodial staff, and physical space as an equity issue

We believe that we need to foster and properly value our healthcare workforce at a level that empowers them to meet individual health needs and allows our community to thrive. We believe that

healthcare is a human right, and we support universal healthcare efforts, including single-payer, at a state, regional or national level. It is important that solutions do not overly focus on cost at the expense of real quality--any programs should actively be planned so healthcare providers are not obstructed as they work to provide effective medical care. The ability for local input and creativity in meeting the diverse health needs of our population is essential in planning and implementing healthcare for all.

We support reproductive freedom for all. Reproductive health decisions are best made by patients and their doctors. We believe access to full reproductive healthcare services should not be hindered by cost, distance to services, or the religious beliefs of employers.

We believe that mental health and substance abuse are health care issues and not criminal justice issues and we believe that public safety and public health are intertwined. We believe that community investments must support community wellness, including infrastructure investments that facilitate health through community connectedness, active transportation, access to wild places, access to food and farms, and access to meaningful work.

## **Housing**

Riveters Collective believes housing is a basic human right, providing the essential stability and foundation for human health and well being. We envision neighborhoods where housing types are mixed and price points allow neighbors of varying means to live side by side. We support expansion of tenants' rights. We support diverse, affordable options of homeownership. We support policies that facilitate dense, low-impact living and internalize the costs of sprawling development in order to protect open space and farmland. We support investment in a bold fossil-free and connected transportation infrastructure. We support policies that are innovative and community-based, such as community land trusts and limited equity cooperatives.

We support housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness that are firmly based on the input and established needs of these community members. We support the decriminalization of homelessness. We believe in housing first, and housing now. We support prioritizing and expediting a variety of accessible, transitional shelter options to promptly and appropriately house all community members. We support immediate efforts to attract and employ sufficient social workers, along with mental, behavioral, and physical health experts to address emergent needs of those who have been unsheltered and are in crisis. We support safe parking initiatives, public restrooms and showers, as well as community kitchens. We understand being unhoused is not a one size fits all problem and diverse solutions will be needed to address this crisis. We support families staying together while they are unhoused and recognize that separation causes unnecessary trauma. We support concurrent work on long-term solutions that serve to eliminate the systemic drivers of homelessness and provide affordable permanent homes for everyone in Whatcom County. We strongly oppose forced evictions and sweeps. Cleaning and providing sanitation can happen without displacing people and destroying belongings.

## **Information Access**

Riveters Collective believes equitable access to accurate, unbiased information is central to rebuilding trust and is a foundation of democracy. To counteract the digital divide impacting rural and low income communities there must be increased access to information through low-cost or free broadband. We also recognize the role that public libraries play as an access point for information and digital services in our communities and advocate for adequate funding for public libraries. A primary role of Riveters Collective is to foster a culture that values facts based on documentation and research, and which counters misinformation and challenges reporting and media sources that contribute to misinformation. Accurate, fact-based information is essential to ensuring the ability of our democratic process to function and our officials to perform their duties without threats of violence from constituents. We believe it is our responsibility to work to change the dominant biased narratives with truthful counter-narratives.

## **Justice System**

### **Reimagining the Justice System**

We must reimagine our justice system to ensure the public safety for all in our community, beginning with changing the way we envision law enforcement. We envision a fair and efficient justice system, released from the destructive and deadly forces of racism, and focused on treatment, diversion and crisis prevention rather than punishment, but that ensures that those who have committed crimes are held accountable.

Including the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community is crucial to rebuilding a justice system based upon a foundation of trust, equity, and fairness. We believe victims should be supported, those who commit crimes held accountable, and all people protected from harassment and assault, but we reject the idea that punishment should be the driving force of justice.

### **Preventing Encounters with Law Enforcement**

Local, state, and federal governments have repeatedly failed to invest in social services known to prevent crises. Law enforcement is routinely first to respond to calls for assistance but they do not have the tools, resources, or expertise of professionally trained intervention specialists. Police and incarceration consume the greatest, and ever-increasing costs to local budgets, while other budgets are cut during economic downturns.

Our community is obligated to respond appropriately to crises. A significant portion of resources currently assigned to law enforcement should be directed toward preventing crises that lead people to involvement with the justice system. This includes supporting affordable housing, and diverting people from arrest if they are in need of behavioral or professional health resources. Reducing arrests

and increasing long-term diversion opportunities outside of jail achieve better outcomes in many circumstances, including improved public safety, reduced recidivism, and expanded rehabilitation.

### **Alternatives to 911 Response**

Police presence should be reserved for appropriate situations, not all 911 calls. Police spend substantial time responding to calls that don't require an armed response, or where there is a mismatch between the training and skills of police and callers' needs. Nationally, the majority of these calls request assistance to resolve community or family disputes, or are made to report offenses that don't require punitive enforcement, such as loitering, curfew, drug, alcohol, or minor traffic violations. Because police have few alternatives to enforcement actions, police presence will often lead to resistance, arrest, or violence because of endemic mistrust. We believe that community members should not have to speak to Bellingham Police Department employees (What-COMM) first in order to get their calls for EMS or other types of non-law enforcement services. We believe that What-COMM should not be facilitating the collaboration of local law enforcement agencies (especially for services such as translation) with Customs and Border Patrol.

[Structural incentives need to be in place to encourage police to use alternatives to arrests.](#) The number of arrests made by individual police officers should not be rewarded with promotions, or overtime assignments. Whatcom County and its cities should fund unarmed teams of civilian professional specialists (not law enforcement co-responders, or police department "behavioral health officers,") to respond to 911 crises, where an armed officer or use of force is not needed to maintain public safety.

It is humane, productive, and fiscally responsible for the public to invest in alternatives to arrest and incarceration by creating and sustaining community drop-in centers where crisis services can be accessed without meeting restrictive eligibility requirements. We applaud Whatcom County's current funding of the GRACE Program that provides coordinated services to community members who frequently use the emergency and criminal justice system as a means to getting much needed care. We must permanently fund Whatcom County's new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, a division of the GRACE program, that offers those with behavioral health issues who have committed low-level crimes with intensive case management. Under this program, food and housing are provided, as needed, to address needs and to rebuild lives outside of the criminal justice system.

### **Accountability and Civilian Oversight**

Transparent police data analysis and public oversight must be prioritized to ensure accountability of law enforcement to the community. This requires that police data, misconduct, policies, use of force, police contacts, 911 responses, body cam video (and more) be collected, managed, and published in multiple formats accessible to policy makers and the public. A significant investment in databases and systems, (interoperable among justice system agencies, along with IT personnel,) is required to

meet this objective. In addition to making raw data available for public analysis, aggregated data presented in dashboards will enhance public access through maps, graphs, icons, and menus, and the like. Police activity must be measured and made transparent. Accessible data provides not only for police accountability, but the opportunity for the community to collaborate with those in public service to identify and prioritize reforms as “[co-producers of justice and achieving its goals](#)”

Public oversight is critical to restoring public trust in law enforcement. [Campaign Zero’s ten policy solutions for police reform](#), including the enactment of use of force recommendations, underscore the need for civilian oversight of the police. While there are multiple and hybrid models for civilian oversight, it must be independent, and it must be funded to conduct robust investigations with the authority to discipline police misconduct. With community and political support, civilian oversight can make systemic changes to improve law enforcement and its relations with the community.

We also call for fair police union contracts by eliminating provisions that create barriers for misconduct investigations and civilian oversight. This includes expunging disciplinary records, delays prior to investigations after questionable incidents, and the final word of arbiters, often from neighboring law enforcement agencies, when disciplinary decisions are appealed. Community representation at contract negotiations could help to prevent provisions that shield the police from accountability, and can more vigorously protect the public interest by reviewing police contracts in their entirety.

We oppose any effort at local, state, or national levels to treat the police as an extension of the military and ask for strict policies preventing the use of SWAT teams, and use and acquisition of military weaponry. Further, individual police identification should be clearly visible at all times while in uniform.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that law enforcement, and other guardians of public safety, adhere to all public health guidelines. Officers must wear protective masks and maintain a safe distance while carrying out their duties. Law enforcement must follow all public health guidelines, including the recommendation to allow homeless campers to remain in place.

We commit to supporting community justice system reform allies and working with policy makers in local government and the state legislature to develop and implement policy solutions. We reject the idea that systemic problems within law enforcement can be solved by the police and policy makers alone. Meaningful community involvement is the foundation for building positive relationships with those in the justice system and the communities they serve.

### **Advocacy**

For many, dealing with the judicial system poses a formidable and intimidating challenge filled with legalese, paperwork and foreign procedures. An advocacy program, perhaps staffed by volunteers

(including bilingual staff) could provide confidential support to individuals who would benefit from assistance in cases of smaller violations where legal representation is neither required nor affordable.

### **Militias**

Just as we oppose local, state, or federal law enforcement being used as an extension of the military, we oppose civilians “deputizing” themselves as the police. We call on Washington's Attorney General to provide a regulatory interpretation of state [statutes regulating the actions of armed civilians in public spaces](#). We support new legislation that will ban open carry of guns and other weapons at demonstrations, and in all public spaces including the State Capitol. Further, we condemn the attempts of armed civilians to intimidate public servants while at their workplaces or homes.

### **Incarceration**

Reducing arrests will reduce incarceration. We support diversion over jail, treatment over incarceration, and believe dollars are better spent creating a healthy community. We ask for an end to jailing people for mental, behavioral, or substance use issues. These need to be addressed as public health issues, not by the criminal justice system. People should not be arrested for crimes related to homelessness, poverty, fines, or minor offenses. The criminal justice system and its associated costs, fines, and loss of community and family function only leads to increased poverty. These cause a disproportionate burden on those in lower financial brackets. Money saved by reducing unnecessary arrests that result in incarceration would be more effective in providing for public safety if it is spent on treatment, educational and reentry services for those who must serve time.

We call for an end to the use of (money) bail. Jail should be reserved for those who are a danger to others, pose a true flight risk, or have been convicted and sentenced, rather than as a holding place for people who cannot afford bail. Judges should abide by the Washington court rule CrR 3.2a, *presumption of release in non-capital cases*, and not ask people to pay money to be released from jail before their trial. Pretrial use of electronic home monitoring should only be used for those who are a flight risk, or who are likely to pose a risk to others. Those required to wear them must not be required to pay for their use. Bearing the cost of electronic monitoring anklets can become a form of money bail, and wearing them in public or at work can create a stigma for a person who is accused, but not found guilty of a crime. Further, current risk assessment tools for release require revision to eliminate racial and other disparities. A risk assessment tool that provides no new information to a judge should be set aside in favor of existing rules, namely Washington State Court Rule CrR3.2a, *Presumption of Release in Noncapital cases*. Lives and families are harmed when people sit in jail because they are unable to pay for bail; using jail this way also costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

The 2019 Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction (IPR) Task Force Report summarizes its review of Whatcom County's criminal justice and behavioral health systems with major recommendations. Policy makers need to enact and secure stable funding for the Task Force recommendations, including diversion programs and a crisis stabilization facility to avert

incarceration, as well as improving access to jail and reentry services. Especially notable among the IPR Task Force recommendations are those from its INDEX (Information Needs and Data EXchange) Committee. These underscore the necessity of data (current jail data, including demographic information on custody, booking and release) for all entities within the justice system - from law enforcement, the courts, public defenders, and prosecutors - to make critical decisions to process individual cases fairly, and in a timely manner. Current case processing times in Whatcom County do not meet state standards according to the [Vera Institute Report to Whatcom County Stakeholders on Jail Reduction](#). Baseline statistics and metrics must be established to evaluate both operations and policies by decision makers and the public in a redesigned website. Public investment to replace antiquated and siloed information systems with a universal repository for cross jurisdictional information sharing among users is critical for achieving transparency and accountability for our justice system.

### **Community Policing**

We believe that a shared vision of *community policing* is essential for public safety and trust in the justice system. It can only grow from meaningful and ongoing collaboration between all community members, the police, and policy makers, where the voices of those most impacted by the police are centered. Community policing requires a shared responsibility among these entities for decision making and priorities, including evaluation of policies and practices to ensure fairness, equity and justice for all.

### **Stand with Survivors**

We support survivors. Sexual harassment, abuse and assault have thwarted the careers and lives of far too many people. Such abuses of power are embedded in the culture of most communal bodies, and have been endemic to political campaigns in the past. Riveters Collective endeavors to eradicate abuse of power in the political world, beginning at home on campaigns with which we work. Our policies clearly state that we do not work with anyone who has harassed, abused and/or assaulted others. But our work goes beyond simply refusing to work with harassers and predators. We must affirmatively stand with survivors who are willing to come forward and share their stories, and when we know the perpetrator, we support engagement toward true restorative justice beyond atonement - to educate, and to mitigate the impact of trauma and support the resilience of survivors. We support changing the definitions of abuse to include coercive control. We support the elimination of loopholes that prevent survivors from accessing basic needs like housing due to previous abuse.

At a local level, we require that all campaigns endorsed by the Riveters Collective adopt codes of conduct and designate external advisors for reporting. We support the Washington State Legislature's Respectful Workplace Policy and their addition of a human resources officer to handle reports of improper behavior. Further, we ask that the Legislature revise the policy to specify that no member with credible pending allegations of improper behavior be eligible for leadership positions such as committee chairs.

An organized commitment to believing survivors and changing systems to support them will lead to a political community where people feel safe and valued - especially individuals who are in lesser positions of power. Our community and our state will benefit from the work and expertise of people previously marginalized by an abusive culture.

## **Global Engagement**

As part of a global community, Riveters Collective acknowledges that our values transcend borders. We support the use of local resources for refugee aid programs, family planning/health care/vaccine programs in developing countries, aid for natural disasters, AIDS medication, girls' education, access to clean water and sanitation, and other types of international support. We also support action to raise awareness about and counteract global human rights abuses, including genocide, persecution of minorities, and violations of international law by both the US and other regimes. We support democratic processes, autonomy and self-determination of other countries. Riveters Collective believes that the most effective way to promote peace is through diplomacy, humanitarian intervention, and fair trade policies. We believe that military action should be used as a last resort only. We support nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.