

Summary:

The problem that needs to be addressed within the larger punk community is that for decades it has been widely acceptable and widely seen as normal for punk bands, musicians, producers and crew to flirt, hook up with, date and bring into band only spaces young impressionable fans, the large majority of whom are women or teenagers. This current culture has allowed for opportunities leading to egregious abuses of power and worse. The time has come to burn this culture to the ground and rebuild into one that truly represents a community of allies.

It is proposed that the punk scene model itself after other professions such as educators, healthcare workers and counselors. In education, teachers are explicitly taught that there are non-negotiable boundaries between educators and students that must be always respected and adhered to. One of these boundaries is not finding themselves in positions where they are alone with a student. In addition, educators know that there are student spaces and teacher spaces. Educators DO NOT bring students into teacher only spaces and educators DO NOT go into student only spaces. Lastly, education professionals are mandated reporters. If there is ever suspicion of abuse, all educators and administrators are required by law to report. These are the standards that need to be applied to the punk community.

Those in positions of influence and power in the punk community currently have no such boundaries or codes of conduct. Instead, it has been seen as normal behavior to have young people, usually women and young teenage girls backstage, on tour buses and other band only spaces. Those in power in the punk scene need to be educated about what grooming and other abuses of power looks like. Further, they need to be made aware that when this does happen that it is unacceptable as it frequently leads to opportunities for abuse and assault. As the allies some in the punk community claim to be, they have an obligation to check their colleagues and mates that cross these boundaries, educate and report.

It is proposed that the following take place regarding AF and the larger punk scene:

- 1) Chris, Chris, and Pat agree to listen to survivors via zoom or some other form of virtual or in person meeting.
- 2) Educate former-AF and the greater punk community on what grooming and other abuses of power looks like and the steps to take when it happens.
- 3) Get former-AF and other bands with large platforms to share and promote this message.

Please feel free to share this with the others and let me know how I can help. I am ready and prepared to act and will always defer to the collective direction of the survivors. In addition, I have friends with much larger platforms than myself who are also ready act.

WE PROTECT US

Wytt/FKP