

## ~Liberation Tools Mission Statement~

Liberation Tools is a subset of the cooperatively run nonprofit Soul & Soil Project based in Western North Carolina. We seek to support racial justice and food sovereignty through the distribution of high quality, hand forged tools.

After subjecting Black people to hundreds of years of slavery, many promises of restitution have been made by those in power, but instead of receiving reparations, Black Americans have been subjected to hundreds more years of oppression through segregation, Jim Crow, lynching, hate crimes, institutional racism, redlining, a discriminatory criminal justice system, and more. Of course, reparations is not the only promise made and broken by the US government. Underlying this government's treatment of those that built the wealth of this country is the genocide of its Indigenous inhabitants. First Nations' stewardship of this land helped keep diverse ecosystems fertile, fruitful, and resilient for tens of thousands of years: ecosystems now polluted, mismanaged, and experiencing skyrocketing rates of extinction. Not only does the U.S. government continue to practice genocidal erasure of indigenous people and their cultures, but it also continues to hold various unceded lands both immorally and illegally.

In order to fight against the foundational injustices of the United States, we must unravel the generational trauma that they created. The land was the scene of the crime, and labor the weapon. Both must be reclaimed in order to take back the power of sovereignty and resilience. Fear of this reclamation goes far in explaining why only white organic agriculture and white intentional community are ever raised up as examples of sustainable living. This is a purposeful erasure of the Black, Indigenous, and Latinx/a/o folks who brought organic agriculture, land trusts, and community-supported agriculture to this country. The whitewashing of this history is how white supremacy keeps food sovereignty and land stewardship inaccessible and uninteresting to young people of color. To counteract this trend, we at Liberation Tools look to remove material barriers in the way of BIPOC connecting, on their own terms, with the land and the life forms that sustain us all.

Liberation Tools' mission is to build a collective that sustainably and skillfully crafts quality tools used for growing food, and freely distributes them to Black, Indigenous, and Latinx/a/o people of color. We will also offer these tools for sale on a sliding scale to other people who are oppressed by the U.S. Government. To support these efforts, we will sell these tools for twice the cost of producing one, thereby allowing people with accumulated wealth to access high quality tools by effectively donating them to BIPOC. This program will only send tools to people within the American continent to start. However, we stand in solidarity with workers and food producers worldwide and will expand once we have figured out the best way to incorporate our mission internationally

The U.S. government should and will continue to face public pressure and legal challenges for the promises it has broken, but justice can wait on bureaucracy no longer. It's time we take collective liberation into our own hands.