

Assimilation, separation, revolution in labor

The tendency to respond to oppression by assimilation, separation, or revolution doesn't just apply to oppressed groups that make up minorities of society. It also applies to *majority* oppressed groups such as women and working people.

This series of Strategy Notes that began with Strategy Note 228 addresses building a strong labor movement in North Carolina. So how do these three tendencies apply to working people here?

- **Assimilate:** Clearly the current mainstream tendency. Most non-union working people think and act this way. Many AFL-CIO union leaders speak and act this way. Likewise large non-AFL-CIO groups such as SEANC and NCAE. Bishop Barber and his Moral Monday and Poor People's Campaign use this language. Most non-union groups advocating for workers speak this way.
- **Separate:** Mostly non-existent currently. Shows up a bit in the language of worker-owned efforts like worker cooperatives.
- **Revolt:** Small, active, possibly growing. UE150, Southern Workers Assembly, DSA. More among the newer cohort of organizers. Unclear how well these new organizers do in developing this understanding in their fellow workers. Assimilationist language still shows up.

Whichever approach we like, we should work as allies.



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