

NEXT CULTURE NEWS



Volume I: August 25, 2025

www.ionaconner.com

This newspaper is a bridge between patriarchy and the new culture which is being created around the world. Welcome to Archiarchy, where archetypal women and archetypal men (Archans) work together and things get better.

SCOPE Kenya Works With Students, Teachers, and Parents to Reconnect Children with Nature, Healthy Lifestyles, & Environmental Stewardship.



John (SCOPE Kenya, middle) getting feedback about the school garden from the school head teacher, right, and the agriculture teacher in a white dust coat, during a project monitoring visit in May 2025. Photos Courtesy SCOPE

Dear Iona,

Cordial greetings from SCOPE Kenya.

The world has become a global village where we all live in. We all have a collective responsibility to protect and make it better for our benefit and that of future generations. We may be experiencing difficulties in life due to mistakes made by our grandparents, but we should not pass them on to the next generation. I always admire the noble role you play, especially in documentation and sharing information on landscapes and forest restoration.

On our side, we are committed to incorporating “rooting Land restoration for food security, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood improvement” into Kenya’s education system. We believe this will foster a culture of people living harmoniously with nature. Children and their families will learn how to plant the right tree in the right place, and empowered communities will take the lead in this beautiful process.

As you pointed out, SCOPE Kenya happily shares our knowledge and experience on sustainable land use practices through per-

maculture approaches to anyone interested, and we also value learning from others.

We warmly welcome support from anyone or any organization willing to help us extend the work to benefit more people. Your support makes a difference, and we’re grateful for your kindness and encouragement.

To advance the work to great heights, we are in the process of fostering a working partnership with Jomo Kenya University and Machakos University. This will ensure that students graduating from institutions of higher learning are well prepared and equipped with knowledge and practical skills in land regeneration and biodiversity conservation practices.

Please allow me to share pictures from our work this year. [Page 3]

With Kind Regards,

John Macharia, National Coordinator, SCOPE KENYA

Telephone: +254 724 628 386

Website: www.scopekenya.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scopekenya2/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/scopekenya1>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/scopekenya/?hl=en>

Linkedin: <https://ke.linkedin.com/>

Photos on page 3

Dearhearts,

This is a transition newspaper: I am moving from *Grassroots Rising* to *Next Culture News* as my life moves from patriarchy to Archiarchy. It's an important, exciting, and interesting time. I gave a lot of thought to the story on page 1. It was a toss-up between the decision of the International Court of Justice and the real, boots-on-the-ground work of our friend John Macharia, National Coordinator of SCOPE KENYA; I chose SCOPE because international decisions by enormous governmental bodies either take too long or simply don't work. John, on the other hand, describes his mission as, "Promoting Practical Agroecology Education in Schools to reconnect children with Nature, healthy lifestyle & environmental stewardship."

Since patriarchy is killing life on Earth, I am leaving patriarchy and entering Archiarchy, which is a new culture replacing both patriarchy and matriarchy. I love it! What this means is that during the past year, I have studied books, watched videos, attended dozens of Zoom meetings, and watched recorded

meetings and educational videos. I am once again, a student. www.archiarchy.mystrikingly.com

Previously, I used my life's energy to fight climate chaos in many ways, primarily my newspapers but I was missing something. John (my husband and co-founder with me of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice) and I always hoped we were addressing root causes of global issues; but we were wrong, we didn't understand that it was patriarchy. We were trying to correct symptoms.

Personally, I'm working on noticing and activating or healing my four feelings: anger, fear, sadness, joy. This is deep and hard work for me as I try to overcome bad habits and robot-like behaviors which were drilled into me as a girl since birth. I hope to share my struggles and progress in future issues of this newspaper trusting that they might help you, too.

Also, I have developed an acute awareness of how my life affects Earth's bountiful resources and live as low as possible, carefully judging nearly everything I do for the

least impact. When I look around and see evidence that most people don't care about the Earth, I want to scream. It hurts so deeply.

What's wrong? Why don't they care? What are they doing? I need to and want to share my thoughts and actions with you here; this is my "platform."

I live in the United States, where this country has been responsible for more climate damage and warfare than any other, and now that it has a psychopath president, things are getting worse daily. It's embarrassing to be a U.S. citizen so I no longer consider myself one; I adopted the context in Archiarchy of living in the Nanonation of Iona. Yes, my own little world. I like it here! If anyone wants to join me, we'll need to change our name and develop our own Constitution. It's fun abandoning patriarchy and living creatively and authentically in Archiarchy.

While patriarchy is collapsing, we are creating a beautiful alternative.

Thank you for going through this transition with me.

Love, Iona

How to Subscribe

Dear Friends,

If you'd like to receive future issues of my newspaper, please email me at grassroots-coalition@pa.net. Also, email me if you have stories and photos you'd like me to consider publishing. I publish a Messages page, so if you want to share your thoughts, please do so.

I'd like this to be a team effort, but we need time to develop this project and figure

out ways to work together.

This is a labor of love but I always appreciate donations, which you can send to: Iona Conner, 157 Chambersbridge Road 4A, Brick, NJ 08723. If you use Zelle or PayPal, money goes directly to my bank account via dosomething@pa.net. Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth,

Iona



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<https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>



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Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of

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(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes. . . .

Continuation from page 1: SCOPE Kenya



Top: John (SCOPE Kenya coordinator) is training members of the Visionary Ladies women's group (May 2025).
Bottom: Trained Members of the Visionary Ladies Group share the knowledge with members of a local organization from Kisumu County. (Kivai Primary School, June 2025).





Vanuatu is leading a core group of nations which drafted a question to ask the Court. Congratulations to the leaders of Vanuatu, Antigua & Barbuda, Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, Angola, Germany, Mozambique, Liechtenstein, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Bangladesh, Morocco, Singapore, Uganda, New Zealand, Vietnam, Romania, and Portugal. Photos: <https://www.vanuatuicj.com>

'New Era of Climate Accountability.' ICJ Says Nations Have Legal Duty to Combat Planetary Crisis

"For the first time, it feels like justice is not just a dream but a direction," said Flora Vano, an activist from Vanuatu.

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

By Jake Johnson
Common Dreams: July 23, 2025

The world's highest court said in a landmark advisory opinion handed down Wednesday that countries have a legal obligation to take cooperative action against the climate crisis, which the United Nations body characterized as an "urgent and existential threat."

Reading the ruling aloud during a closely watched hearing, International Court of Justice (ICJ) President Yuji Iwasawa said that "climate change is a common concern" and "cooperation is not a matter of choice for states but a pressing need and a legal obligation."

"Non-compliance with emission-

reduction commitments by a state may constitute an internationally wrongful act," the advisory opinion states, opening the door to reparations for countries harmed by the fossil fuel-driven crisis.

The ICJ ruling, which is expected to bolster new and existing climate lawsuits worldwide, stemmed from a 2023 U.N. General Assembly resolution introduced by the low-lying nation of Vanuatu, which – along with more than 130 other governments – demanded that the world's highest court issue an opinion on nations' legal obligations to combat the climate emergency.

"Tonight I'll sleep easier," Flora Vano, country manager of ActionAid Vanuatu, said in a statement following Wednesday's decision. "For the first time, it feels like justice is not just a dream but a direction. The ICJ has recognized what we have lived through – our suffering, our resilience, and our right to our future. This is a victory not just for us but for every frontline community fighting to

be heard. Now, the world must act."

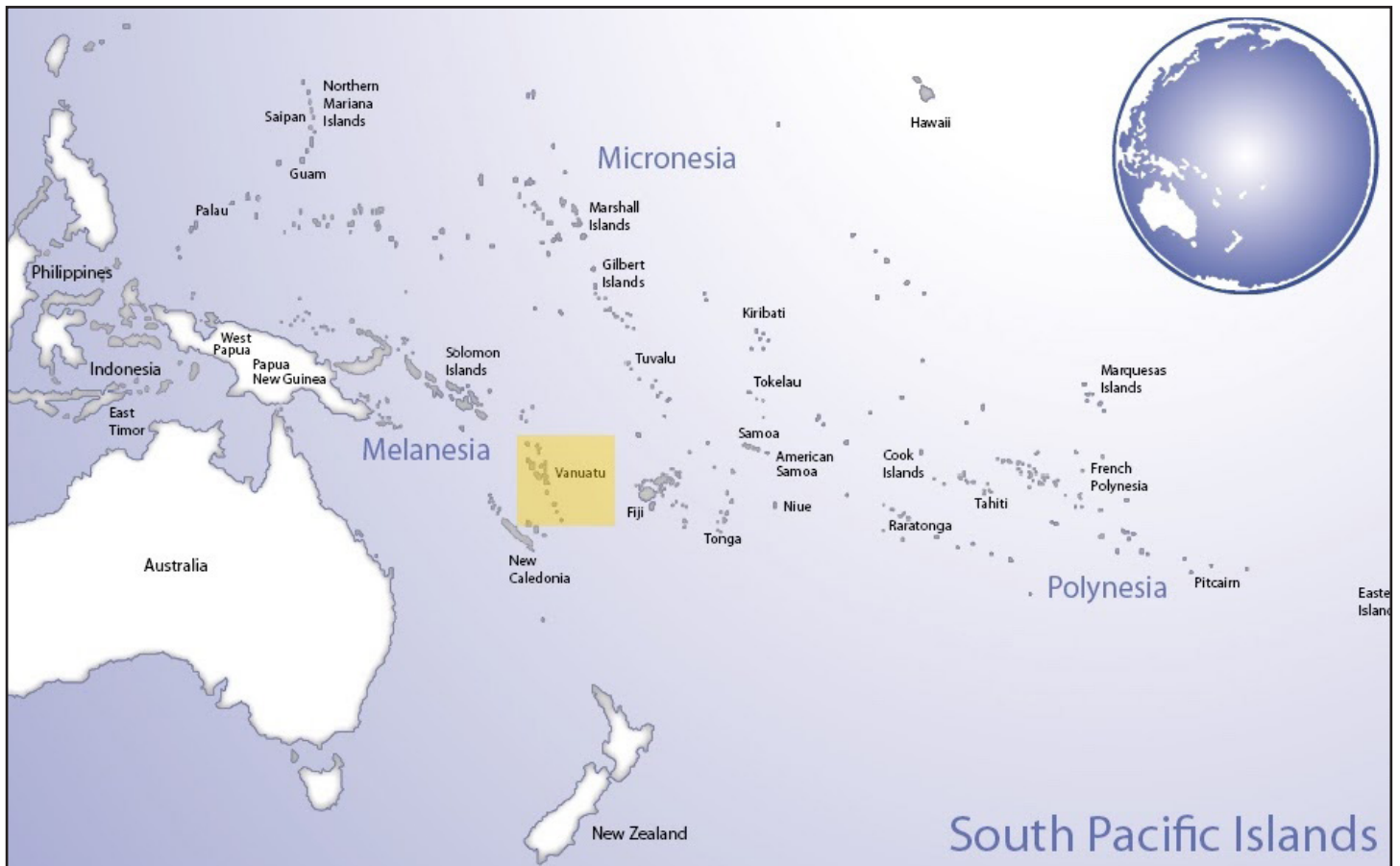
Danilo Garrido, legal counsel at Greenpeace International, hailed the advisory opinion as "the start of a new era of climate accountability at a global level."

"The ICJ advisory opinion marks a turning point for climate justice, as it has clarified, once and for all, the international climate obligations of states, and most importantly, the consequences for breaches of these obligations," said Garrido. "This will open the door for new cases, and hopefully bring justice to those who, despite having contributed the least to climate change, are already suffering its most severe consequences."

"The message of the court is clear: The production, consumption, and granting of licenses and subsidies for fossil fuels could be breaches of international law," Garrido added. "Polluters must stop emitting and must pay for the harms they have caused."

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The ICJ opinion comes as the Trump administration in the U.S. – historically the world’s largest emitter of planet-warming greenhouse gases – works to expand fossil fuel drilling, withdraws from cooperative global efforts to fight the climate crisis, and rolls back green energy investments.

The U.S. faced backlash over its position on the case before the ICJ, which was argued last December – when the Biden administration was in power. The Biden administration’s representative was accused of arguing that, “Countries do not have clear legal obligations

to reduce carbon pollution.”

Delta Merner, a lead scientist with the Science Hub for Climate Litigation at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that Wednesday’s opinion from the ICJ “leaves no room for ambiguity – governments cannot ignore their legal responsibilities to prevent further climate harm.”

“This ruling makes clear that obligations under existing international law are not voluntary or symbolic; they are enforceable duties rooted in science, human rights, and intergenerational equity,” said Merner. “The court also

affirmed that countries must rein in corporate polluters, and if they fail, they’re responsible for helping to fix the damage.”

“As the Trump administration takes extreme steps to prioritize corporate polluters over public health and the environment, the legal recklessness of doing so has been laid bare by the new advisory opinion,” Merner continued. “This decision heralds a new frontier in the movement for climate accountability.”

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/icj-climate-ruling>

The times are urgent; let us slow down.

~ African Saying ~



California National Guard in front of protestors on June 9, 2025. This image is a work of a U.S. National Guard member or employee, taken or made as part of that person's official duties. Photo: U.S. Northern Command

Patriarchy Won in the U.S. and Look What Happened

'This Isn't Normal!' Secret Pentagon Plan for Troops to Put Down Local 'Unrest' Nationwide

By Jon Queally
Common Dreams: August 12, 2025

Internal documents obtained by *The Washington Post* and reported on Tuesday reveal a secret Pentagon plan by the Trump administration to create a standing force of military personnel that could be rapidly deployed to U.S. cities or communities to quell public protests or any situation President Donald Trump deems "domestic civil unrest."

The proposal to create what it dubs a "Domestic Civil Disturbance Quick Reaction Force" – which evidence shows has been under serious consideration by the administration over recent months – would utilize existing statute, including invocation of Title 32, to authorize the deployment of specialized National Guard units anywhere in the country within hours, according to the documents.

According to *The Post*, the plan calls for 600 troops to be on standby at all times so they can deploy in as little as one hour, the documents say. They would be split into two groups of 300 and stationed at military bases in Alabama and Arizona, with purview of regions east

and west of the Mississippi River, respectively.

"This isn't normal!!!!" declared one social media user, a U.S. Navy veteran, in response to the reporting.

The leaked documents detailing the plan, which *The Post* noted "represents another potential expansion of [Trump's] willingness to employ the armed forces on American soil," comes just a day after the president sparked serious concerns (and local protests) by deploying National Guard troops in the city of Washington, D.C. and announcing a federal takeover of the D.C. police force.

Civil liberties advocates and critics of Trump's growing authoritarianism

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Residents Revolt as 'Free D.C.' Protests Target Trump's National Guard Deployment. "We've got the FBI patrolling the streets," said one protester. "We've got National Guard set up as a show of force. What's scarier is if we allow this." D.C. National Guard units left Union Station last night about 8:45 pm "due to growing demonstration." <https://x.com/PenguinSix/status/1957119288755605735> Photo: Andrew Leyden @PenguinSix

anism warn the president is raising "a trial balloon" to see just how much he can get away with when it comes to deploying U.S. soldiers onto the nation's streets.

Coupled with the D.C. takeover, Tuesday's revelations about the Pentagon's more expansive plan served to increase those fears, especially in the light of looming political battles regarding gerrymandered districts for next year's congressional elections and growing disgust with the broader Trump policy agenda.

"If people aren't allowed to peacefully protest and the elections are being rigged through gerry-

mandering and voter suppression, how are Americans supposed to respond when they figure out their lives are being actively destroyed by a corrupt, fascist government?" asked Wisconsin state Rep. Chris Larson, a Democrat.

"The U.S. military should never be used against peaceful civilians," said Larson. "The criminal president who thinks it's cool can f*ck all the way off."

Joseph Nunn, an attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice specializing in the domestic use of the U.S. military, told *The Post* that the lawfulness of the proposal is far from clear and that the creation

of such a force would be deeply troubling.

"You don't want to normalize routine military participation in law enforcement," Nunn warned. "You don't want to normalize routine domestic deployment."

"When you have this tool waiting at your fingertips, you're going to want to use it," he added. "It actually makes it more likely that you're going to see domestic deployments – because why else have a task force?"

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/pentagon-plan-civil-unrest>



Mods asked for proof so I'm reposting with pics. Checkpoint on 14th Street, they are pulling people out of cars who are "suspicious" or if they don't like the answers to their questions...Photos: reddit.com, r/washingtondc, peva3

Police Checkpoint at 14 & W/V St. NW It's Happening Here! Where Next?

'Go Home Fascists': Protesters Jeer Federal Agents in Streets of DC. Demonstrators yelled at federal agents to "get off our streets" as they set up a police checkpoint on a popular street in the nation's capital.

*By Jake Johnson
Common Dreams: August 14, 2025*

More than 100 protesters gathered late Wednesday, August 13 at a checkpoint set up by a combination of local and federal officers

on a popular street in Washington, D.C., where U.S. President Donald Trump has taken over the police force and deployed around 800 National Guard members as part of what he hopes will be a long-term occupation of the country's capital – and potentially other major cities.

The officers at the Wednesday night checkpoint reportedly included agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is also taking part in immigration raids in the city. Some agents were wearing face coverings to conceal their identities.

After law enforcement agents established the checkpoint on 14th Street, protesters gathered and jeered the officers, chanting "get off our streets" and "go home fascists." Some demonstrators yelled at the agents standing at the checkpoint, while others warned oncoming drivers to turn to avoid the police installation.

There was no officially stated purpose for the checkpoint, but it came amid the Trump administration's lawless mass deportation campaign and its broader threats

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Note from Iona: As a woman who has been in many protests and published many different kinds of protests in many different countries, I find what Trump is doing to our country horrifying. This is why I'm doing my best to leave patriarchy and the capitalist empire that is destroyin the world and feeling joy discovering Archiarchy and being with my Archan friends electronically, though one day when I save enough money, I hope to attend a training in person. .

to deploy U.S. troops on the streets of American cities to crush dissent.

At least one person, a Black woman, was arrested at Wednesday's checkpoint. One D.C. resident posted to Reddit that agents were "pulling people out of cars who are 'suspicious' or if they don't like the answers to their questions." *The Washington Post* reported that a "mix of local and federal authorities pulled over drivers for seat belt violations or broken taillights."

The National Guard troops activated by Trump this week were not seen at the checkpoint, which shut down before midnight.

Wednesday night's protests are expected to be just the start as public anger mounts over Trump's authoritarian actions in the nation's capital – where violent crime fell to a 30-year low last year – and across the country.

Radley Balko, a journalist who

A man confronted National Guard troops patrolling Washington, DC: "These are your own citizens! These are homeless people! You have an obligation to refuse unlawful orders!"

www.reddit.com:
PublicFreakout
CorleoneBaloney

has documented the growing militarization of U.S. police, wrote earlier this week that, "[T]he motivation for Donald Trump's plan to 'federalize' Washington, D.C., is same as his motivation for sending active-duty troops into Los Angeles, deporting people to the CE-COT torture prison in El Salvador, his politicization of the Department of Justice, and nearly every other authoritarian overreach of the last six months: He is testing the limits of his power – and, by extension,

of our democracy."

"He's feeling out what the Supreme Court, Congress, and the public will let him get away with. And so far, he's been able to do what he pleases," Balko wrote.

"We are now past the point of crisis. Trump has long dreamed of presiding over a police state. He has openly admired and been reluctant to criticize foreign leaders who helm one. He has now appointed people who have expressed their willingness to help him achieve one to the very positions with the power to make one happen. And both he and his highest-ranking advisers have both openly spoken about and written out their plans to implement one."

"It's time to believe them," Balko added.

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/protests-federal-agents-dc>



The Child and Its Enemies (1906)

By Emma Goldman, 1906

Note from Iona: In *Archiarchy*, I am learning that many or most of the fear-based behaviors and habits I have created are from things I did to feel safe. Even though I had a good childhood, I became a product of patriarchy as I based many of my choices on society's expectations of a girl, young woman, or even an older woman like I am now. Honestly, I hate to exercise even though it's continually recommended, but I do love to dance and swim. Com-

binning these thoughts reminded me of a quote by Emma Goldman, This is a very long introduction for what follows; I found the quote but it wasn't by her:

"If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution" is often attributed to Emma Goldman, but it is actually a paraphrase of her sentiments expressed in her autobiography. Goldman emphasized that a true revolutionary movement should embrace joy and life, rather than demand the denial of happiness. I also found this.

"The Child and Its Enemies."

- Is the child to be considered as an individuality, or as an object to be moulded according to the whims and fancies of those about it? This seems to me to be the most important question to be answered by parents and educators. And whether the child is to grow from within, whether all that craves expression will be permitted to come forth toward the light of day; or whether it is to be kneaded

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like dough through external forces, depends upon the proper answer to this vital question.

- It must be borne in mind that it is through the channel of the child that the development of the mature man must go, and that the present ideas of the educating or training of the latter in the school and the family – even the family of the liberal or radical – are such as to stifle the natural growth of the child. Every institution of our day, the family, the State, our moral codes, sees in every strong, beautiful, uncompromising personality a deadly enemy; therefore every effort is being made to cramp human emotion and originality of thought in the individual into a straight-jacket from its earliest infancy; or to shape every human being according to one pattern; not into a well-rounded individuality, but into a patient work slave, professional automaton, tax-paying citizen, or righteous moralist.

- The child shows its individual tendencies in its plays, in its questions, in its association with people and things. But it has to struggle with everlasting external interference in its world of thought and emotion. It must not express itself in harmony with its nature, with its growing personality. It must become a thing, an object. Its questions are met with narrow, conventional, ridiculous replies, mostly based on falsehoods; and, when, with large, wondering, innocent eyes, it wishes to behold the wonders of the world, those about it quickly lock the windows and doors, and keep the delicate human plant in a hothouse atmosphere, where it can neither breathe nor grow freely.

- Since every effort in our educational life seems to be directed toward making of the child a being foreign to itself, it must of necessity

produce individuals foreign to one another, and in everlasting antagonism with each other.

- Truths dead and forgotten long ago, conceptions of the world and its people, covered with mould, even during the times of our grandmothers, are being hammered into the heads of our young generation.

- The terrible struggle of the thinking man and woman against political, social and moral conventions owes its origin to the family, where the child is ever compelled to battle against the internal and external use of force. The categorical imperatives: You shall! you must! this is right! that is wrong! this is true! that is false! shower like a violent rain upon the unsophisticated head of the young being and impress upon its sensibilities that it has to bow before the long established and hard notions of thoughts and emotions.

- A young delicate tree, that is being clipped and cut by the gardener in order to give it an artificial form, will never reach the majestic height and the beauty as when allowed to grow in nature and freedom.

- The cravings of love and sex are met with absolute ignorance by the majority of parents, who consider it as something indecent and improper, something disgraceful, almost criminal, to be suppressed and fought like some terrible disease. The love and tender feelings in the young plant are turned into vulgarity and coarseness through the stupidity of those surrounding it, so that everything fine and beautiful is either crushed altogether or hidden in the innermost depths, as a great sin, that dares not face the light.

- Parents will strip themselves of everything, will sacrifice everything for the physical well-being of their child, will wake nights and stand in fear and agony before some physi-

cal ailment of their beloved one; but will remain cold and indifferent, without the slightest understanding before the soul cravings and the yearnings of their child, neither hearing nor wishing to hear the loud knocking of the young spirit that demands recognition. On the contrary, they will stifle the beautiful voice of spring, of a new life of beauty and splendor of love; they will put the long lean finger of authority upon the tender throat and not allow vent to the silvery song of the individual growth, of the beauty of character, of the strength of love and human relation, which alone make life worth living.

- The impressionable mind of the child realizes early enough that the lives of their parents are in contradiction to the ideas they represent; that, like the good Christian who fervently prays on Sunday, yet continues to break the Lord's commands the rest of the week, the radical parent arraigns God, priesthood, church, government, domestic authority, yet continues to adjust himself to the condition he abhors.

- Some will ask, what about weak natures, must they not be protected? Yes, but to be able to do that, it will be necessary to realize that education of children is not synonymous with herdlike drilling and training. If education should really mean anything at all, it must insist upon the free growth and development of the innate forces and tendencies of the child. In this way alone can we hope for the free individual and eventually also for a free community, which shall make interference and coercion of human growth impossible.

Source: https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Emma_Goldman

Photo: Children dancing, International Day of Peace 2009, Geneva

Woman, you've been taught to smile when you want to roar . . .

By Selina Frei, Mexico

To say yes when your whole body says no.
To be nice and harmless.

You've surrendered to sex without feeling.
Being touched without being seen.
You've learned to please, to perform, to adapt.

And now—
Your body is numb or hurting.
Your desire is dull.
You've been living half-alive.
Numb in your pelvis.
Tight in your chest.
Silent in your truth.

This is not your nature.
This is the collective patriarchal conditioning.
It's the internalized persecutor.
Years of being hunted and killed for your truth,
for your witch power and deep connection
to nature, to the source.

That ache in your womb,
That tension in your jaw,
That contraction in your shoulders,
That silent scream in your chest—
It's your suppressed power.

You don't need permission.
You don't need any more advice.
You need your fire.
Your Sacred Rage.
To burn the lies.

And Reclaim
Your Intuition,
Your Longing,
Your Wildness,
Your Rawness,
Your Truth,
Your Voice...
Your Body Temple.



I am Selina. I serve the collective awakening of a new culture, where the feminine source of life is held in reverence, where human beings are free to feel and express their Bodies and Hearts authentically, co-creating in conscious communities rooted in love, blooming into their unique life purposes. <https://www.selina-bodytemple.space/>

‘A Big Win’: Federal Judge Blocks Trump Effort to Defund Planned Parenthood

By Julia Conley

Common Dreams: July 28, 2025

Patients who use Medicaid to access health services at Planned Parenthood clinics will not be forced to find care elsewhere following a ruling Monday by a federal judge in Massachusetts.

Judge Indira Talwani in the state's federal District Court extended a temporary restraining order she had placed on the Trump administration earlier this month, barring it from imposing a one-year ban on states sending Medicaid payments to non-profits that provide abortion care.

The ban, a provision in the domestic policy and budget bill President Donald Trump signed into law this month, applied only to groups that received more than \$800,000 in Medicaid funding in 2023 – suggesting Planned Parenthood, a longtime foe of right-wing policymakers, is the “target of the law,” said Talwani.

Federal law already prohibits public funds from being used to pay for abortion care, and Talwani found that the Republican Party and the Trump administration aimed to force clinics to “disaffiliate with Planned Parenthood Federation and stop providing abortion to continue participating in Medicaid programs.”

“Imposing that choice kneecaps the entire organization,” said Talwani.

Ripping Medicaid funds away from clinics would also harm patients, said the judge. About 11% of female Medicaid beneficiaries used services at Planned Parenthood clinics in 2021, according to the KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation), and the provision in the budget law made patients “likely to suffer adverse health consequences where care is disrupted



Democrats escalate anti-Trump lawfare by targeting Congress in Planned Parenthood funding fight. Photo: <https://www.yahoo.com/news>

or unavailable.”

“In particular, restricting members’ ability to provide healthcare services threatens an increase in unintended pregnancies and attendant complications because of reduced access to effective contraceptives, and an increase in undiagnosed and untreated Sexually-Transmitted Infections (STIs),” Talwani said.

Talwani had granted relief for certain Planned Parenthood member organizations last week with her temporary restraining order, but the injunction applies to all clinics. The Trump administration filed an appeal of the restraining order last week; Talwani’s injunction will remain in effect barring action from the appeals court.

Dominique Lee, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, said she was “encouraged” by Monday’s ruling.

“At a time when reproductive

healthcare access is under constant attack, this decision is a powerful reminder that patients, not politics, should guide healthcare,” said Lee. “In Massachusetts and beyond, we will keep fighting to ensure everyone can turn to the provider they trust, no matter their insurance or ZIP code.”

U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) called the ruling “a big win.”

“As this case continues, patients across the country can still go to their trusted Planned Parenthood provider for care using Medicaid,” said Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. “We will keep fighting this cruel law so that everyone can get birth control, STI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, and other critical healthcare, no matter their insurance.”

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/planned-parenthood-medicaid>



A marabou, a large wading bird. Like humans, they look for food in the landfill. An opportunity for them to swallow plastic.

As Africa Pays the Price for Rich World's Fast Fashion Fix, New French Bill Targets Brands

Submitted by Bill Boteler
Maryland USA

By Elodie Toto
Mongabay: August 9, 2025

- Kenya and other African nations are being overwhelmed by imported textile waste. Synthetic textiles are largely made up of plastic fibers and can contain toxins ranging from PFAS to phthalates. They don't biodegrade, instead clogging up vast open-air landfills and leaching toxins into the soil, water and air, and posing a human health threat.

- This fashion waste crisis is fueled by the explosion of fast fashion, and now ultra-fast fashion (brands releasing thousands of cheap new items daily), meant to be worn and quickly thrown away.

- France's Senate recently approved groundbreaking legislation to fight the fast-fashion phenomena, aiming to curb overconsumption and inform consumers.

- While welcoming France's move, activists say the law doesn't go far enough and are calling for broader measures.

NAIROBI, Kenya – Mountains of waste stretch as far as the eye can see, smoking in places, giving off an acrid stench that stings the eyes and catches in the throat. These are the first sensations that overwhelm you upon arrival at the Dandora dump in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, one of the largest open-air landfills in Africa.

Starting early each morning, men, women, and marabou storks – huge, vulture-like birds – scavenge the site to find enough to sustain them through another day. Plastic bottles to resell, a bone to gnaw on ... But there's something else here: A close look reveals countless scraps of fabric from discarded apparel. Most of these clothes didn't originate in Kenya.

An investigation by the Changing Markets Foundation reveals that more than 900 million items of used clothing were exported to Kenya from Europe, the U.K., the U.S., Canada, and China in 2021 alone. Of these items, more than half were considered waste, unsellable, and more than a third likely contained plastic-based fibers that

don't biodegrade. Instead, they break down into ever smaller microfibers that can contaminate food or be breathed into the lungs.

"Plastic is so cheap to make that we can now find plastic making the majority of our clothes," says Imogen Napper, a marine scientist at the University of Plymouth, U.K. "And it was only invented 100 years ago. We know it under the name of polyester, acrylic, nylon ..."

Napper initiated the first study to demonstrate the number of synthetic microplastic fibers that can detach from acrylic garments when washed in a domestic washing machine.

"[W]hen you look closely at those clothes you can see fibers coming from it," she says. "It can be ingested by different animals, then it could get dislodged or lodged in one of their stomachs, the chemicals associated with plastics can dissolve and plastic chemicals have been known to potentially cause cancer."

These many types of tiny synthetic plastic fibers also can contain a toxic cocktail of chemicals used in textile production, including PFAS, better

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Gikomba market, Nairobi. Photos by Elodie Toto.

known as “forever chemicals,” that provide water and stain repellency; plasticizing phthalates; dyes containing heavy metals; formaldehyde-based antiwrinkle finishes; and more. Microfibers can also pick up and carry toxic contaminants found in open-air dumps. These hazardous chemicals can contaminate soil, water, air, and the food chain.

Discarded textiles are found in massive quantities at the Dandora dump, just meters from residential buildings, and also in the Nairobi River, which flows past the dump before emptying into the Indian Ocean.

As big as the Dandora dump is today, it's getting bigger. The textile market is booming, and so is the flood of waste apparel. According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, the nominal value of second-hand clothing imports into Kenya rose

by 80% between 2016 and 2020, from \$100 million to \$180 million.

And Kenya is far from unique. A Greenpeace report on Ghana highlights the same problem. The proliferation of huge open-air dumps chock-full with petrochemical-based clothing waste is a growing trend across Africa, largely fueled by the explosion of fast fashion in industrialized nations – apparel produced quickly, cheaply, and not made to last.

“We have to address how we manage this waste,” Napper says. Otherwise, she warns, plastic degrades into smaller particles in the open-air dumps when hit by “ultraviolet light. So when it's being exposed to the sunlight, that plastic, these fibers [degrade into microplastics] quicker. It could go in the river, then the ocean. It could go into the air including the air that we're breathing.”

According to the French government's Environmental and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), more than 100 billion items of clothing are sold worldwide each year, with production doubling between 2000 and 2014. This trend has been accelerated by ultra-fast fashion, which introduces several thousand new designs per day, whereas fast fashion brands launch “only” several hundred daily.

The escalating fast fashion waste crisis has pushed France to act. In March 2024, Anne-Cécile Violland, a member of parliament, introduced a bill aimed at reducing the impact of these new modes of consumption. The legislation was adopted unanimously by the French Senate in June 2025.

“The first goal of this bill is to

Continued on next page



In the dump, men, women and children are looking for plastic and clothes that they can then sell. The people who work on the dump often wear no protection. It is estimated that 3,000 households make a living from this recycling.

raise consumer awareness,” Violland says. “In less than 20 years, we’ve doubled the number of textiles we buy per year, while cutting the budget we spend on them by 30%. So, the idea is also to say: we need to stop overconsuming.”

The legislation prohibits online advertising for ultra-fast fashion, including through influencers, and requires the entire textile industry to apply a rating to garments based on their environmental impact.

“From that rating, a financial penalty will be calculated. So, obviously, a T-shirt made by Shein [a Chinese ultra-fast fashion brand], by underpaid workers, possibly Uyghurs [a persecuted Muslim minority in western China] exposed to solvents, will not get the same score as a Zara T-shirt [a fast fashion brand] made in Morocco – and therefore won’t get the same penalty,” Violland says. “It’s a signal that says to consumers: ‘Well, if there’s a penalty on this

product, maybe I should think twice. Wouldn’t it be better to buy one sustainably made T-shirt rather than five from Shein for the same price?’”

For Sam Quashi-Idun, head of investigations at Greenpeace Africa and author of the report on fast fashion’s impacts in Ghana, this is a step forward. “It’s refreshing to see countries take steps to tackle this issue because fast fashion is really poisoning our environment. In Ghana, we have a huge industry that relies on receiving secondhand clothes, and yes, we want countries to send their clothes – but they must be usable and sellable, not waste. So I hope that other countries will follow what France is doing in terms of legislation,” he says.

That wish may soon come true. Once the legislation is implemented in France, Violland says she plans to have it presented to the European Commission. If it moves forward there, it could be adopted

by all EU member states.

Less consumption, in theory, means less production – and therefore less waste. But for Mathilde Pousseu, general delegate of *Éthique sur l’étiquette* (“Ethics on the label,” a coalition promoting ethical clothing production), it’s more complicated than that.

“The law adopted by the [French] Senate mainly targets ultra-fast fashion, but in France that’s not the biggest part of the problem,” she says, pointing to Emmaüs, a charity that collects and resells used clothing, and to other reuse centers that are part of the coalition against fast fashion. “[T]hey’ll tell you that what’s overwhelming their stock isn’t Shein, it’s mostly Zara, private-label brands, etc. They’ve turned this bill into an anti-Shein law to protect French companies like Decathlon, despite their own disastrous practices.”

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The River Nairobi flows through the Dandora landfill. This water is used by the local population for primary needs before flowing into the Indian Ocean.

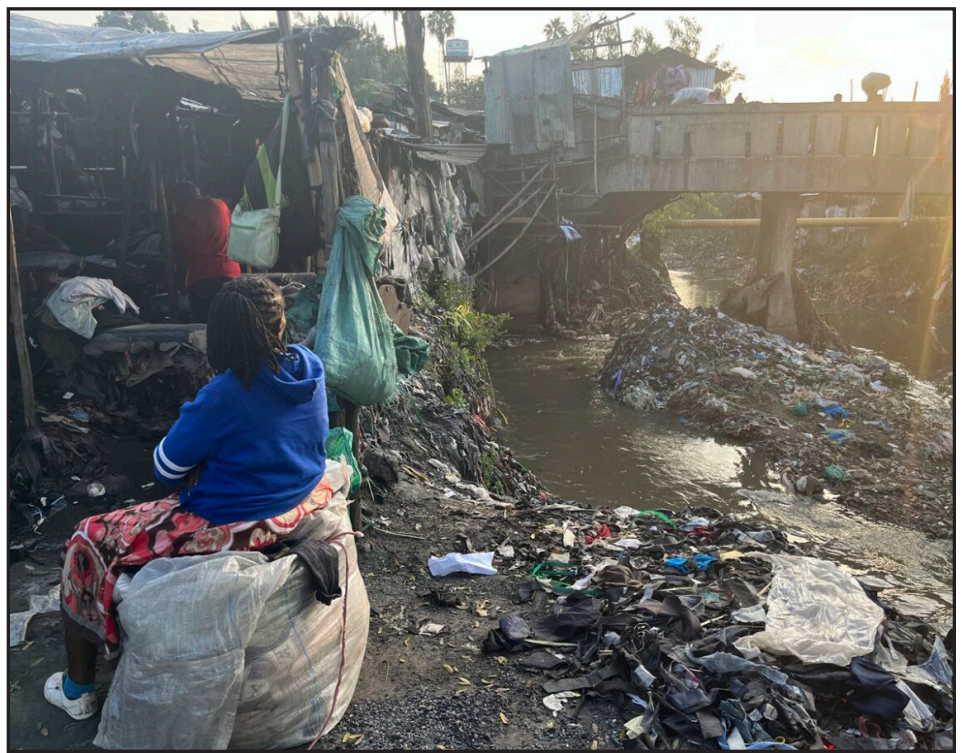
Pousseo cites an investigation by Disclose, a French investigative journalism NGO, that found Decathlon may be linked to forced Uyghur labor in China and deforestation in Brazil. “The real issue is overproduction. That’s what we need to regulate,” she says.

In three months, the fast fashion legislation will go before a joint parliamentary committee, giving *Éthique sur l’étiquette* an opportunity to extend the penalties to all fast fashion, not just ultra-fast fashion.

Once finalized, it will be applied in France before being submitted to the European Union.

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2025/08/as-africa-pays-the-price-for-rich-worlds-fast-fashion-fix-new-french-bill-targets-brands/>

Photo right: Gikomba market, the first place where second-hand



clothes arrive in Nairobi. Here the clothes received in bales are sorted and the clothes that are

too damaged or tattered end up in Dandora and/or in the Nairobi River.

ARCHANS IN ACTION

Behind the Gloss

ONE WEEK - ONE SHIRT, Never Washed!

By Alice Belz
Archiarchy nomad
 July 6, 2025

How not looking good ignites your authentic radiance.

This article is for women, like me, who wear shiny veneers. The ones whose Facebook feeds look like curated spreads from a glossy magazine and who've mastered the art of effortlessly looking put-together.

This is also for the women who crave something real, something other than pressure or performance.

Deep inside, there's a natural, authentic glow in you, an energy which wants to be liberated.

You might feel it too – raw, quiet, waiting to be seen.

It's time to unleash her.

So, what is the green shirt I am wearing all about?

When I travel for months at a time, I don't really miss a thing, but what I *do* miss is the simple act of choosing from my wardrobe. Even though it's not that big, it's still bigger than what I carry when I'm traveling light. I want to have options.

It wasn't a loud Yes, but it was honest, when I accepted the proposed experiment from wearing an oversized mint-green shirt for ONE WHOLE week.

Oversized, mint green.

Worn for an entire week.

No shirt wash in between.

Outside temperatures hovering



around 90 degrees.

No jewelry. No makeup. Hair styled in a way I'd normally *never* wear it.

I am grieving a shiny, polished version of myself.

And in a single break, I change, from one of my favorite cozy red outfits into an oversized green shirt that didn't belong to me, yet. Hair undone, pants that don't match, no makeup, not even the minimal, "natural" kind.

I sit in the circle of women as if nothing has happened.

One of them notices the clothing label, though: "You're wearing your shirt inside out,"

My first reactivity, *loud inside my head*, is to explain it all.

This isn't really me.

It's just an experiment.

It's temporary. It's a joke.

I'll go back to normal tonight.

And I don't say any of that.

"Thank you for noticing," and we continue with the conversation.

My body trembles, gently, subtly,

until something unexpected happens. I soften. I embrace a form of relaxation I hadn't felt before.

And then?

Cameras.

We are taking pictures today. These training spaces are sacred. Safe. Photos are taken rarely, and only with full consent.

I could have requested to not be in the pictures, which would have been just another way to escape my discomfort. I stay. I stay committed.

Whoever sees those pictures might think, "This is how Alice normally looks."

The power and magic however lie in the experience: I cannot control it.

So I might as well relax. I surrender. I fall even deeper into the letting go.

Letting go of how I *should* look.

Letting go of my stories what people *might* think.

Letting go of the subtle ways I manipulate how I am perceived.

And still – I'm here. Breathing. Alive. Real.

I am in a training for authentic, adult initiations for women. This training holds me in the paradox:

The safest space to fall apart.

And the most dangerous place to remove my mask.

I get feedback:

"Alice, something changed. You feel more real, more authentic. I feel closer to you. I want to connect more." I smile through my tears.

Continued on next page

ARCHANS IN ACTION

Continuation from previous page

This is what I want to create in my life: real connection. The kind that only happens when I show up raw and true, not holding it all together.

And then I wonder: what does this experiment have for me *outside* the training?

I travel in this shirt, I board a plane in oversized mint green. Some light small talk with a crew member turns into an upgrade and a warm hug from her.

I arrive at my parents' house for the night, still in the shirt. I leave the next morning, same shirt.

I date a man who means a lot to me, still in it. I don't tell him I'm doing an experiment. I meet him around 3 or 4 times, same shirt.

A friend introduces me to someone I "absolutely must meet."

A beautiful, gorgeous woman. She's in red lipstick, perfect outfit. "Hello," I say. "My name is Alice." She lights up. "I'm so curious to get to know you."

When she says that, a thought in my head whispers to me: we are on the same page, I want to get to know myself, too.

Who *am* I, right now, in this wide open, liquid state?

My mornings start easy – no decisions to make, it's already sorted.

Changing during the day? Obsolete.

I love simplicity, and I love life in its simplicity. I keep going. One full week is my commitment.

Somewhere along the way, I start enjoying the playfulness of getting to know my creative side.

I add a little jewelry. I wear green matching shoes, I even forgot I own them.

With a borrowed belt and as if by magic I transform the shirt into a beach dress.

What can I create from just a little? Which parts of me come alive when I start with almost nothing?

The shirt has seen it all:

Me dancing, my quiet moments, my tears.

Once, I believed I needed a man's shoulder – and his shirt – for catching my tears.

And yes, that's still incredibly beautiful.

But there's something tender and true in my new discovery: My own shirt wants to receive my tears, too, I can hold a safe space for myself.

I go grocery shopping, hop on video calls, meet friends, deliver coaching sessions – all in the same shirt.

The days pass. The sweaty shirt doesn't get any fresher, especially in the 90-degree heat of Mallorca.

It's ridiculous.

It's liberating.

And honestly?

It might be the most peaceful I've ever felt.

What I've Learned

- It's not about being flawless, it's about being present without perfection.

- It's not about looking good, it's about mastering to *feel* good in your skin.

- Stop second-guessing. Shoulders back. Stand in your energy.

- Own your insecurities. Stop apologizing for who you are.

- Set standards. Your time and energy are valuable – stop giving them to people who don't see it.

- How can I love myself, without needing external approval?

- A crack opened:

I'm loved, even when I'm not "dressed up."

- My power doesn't come from a fancy outfit.

- I can be wild, radiant, ridiculous, grounded, messy, *all at once*.

- I am a wildflower.

And since I have to wear something every day anyway...

Why not making a conscious choose: Which part of me do I want to embody right now?

Here is the Experiment, highly recommended!

- * For one week wear the same shirt. Choose one you would normally never wear and don't wash it in between.

- * Do not spoil the experiment by explaining yourself to people.

- * Feel it all, stay in your body, don't go into your mind

- * Notice the voices which might come up, like: What will they think of me?

- * Notice: Where and when am I giving my center away and to whom?

- * You could burn the shirt as a closing ceremony.

What's next ?

Though I'm eager to wear the full spectrum of my wardrobe again, and as I like to say: I want to live life in full colors, I'm stepping into my dresses as a more grounded woman.

Let's connect!

Alice Belz

<https://www.facebook.com/>

<https://www.alicebelz.com/>

<https://substack.com/home>

<https://medium.com/@alicebelz>

<https://www.amazon.com/HER-CONSCIOUS-ANGER-Workbook-Women/dp/B0DFY2PVKD>

alicebelz@gmx.de

+49 1774854263

ARCHANS IN ACTION



Your Feelings Are for You. But Also Your Feelings Are About You.

By Vera Franco, Archiarchy nomad
August 1, 2025

Dear Friends,

Avoiding feeling is perhaps the most common and core survival strategy of modern civilization, aka Patriarchy. It is one of its big brands.

Avoiding feeling has a lot of benefits: you can do a lot of damage to yourself, other people, and the world at large, without feeling personally touched by its consequences. You can develop fantasies that make you believe that you are entitled to do whatever you want disregarding anyone else in the process. You can be the winner in gameworlds where there can only be one winner (which means everyone else has to be a loser). You can destroy people all over the world and convince yourself you are doing good. You can think like, talk like, and act like a psychopath.

Avoiding feeling has a lot of setbacks too. You cannot experience deep, vulnerable, intimate, raw I-can-move-mountains Love. You cannot directly experience how you are deeply connected to a highly-

sophisticated and intelligent web of life that loves you and wants you to shine. You cannot experience the ecstasy of feeding a conscious field of resonance where others that you do not know and might never [know] are playing and collaborating with you and are vital to your work. You cannot experience the clarity and precision of your Bright Principles flowing through your words and your actions as you realize that what You are is the thing that is designed to let these forces move through you. You cannot experience love-making that is telepathic with your partner, but also with Gaia. You cannot look at another Being and see who they really are. You cannot experience the ecstasy of integrity that comes with simply expressing the natural being you are, without trying to cause some effect, because your being already radiates sensually and impacts the world.

Feelings are carriers of clarity of who you really are and what you are about. Feelings are the fuel that brings the valuable and vital information of what you are (your

Soul, your Being) to you and to the world. Every time you feel anger, sadness, fear, or joy, your heart is wanting to reveal more of your Soul to your consciousness. When you avoid feeling, you avoid being you. You avoid hearing the real longings, the deep longings.

When you say, "I feel anger because....", you are revealing the shape of your Being to yourself. If you say, "I feel sad because I did so much abuse to myself in the past," or "I feel sad because I didn't know this was possible," you are letting a part of your Being that resonates with what is precious to see the light of day. If you say, "I don't know what to do and I feel fear" and you stay a little longer with the fear, you might discover valuable information about what you want to be taking care and be careful about. If you say, "I feel joy because...." and after you said the whole sentence you do not feel a big relief or relaxation then you haven't got to the core of the communication of your joy, keep going!

Your feelings are for you. And

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ARCHANS IN ACTION

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your feelings are about you. They are always about you. Even your feelings 'about' the war, or cats, or school, or the future, those feelings are not about the war, cats, school, or the future. Those feelings are about how you are with war, cats, school, or future. They tell you what kind of person you are facing those things and situations.

One of the most revolutionary acts you can do to get out of patriarchy, get out of modern culture, get out of the global dysfunctional capitalist hierarchy is to start feeling – to learn how to feel your feelings of anger, sadness, fear, and joy, and start distinguishing them

from the emotions of anger, sadness, fear, and joy. Feelings reveal your true values. Emotions reveal your traumas. Feelings are for creating. Emotions are for healing.

Start with the book *Conscious Feelings* (<https://www.thoughtwarepress.org>). Start with a Rage Club (<https://rageclub.mystrikingly.com>, also see Hannah's article on the next page). Start with a Possibility Team (<https://possibilityteam.mystrikingly.com>). Start with Heart Gym (<https://heartgym.mystrikingly.com/>). Start with reading the 4 Feelings website (<https://4feelings.mystrikingly.com>) or the 4 Emotions website (<https://4emotions.mystrikingly.com/>).

Start watching recordings of people practicing (Beyond Feeling: Using Your Feelings To Create – A Practice Space <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSMQsVhtrEM>).

But start. Come create the culture that is aligned with your true values, instead of enduring one that does not care at all about your genius, your radiance, and your aliveness.

Love,
Vera

Photo above: The garden of women wildflowers.

ARCHANS IN ACTION

ARTS & CULTURE

B1

Thursday, July 3, 2025
gazettenet.com

PIONEER VALLEY

Rage Club helps channel anger into 'aliveness'

Earthdance in Plainfield gave a safe space for participants to let out their anger



COURTESY DAWAY CHOU-REN

Rage Club attendees take part in a session on June 26 at Earthdance in Plainfield.

By CAROLYN BROWN
Staff Writer

On a recent Thursday night, before sitting down for a potluck dinner, several dozen people gathered at Earthdance in Plainfield to let out pent-up anger.

This was an introductory session for Rage Club, a collective of groups around the world in which participants go through exercises to both get in touch with and release what they call "conscious anger," which, according to the organi-

zation's website, allows participants to say authentic yeses and nos, to "change things, move things, stop things, start things, invent things," "get rid of things," to "take a stand for something or for someone," "maintain integrity," "implement powerful intention," and "take steps and move forward."

"In other words, to do the next amazing thing in your life!"

Facilitated by trained "spaceholders" Daway Chou-Ren, Hannah Hirsh and Meredith Witt, the Earthdance

session aimed to help people understand their own rage and turn it into something productive.

"Your conscious anger is the source of your clarity and aliveness. You do not have to be a violent destroyer. Nor do you have to be a voiceless, polite people pleaser with no boundaries," the event description said.

Rage Club isn't an anger management group or a therapy session, nor is it a rage room or a fight club. As Hirsh put it, "In Rage Club, we come

from the premise that anger is neutral life-force energy, so it's not good. It's not bad. It simply is. I can use my anger in these unconscious ways that will come out in resentment or side comments or passive aggression, or I can use my anger in a conscious way to be really clear to tell somebody, 'No, that's not OK with me that you did that,' or to say, 'Yes, I really want to do this with you.'"

"People think Rage Club is about catharsis. It's really

SEE RAGE CLUB B2

Working With People and Their Feelings

Dear U.S. Village,

Last week @dawaychouren, @meredithwitt, and I held an Intro to Rage Club at Earthdance, a contact improv community in western Massachusetts, where Joseph organized a week of events as part of the U.S. Possibility Tour.

Today @clark_rachel sent me these screenshots of Rage Club in the *Hampshire Gazette*! I celebrate how deeply people felt and the teamwork between me and Daway and Meredith (our first time holding space together). Multiple people came up to me afterward and asked how long we had been training together.

I feel glad about the collaboration between Rage Club and other Gameworlds. @annechloedestremau in an article you wrote, "It might take 20, 30, or 40 years, but someday, there might just be Rage Club studios in every town as spaces of Empowerment, Love, Healing, Clarity, and Care," and I sense that vision is coming closer to fruition.

Read article at <https://www.gazettenet.com/Rage-Club-July-3-62095949>.

Love,

Hannah Hirsh, New York, USA



Facilitator Daway Chou-Ren, kneeling, coaches participants at a Rage Club session in Sebastopol, California. Photo Courtesy Daway Chou-Ren

Note from Iona: A few months ago, I participated in an 8-session Rage & Fear Club with Hannah and Beth McNamara. It was interesting, emotional, wonderful, and powerful. I'm still working on distinguishing my feelings and what they mean for me.

ARCHANS IN ACTION

Joy! Reflections on Happiness

*By Mia Ruby Plum
June 8, 2025*

Joy is not what you've been sold; a static smile on a face made of stone, eternal sunshine and sweetness and indulgence. I've been told that happy feelings will come if I follow the formulas; worship money, culture, religions, or self-help gurus, but I've discovered the cells of my body already come with the recipe pre-installed.

Joy has no time and place; there's no way to get there and nothing to be done about it.

Joy sprouts from my desire; to be with you, to celebrate, to love, to share. Its roots will not take in any other soil than that of our own heart.

I have tried planting it in an ice cream, a lover, a job. I have tried harvesting it from one more hour at a party, one more piece of cake, one more day on holiday.

My intellect grasps for the concept of fun while my body recoils, denying all stories of what should be good and lovely. True gladness sips a cup of tea by a cozy fireplace one day, runs through forests and scales mountains the next. Joy greets you as a chance encounter with a new soul who turns



Author Mia Plum and her sister Trelise playing in the springtime daffodils.

you on about life, or a long-awaited reunion with an old friend.

Joy is a space where I can make mistakes. Space to write things that are for no-one, never to see the light of day. Joy is the spark of an idea to share in a letter to my loved ones. How sweet to delight in the tap tap of fingers on the keys, the magic of summoning letters to spell words that take on new life in communion with one another. Joy is intimate and it is eternal. It is planting a tree sapling, watching the sunrise, darning a second-hand pair of pants, it is a new beginning, regeneration.

Joy is that which cannot be consumed. She is where life begins. She awakens me to the creation

of stories and spaces, imbues me with power to birth possibilities and passion. The spontaneous blossom of delight that waits to flower in my womb is unquantifiable, refusing to bow to expectation or planning; blooming then withering so fresh growth can emerge.

A flower that never goes to seed is a flower made of plastic.

What are your seeds of joy? What colors and flavors do they reveal? Which of your joys are perennial, and which are ephemeral like flowers of Morning Glory?

What seed will you plant right now?

Source: <https://substack.com/home/post/p-165449281>

IONA IN ACTION

I had this plan for weeks and pulled it off in the last two days (August 22 and 23). With my hands filled with a large pad, index cards, and copies of my environmental “business card,” I approached strangers. I didn’t want anyone to know me or my values; however, one friend who heard the question answered so I’ll put her reply last

First I introduced myself by saying, “I publish my own newspaper and I’m interviewing 10 women and 10 men and asking them one question. Do you have time to hear my question?”

Most said Yes but the police man and woman told me they couldn’t be interviewed. Some didn’t have time; one woman was sitting trying to relax but heard my question and decided not to think about it.

I made a Note to Self: DON’T TALK, LISTEN. I had pink and blue file cards with me and a pen to write down their answers.

Yesterday, I asked two women at the car wash, then

I went to the locksmith and asked one man and one woman, then I went to the jewelers and asked one woman.

Today I went to the farmer’s market and finished my interviews.

As we were wrapping up, I handed each person my business card and told them to email me if they’d like to see how this survey turned out in my newspaper.

My friend at the farmer’s market asked me if I thought this could work with law. I admitted that probably not. I believe in grassroots activism.

When I had one man left to complete my tally, I approached two men and a woman and said, “I need a man.” Laughter erupted.

Here is my question: **If you could create one law for the whole world that would guarantee that the Earth would flourish and people everywhere would thrive, what would it be?**

[drum roll] Here are the answers.

WOMEN

- 1 and 2.** You have to be kind. (These women were both at the car wash but said the same thing without hearing each other’s reply.)
- 3.** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and might.
- 4.** World peace.
- 5.** Be kind.
- 6.** Kindness.
- 7.** Treat everyone with kindness; how would that be enforced?
- 8.** Save Nature.
- 9.** No more weapons.
- 10.** Follow God’s law; follow the Ten Commandments.
- 11.** (friend) Stop paper and plastic products and emissions for cars.

MEN

- 1.** Be honest; don’t lie.
- 2.** Food security.
- 3.** Share what we have.
- 4.** Limit use of natural resources.
- 5.** Save Nature.
- 6.** Be nice.
- 7.** World peace = mandatory.
- 8.** Everybody’s equal.
- 9.** Everyone would receive state income tax every February.
- 10.** Abolish all religions; that would eliminate every current and future war until they find something else to fight over.

Let’s Keep Going!

Many people commented that this was a good question so now I invite you to send your answer to me at ionaconner@pa.net and I will publish these on the Messages page next time. This was super fun!

Messages from Our Friends

Your Hey All,

Here is a deep green video: Tell The Truth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VdxfgULcqq>

Thank you,

Derrick Jensen, California

I watched it. He makes sense on this, thank you.

David Blair, Pennsylvania USA

Wow! This is beautiful Iona.

Thank you for sharing.

Pauline Anyaitine, Uganda

Thank you Iona.... that added another layer to my discernment around where and when to put my energy.

Eimear O'Neill, Canada

https://www.eimearoneill.com/Eimear_ONeill/Home.html

Thanks. I watched and listened to the whole talk.

Years ago, I was stunned to learn that dinosaurs were on the planet for more than a million years, by some estimates a minimum of 165 million years. They were extinguished by an external force they had no control over.

I was also stunned when I learned that humans, *Homo Sapiens*, have been on the planet for less than one million years.

I believe that *Homo Sapiens* will destroy itself:

1 – This species has used its powerful brain to build more effective war implements such as nuclear weapons. These weapons can destroy a whole country and contaminate more area than the country it destroyed. Retaliation will destroy another country and then contaminate its surrounding territory. This can be done by one person pushing the button. All the intelligence of the large population

will be wiped out. Very little on the planet will survive.

2 – Assuming we do not use this weapon, we are destroying the ecosystems that provide services to humans: clean air, clean water, sufficient and healthy food, etc. You know more about this than I.

3 – Populations of many species can grow beyond their ability to survive. We see this clearly in the non-human species. When salmon are too densely populated, they are too close together in the river, the disease of one fish spreads very quickly among them.

Several decades ago, there were economists who studied population changes. They observed that as a country becomes more wealthy, the birthrate declines. Mr. Jensen used India as an example of a lower birthrate. He could have included the USA. And, I'd expect, other economies that are modern and economically successful. Back then, economists could not explain why the increased wealth reduced birthrate. They just observed this. Perhaps today economists have testable hypotheses to explain their observation. I don't know and don't have the time to find out.

Well ~ That's it from California.

M., California USA

* * *

Wow! Iona, your book* looks great (half of page one and a quick browse!) and I'm setting aside time for it. It's difficult to read on my phone though and would probably look better on the laptop but I think I'll just get it printed somewhere.

Appropriate timing, too. I just read two Maya Angelou books (both wonderful but not lengthy). And I'm in the middle of a fascinating Imani Perry book (on my

phone) about slavery's expansion from Africa to North America, emphasizing the Indigo trade and Black fascination with the color blue. Also in my current lineup is a Toni Morrison novel titled, *a mercy*.

I'm currently piecing together a section of my memoir on race, growing up in a segregated small town, and its impact on the school and community. For that I'm corresponding with a Black high school classmate who became a Delta Airlines executive and an evangelical church leader in Atlanta.

Cuenca [in Ecuador] has a terrific used book store where you can buy and exchange good books at steep discount prices. It's run by a smart young woman with great knowledge and interest in books and reading. It's a wonderful place to stop in, browse, and talk books!

Take care, Iona, all the best to you, always!

David Bishop, Ecuador

* *We Are Women: Let us out!*

Conversations Between Two Women Leaving Patriarchy, Discovering the Next Culture, Archiarchy (to get a free pdf of Iona's book, please email her at ionaconner@pa.net)

* * *

I hope your work will be greatly benefited and appreciated by all those who will be interested. This will make us better and connected with each other. The world needs us to create positive change.

As a result of our continuous improvement work in terms of combatting against hunger, poverty, malnutrition, climate change, and food insecurity in the [refugee] camps, RADI CBO/RLO aims to help and train vulnerable communities such as youth, women, and

Continued on next page

Messages from Our Friends

Continuation from previous page



children in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei integrated settlement through educational programs, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental sustainability, etc. You can observe the work below and spread to your friends, well-wishers, and donors to support this initiative as well and make a lasting impact and brighter future together.

I would like to inform you that in our RADI Center, we have implemented several different projects such as livelihoods, environmental sustainability, climate, healthcare, education, peace-building trainings, orphanage, aged care, and disability services, etc.

Among these projects in terms of livelihoods, first of all, we have chosen sustainable agriculture or food security to combat hunger, poverty, malnutrition, food insecurity, and climate change. This initiative or idea is to provide a certain level of service that will help our vulnerable community members to

self-sustaining their lives.

So, as Permaculture Education in our kitchen or community garden, we plant some vegetables, fruit trees, and also we raise fish, poultry, and insects or bugs such as cricket, black soldiers, bees.

For example, crickets are plenty of protein; this helps the malnourished individuals with anemia, kwashiorkor, pregnancy women and girls. We can also feed other animals such as poultry, fish, duck, etc, with cricket and black soldiers.

In addition, we really appreciate this lady Anny; she's a hard working person, with passion to help other fellow refugees, mostly vulnerable women. So, she's fully engaged in feeding those insects to ensure they have grown up.

To conclude, we invite everyone to be involved and put together hand-in-hand to ensure this initiative is successfully realized. Your support and advice will be significantly appreciated. Do not hesitate

to donate because you will choose the right way.

I will remain in touch with you for transforming lives of thousands of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers who have forcibly been displaced from their countries due to insecurity, persecution, disaster, and violence, etc.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity as you are Mum of millions of vulnerable individuals who have been affected seriously by the multiple violence, persecution, etc. To do this is to bring hope among them. Be blessed and have a lovely week.

For more information you can contact us through, +254 - 7157 - 61697

Email: radi4deeply@gmail.com

You follow us through social media: Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc.

Feruzi Juma Kikuni, Founder and Executive Director of Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation (RADI), Environmental activist

Kakuma Refugee Camp, Nairobi, Kenya

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/refugee-alliance-for-development-and-innovation-radi-302532304_we-farm-not-only-to-boost-our-economy-but-activity-7272948922644373505-Viyn

Thank you for your interest of orphanage issues.

Yes, our organization is still concerned on this issue also, and we are advocating for support programs to orphans. As you may know, orphans are the consequences of wars that our region has been facing for three decades now.

Our strategy is to focus on foster

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families for orphans, even orphanage centers.

We develop projects that aim to build resilience and to help vulnerable children and orphans through foster families.

So, if you may get contacts of donors for these projects, it is a big opportunity to match and interest them to support.

Leon Simwerayi, DR Congo
(*Association de Jeunes Visionnaires pour le Développement du Congo*, AJVDC Green Brigade/ Congo)

* * *

Truly grateful to have my first blog post published by *South Jersey Climate News*.

Collaboration between dedicated Rowan University Planning Studio students and NJ Tree Foundation, Inc. really made this possible. Resources such as i-Tree Tools not only provide the true monetary value to what planting trees can mean for urban communities, but also have the ability to measure impacts of urban heat islands, tree coverage, and storm water management.

I'm honored to work with so many committed individuals who were willing to take these ideas and turn them into actions. Special thanks to Dr. Mahbubur M. for his endless guidance and support!

Vin Palmeiri, New Jersey USA

Good afternoon everyone.

With far too little effective resistance to check, let alone halt, the relentless advance of the Elite's technocracy, the evidence continues to accumulate in plain sight that our technocratic slave-camp progresses to completion: 'smart city' infrastructure being rolled

out, deployment of 5G, ongoing spread of digital ID, infrastructure for CBDCs (or Stablecoins) nearing completion, surveillance and facial-recognition cameras in public transport, on street corners, in major stores... So we continue our efforts to build strategic resistance.

If you want one of a million possible examples of the technocratic advance, here is one that shows how incrementally the planetary technocracy is being built with people not seeing the risk in one 'small' change and what it is designed to make possible in the end (as part of the total technocratic package). See Ken Macon's recent article on 'Reclaim the Net': 'When Smart Meters Turn Into Spy Tools.' <https://reclaimthenet.org/when-smart-meters-turn-into-spy-tools>

Among other efforts, Professor Bishnu Pathak in Nepal recently enabled us to add Nepali to the list of languages in which the 'We Are Human We Are Free' one-page flyers are available. You can see and download all 24 languages so far from here: <https://wearehuman-wearefree.org/one-page-flyer/>

These one-page flyers briefly describe a series of crucial actions you can take if you wish to defend yourself while helping to resist the advancing technocracy. There is much more detail on the wider series of actions on the website.

If you are happy to help us add another language by doing a translation for us, please let us know and we will respond with what is needed. Our graphic artist does all the artwork, whatever the language.

And a reminder on one point, some of you are still using common privacy-invading email platforms

and we can only encourage you to obtain a secure email account – such as Protonmail, Tutamail and Riseup – as soon as possible. It is only the most basic beginning to defending yourself and far from enough but....

Anyway, separately from the threats to us all from this technocratic direction, the world is still engaged in a series of wars that are reshaping world order in ways that are highly undesirable, apart from the obvious devastation they are causing in the usual ways.

A recent article, which also highlights how the Elite exercises real power in this world with national governments effectively impotent, and since translated into three other languages, makes the effort to explain some of the background invariably hidden in these contexts, and how to resist war strategically. It is available here:

'War in West Asia: Iran, Israel, the United States and the Rothschilds' July 7, 2025

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2025/07/war-in-west-asia-iran-israel-the-united-states-and-the-rothschilds/>

Anyway, we trust you are all well and, again, if you are interested in resisting the ongoing genocide in Palestine, you are welcome to participate in this strategy for doing so, starting here:

'Strategic Goals to Halt the Genocide in Gaza and Liberate Palestine'

<https://nonviolentliberationstrategy.wordpress.com/palestine-strategic-goals/>

Love to you all,

Robert Burrowes
& **Anita McKone**, Australia

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My family and the Portuguese culture I grew up in is matriarchal, especially my family. My notorious grandmother is still known, decades after being dead. It's one reason I'm drawn to Portugal. It's why I always saved – no man was ever going to have that control over me. I wasn't raised to think that I would ever be pampered, especially financially.

In fact, it's been the other way around. My partners, except for one, have always been reliant on me for money, even the ones who made a ton of money.

Portuguese women in the past and maybe still today, take on their mother's name and don't give it up when they marry like here. I despise that vile tradition. Anyway, good luck with that venture.

Anonymous, Vermont USA [Old friend of Iona's owned two homes by the time she was 30.]

(first email)

Hope you are living your best life. What if writing could be your medicine?

I'm a writer and a lifelong lover of words and emotions. For years, writing has been my portal – into the body, into truth, into the world.

My work blends deep listening with intuitive language. I don't just teach technique; I guide you to write from the place where your voice is undeniable.

My healing began with just 10 minutes of journaling each morning, with discipline, and no pressure. Effortless presence.

Writing is messy magic. It cracked me open when I needed it most and now I want to offer you that space too.

Let's write together.

Alice Belz, Mallorca

(second email)

What an honor (publishing her story, pages 18-19), First of all, I feel so glad that you start preparing yourself for your publication. Now, that I am currently delivering the DARE TO WRITE workshop, one thing is clear to me: every woman has a message and the world needs to hear that.

The world needs that – and when woman gives herself permission, starts to express herself, she begins to unfold and blossom even more.

Anyway, I just wanted to say: I am celebrating you and your newspaper. I see your devotion to your creation, Iona. And I love it.

Have a lovely evening,

I just paid the ocean a quick night visit, before heading to bed now,

Alice Belz, Mallorca

alicebelz@gmx.de

+49 1774854263

<https://substack.com/home>

Dear Iona again!

(After discovering an email chain from 12/25/24.)

That was good, to revive that memory and to see again (in your thread) your thoughts on life going forward.

I am at the same stage (76) and sorting priorities including DTN (Deep Transformation Network). It is so heady and, to my mind, dominated by male 'fix it' energy.... not enough questioning patterns of domination, and the assumptions of modernity. ... not enough young women and men from diverse peoples being drawn to join.

I was one of thousands round the planet, collectively joining Joanna Macy as she gently transitioned. What powerful collective energy supporting the flow of life even in

honoring one who is leaving it... that is also part of her legacy. I'm working on what sort of an ancestor I will be,

For now, I'm joining today's Grounding Circle (they took my suggestion instead of "Mission") and the September 7th DTN-wide meeting on what's emergent and needed within the network. I'd like to see a diverse Elders Council.

If you've any thoughts about that, please share them.*

Hope you are enjoying the return to New Jersey and making your own deadlines.

Eimear O'Neill, Canada

*Note from Iona: I told Eimear that I wouldn't mind being in an Elders Council since I'll be 80 soon.

Thanks for sharing with me this wonderful information about Archiarchy. It's Soo amazing.

I continue to re-read it again and again to understand it more.

Amos Mugarura, Uganda

I was thinking about what you wrote about Chiwundu asking you if Archiarchy was a cult.

This is a weird thought that I came to.... First of all, I don't think Archiarchy is a cult. But most importantly, I got to thinking about cults and all cults throughout history. Especially the ones in our lifetime. And I realized that all of these cults were started by men yes men. Not women! And all of them took advantage of women! And put women down or/and used women as sexual objects! I've never thought of that before, but for some reason I thought of it today.

Well, those are all my thoughts.

Nicole L., Idaho USA

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Messages from Our Friends

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Greetings from SCOPE Kenya.

I hope this message finds you in good health. I am pleased to report that our work with school communities is progressing well.

In our efforts to enhance young people's participation in agroecology and climate mitigation for transformative food systems, we have conducted a comprehensive analysis of existing curricula from primary school to university level. The goal has been to identify current content related to agriculture and climate change action, as well as gaps and opportunities for enriching the curriculum through the integration of agroecology and biodiversity conservation. This will enable young people to acquire knowledge about sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation early enough while in school.

We have prepared a draft report that requires editing to meet the necessary standards. This document will be shared with various stakeholders at both local and national levels.

I would like to ask if you could assist us with the editing process or connect us with someone who can help. If so, I will send you the document.*

Thank you for your consideration.

John Macharia, National Coordinator, SCOPE KENYA (see page 1)

***Note from Iona:** I proofread and edited three times because I love this project so much and wanted to do my best. When John gives me the "green light," I will share it with the world. It has that much potential if adopted globally!

Another note from Iona: After working with so many African orphanage managers, I realized that

if they could grow their own food, there would be fewer deaths from starvation and health issues from malnutrition. I asked John if he would be willing to work with them. This is his reply.

Dear Iona,

Many thanks for your response and passion in supporting needy communities.

There is no problem linking me up with those who may benefit from our knowledge and experience in transforming the barren land into productive, greener landscapes. Once I am in touch with them, we shall come up with a strategy to support them without straining. One way can be to orga-

nize virtual meetings and training, which may not cost much.

Thank you so much for your commitment to conserving the Earth, which is already bleeding from pollution and loss of biodiversity.

John Macharia, National Coordinator, SCOPE KENYA

Promoting Practical Agroecology Education in Schools to reconnect children with Nature, healthy lifestyle & environmental stewardship.

Hello praise God so much and how are you doing today. Let's hope you are doing great as well because we love you together with the kid's as well.

Sadat Mutekanga, Uganda



The Mutekanga Sadat Foundation has 20 children, 12 girls (ages 10-12) and 8 boys (ages 9-14). From Sadat: "Let's continue praying for you as you post our orphanage through the newspaper. Thanks. Be blessed we love you so much Together with the kids."

Email: mutekangasadat211@gmail.com **Telephone:** +256705540252