

Proposed Resolution on the Role of Science for the People in the March for Science:

Raising consciousness around shared struggle, expressing solidarity, and developing a community for collective action.

WHEREAS, The March for Science marks the largest spontaneous and organized collective action to fight for science that speaks truth to power. Over 1M people participated in actions spanning every state and continent, including rare political sentiments on the part of high-profile scientists like AAAS leader Rush Holt. Much attention was drawn to the widespread dismissal of peer-reviewed evidence related to human health and the environment (e.g. air pollution and climate change), while there was less emphasis on the inequitable direction and impact of these policies.

WHEREAS, Since then, scientific organizing saw several victories in preserving NIH funding, delaying oppressive immigration restrictions and fighting proposed tax reform measures that would undermine higher education. However, there remains an enormous undertaking in developing a stronger collective response to some of the most effective and regressive Trump-era appointees, e.g. Scott Pruitt. There is also room for growth in supporting policies where science and society interact for improved equity, as in the recent push for universal healthcare.

WHEREAS, MFS messaging broadly defends science that implicitly challenges corporate dominance in our society, there is a role for Science for the People in drawing the connection between how regressive policies are implemented and for whose benefit. We anticipate the midterm Congressional elections will push the MFS demands in a conservative direction. Science for the People sees an opportunity to counter this trend by expanding local MFS political demands to include solidarity with all oppressed groups, introducing the radical political themes from SftP's principles of unity and generally advocating for an activist strategy for long-term rank-and-file political engagement by STEM workers and their supporters. This may be done by direct involvement and influence of local MFS demands and organizing coalitions or by organizing SftP contingents within local MFS mobilizations to raise our demands and promote radical science themes.

RESOLUTION: We resolve to grow our organizing capacity and encourage those new to political action by preparing roles for their continued participation in our work or that of allies leading up to MFS. We will extend our community to foster their growth and increase their engagement, while ensuring this setting remains inclusive and safe for all participants.

RESOLUTION: We resolve to raise consciousness around shared struggles and express solidarity with those facing oppression, pushing existing demands further as appropriate. We will use this effort to amplify the impact of MFS, build relationships, and grow the collective and long-term fight for policies that will benefit us all by improving access to healthcare, preserving environmental quality, reducing militarism, etc. The demands of MFS vary by location, and local chapters retain flexibility to respond as they see fit.

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