

Food Justice

Various definitions, with links to more information

What is Food Justice? http://www.foodjusticebook.org/?page_id=6

Food justice seeks to ensure that the benefits and risks of where, what, and how food is grown, produced, transported, distributed, accessed and eaten are shared fairly. Food justice represents a transformation of the current food system, including but not limited to eliminating disparities and inequities.

What is the Food Justice movement?

Food advocates may work on several different issue areas, but share the common goal of challenging the injustices that exist throughout the dominant industrial and increasingly globalized food system. By striving to alleviate these injustices in the entire food system, the Food Justice movement is linked to and supports allied movements such as those related to the environment, land use, health, immigration, worker rights, economic and community development, cultural integrity, and social justice.

- See more at: http://www.foodjusticebook.org/?page_id=6#sthash.HqsRacgf.dpuf

www.justfood.org/food-justice

What is Food Justice?

Food Justice is communities exercising their right to grow, sell, and eat healthy food. Healthy food is fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally-appropriate, and grown locally with care for the well-being of the land, workers, and animals. People practicing food justice leads to a strong local food system, self-reliant communities, and a healthy environment.

What does the Food Justice Program do?

The Food Justice Program increases awareness and action around food and farm issues and advances policies for a thriving local food system. We do this through advocacy trainings, policy workshops, information-sharing, campaigns, and more.

Three Pillars of Food Justice

brooklynfoodcoalition.org/food-justice/

The Brooklyn Food Coalition believes that there are 3 key areas that define Food Justice and the movement behind it.

Healthy Food for All

What if empty lots were turned into community gardens and local farmers sold fresh fruits and vegetables in every Brooklyn neighborhood? What if kids learned how to grow and cook healthy food and were fed vitamin-packed meals at school? These goals are not pipe dreams. The Brooklyn Food Coalition believes that healthy, affordable food is everyone's right, and we are committed to a just and sustainable food system for our all our neighbors and local food producers.

Sustainable Food Systems

Interest in local foods and sustainable agriculture is growing rapidly across the country, but what is it and why should it interest you? Sustainability is defined as using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged. It is maintainable, supportable, tenable and justifiable.

Justice for Food Workers

Food and farm workers are among the lowest paid and most highly exploited workers all over the world. This includes the 20 million food workers in the United States and right here in our towns and neighborhoods. From harvesting crops to waiting tables, food workers are frequently denied basic rights and protections given to other occupations under federal law.

Food Justice

By Robert Gottlieb

Overview

In today's food system, farm workers face difficult and hazardous conditions, low-income neighborhoods lack supermarkets but abound in fast-food restaurants and liquor stores, food products emphasize convenience rather than wholesomeness, and the international reach of American fast-food franchises has been a major contributor to an epidemic of "globesity." To combat these inequities and excesses, a movement for food justice has emerged in recent years seeking to transform the food system from seed to table. In *Food Justice*, Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi tell the story of this emerging movement.

A food justice framework ensures that the benefits and risks of how food is grown and processed, transported, distributed, and consumed are shared equitably. Gottlieb and Joshi recount the history of food injustices and describe current efforts to change the system, including community gardens and farmer training in Holyoke, Massachusetts, youth empowerment through the Rethinkers in New Orleans, farm-to-school programs across the country, and the Los Angeles school system's elimination of sugary soft drinks from its cafeterias. And they tell how food activism has succeeded at the highest level: advocates waged a grassroots campaign that convinced the Obama White House to plant a vegetable garden. The first comprehensive inquiry into this emerging movement, *Food Justice* addresses the increasing

disconnect between food and culture that has resulted from our highly industrialized food system.

Growing Food and Justice Initiative <http://www.growingfoodandjustice.org/>

Food Justice: Asserts that food is a right and no one should live without enough food because of economic constraints or social inequalities. Food justice reframes the lack of healthy food sources in poor communities as a human rights issue. Food justice is inspired by historical grassroots movements and organizing traditions such as those developed by the civil rights movement and the environmental justice movement. The food justice movement advances self-reliance and social justice by acknowledging that community leadership is the way to authentic solutions. The food justice movement is evolving and welcomes your participation. Find out more at Growing Food and Justice for All (GFJI).

Food Sovereignty: A term originally coined by members of Via Campesina in 1996 to refer to a policy framework advocated by a number of farmers, peasants, pastoralists, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, women, rural youth and environmental organizations, namely the claimed "right of peoples to define their own food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries systems," in contrast to having food largely subject to international market forces. Principles of food sovereignty include:

- Food is a basic human right. Everyone must have access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in sufficient quantity and quality to sustain a healthy life with full human dignity.
- A genuine agrarian reform is necessary which gives farming people ownership and control of the land they work. The right to land must be free of discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, race, social class or ideology. The land belongs to those who work it.
- Food Sovereignty entails the sustainable care and use of natural resources, especially land, water, and seeds and livestock breeds. The people who work the land must have the right to practice sustainable management of natural resources and to conserve biodiversity free of restrictive intellectual property rights. This can only be done from a sound economic basis with security of tenure, healthy soils and reduced use of agro-chemicals.
- Food is first and foremost a source of nutrition and only secondarily an item of trade. Our approach prioritizes production for local consumption and food self-sufficiency in our communities. Food imports must not displace local production nor depress prices.
- Food Sovereignty is undermined by multilateral institutions and by speculative capital. The growing control of multinational corporations over agricultural policies has been facilitated by the economic policies of multilateral organizations such as the WTO, World Bank and the IMF.
- Everyone has the right to be free from violence. Food must not be used as a weapon. Increasing levels of poverty and marginalization in rural communities, along with the growing

oppression of minorities and indigenous populations, aggravate situations of injustice and hopelessness. The ongoing displacement, forced urbanization, repression and increasing incidence of racism of smallholder farmers cannot be tolerated.

- Smallholder farmers must have direct input into formulating agricultural policies at all levels. Everyone has the right to honest, accurate information and open and democratic decision-making. These rights form the basis of good governance, accountability and equal participation in economic, political and social life, free from all forms of discrimination.