

Sunsara Taylor - National Campus Speaking Tour

Sunsara's World c/o Revolution Books
146 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001
sunsara_tour@yahoo.com

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Dear Friend,

Something new is happening on campuses this spring.

Sunsara Taylor's nationwide speaking tour, **"From the Burkha to the Thong: Everything Must, and Can, Change—WE NEED TOTAL REVOLUTION!"** is sparking new questioning of "the way things are" and challenging students to grapple with previously "unthinkable" thoughts of a world where half of humanity – women – is able to live as human beings and not as sex objects.

"pornography... how [it's] kind of..accepted as something that is what it is. There's not talk of how to change it. And for her to say wait, wake up, it doesn't have to be like this... it's like oh shit, we have the power to say something..."

--NYU student after Sunsara's Feb. 23 talk

After New York University on February 23 and University of Chicago March 3, the tour is heading to Berkeley, UCLA and University of Hawai'i over the next two months. Other stops are in the works – but funds are critically needed to make this happen.

Sunsara Taylor is stepping out and into the thick of controversy, fighting to bring forward something new that is so deeply and urgently needed in the world, and especially on campuses. She is cracking open debate and challenging students and youth to lift their sights, dare to dream and be part of forging a new revolutionary movement. We need you to step out, as well, and help finance this tour.

Sunsara demonstrates a unique and stunning ability to cut through "conventional wisdom" (from "what's natural" about gender roles to the history of communist revolution), connect with students' – especially young women's – deepest concerns and desires for a different way of living, and to generate the kind of critical thinking, discourse and engagement so needed on campuses today.

Her NYU speech drew students, both women and men, from several NYC campuses who came off of being provoked by the title, from caring passionately about the treatment of women, curiosity about hearing a radical view about women's oppression and intrigued about "what communism has to do with feminism." And they came knowing they would also be challenged by a call to be part of building a movement for revolution.

During the Q/A, they raised deep-going questions on wide-ranging topics: is all pornography harmful; sexuality and sexual relations that are non-oppressive; late-term abortion; the relation between feminism and communism; how to view the concept of gender; how to view men; and what a revolutionary state is.

Afterwards, they commented:

"The talk was completely inspirational. It gave me so much information that I always knew was there but I never actually understood. I was actually able to look into it, see causation, correlations. It just inspired me to just go and read, understand more, and get into it more myself."

"To be honest, I'm just opening my eyes at the world around me, you know. I've been in a very dark place for a long time. I'm guilty of what a lot of people do, which is just really close our eyes to it, you know what I mean?. One of the best moments was when she explained there was nothing morally wrong [with abortion]. Because I don't think I've ever really heard that from any public figure or anyone."

"I'm just not very well versed in communist theory or Marxism or anything like that. I'd like to be, and I'm definitely going to check out [Avakian's] books. I think it's often, the way she was saying, women being oppressed is separate just from, like, humanity being oppressed. But it's also layer upon layer, it's within that—within humanity being oppressed, women are also oppressed."

"She kind of changed how I thought about communism in general. I always pictured the uniforms, Communist China, you don't get any rights, you aren't an individual. Look I understand the idea of how communism looks good on paper.. but I just never thought it would be practical. The divide is so great. I just thought it would be impossible to even start that conversation."

"I liked it. Even at the end, the questions, how she challenges herself even, and can understand how other people can feel differently. She's so steadfast in her beliefs. As a woman, I just think it's so important for someone like her voice. She's very clear, level headed, but can still understand other points of view. I was really impressed."

If you are one of those who want to see this engagement and involvement spread and flourish on campuses today, you need to be part of making it happen. With your donation, you will be making an important contribution to this tour and enabling Sunsara Taylor's unique and powerful voice to reach many more students.

The five-campus tour costs \$26,400 and includes travel, food, lodging and living expenses for Sunsara Taylor and Alice Woodward, a youth organizer who gave up her job to travel with Sunsara and assist campus tour organizers. The budget also includes expenses for each campus event: venue, posters, advertising, audio-visual equipment, and other related costs. A detailed budget is available upon request.

Please make your check payable to "Sunsara's World" and send to Sunsara's World, c/o Revolution Books, 146 West 26 Street, New York, NY 10001 (indicate "campus tour" on check memo line), or to the local tour organizer in your area.

Best regards,

Joan Hirsch

National coordinator for Sunsara Taylor's national campus speaking tour

About Sunsara Taylor

Sunsara is a writer for *Revolution* newspaper, a host of WBAI's Equal Time for Free Thought, and sits on the Advisory Board of World Can't Wait. She has written on the rise of theocracy, wars and repression in the U.S., led in building resistance to these crimes, and contributed to the movement for revolution to put an end to all this. She takes as her foundation the new synthesis on revolution and communism developed by Bob Avakian. You may know her through her impressive verbal battles with Bill O'Reilly and various political commentary on topics from abortion to religion on YouTube videos. She brings all of this to bear on her current tour.