

Anti-social acts in an anarchist society

When discussing anti-social acts in any sort of society we must look at the act itself and at the conditions that allowed and brought that act into existence.

Causes of anti-social acts have been outlined wonderfully by Peter Kropotkin in *Prisons and their moral influence on prisoners*:

1. Physical causes, which are conditions of our universe and nature.
weather, hunger
2. Physiological causes, or causes coming from the structure of our brain and mind.
mental illness, anger
3. Social causes, that are usually blamed for way too many anti-social acts.
ghettoisation, military draft

One of the things that I believe is missing from this list is:

4. Individual choice
vigilanteism, economic and hate crimes

Types of anti-social acts have not been discussed as much outside of the field of criminology, which doesn't normally deal with answering the problem from the non-hierarchical perspective. I would briefly list the types as:

1. Hierarchical crime is an action intended to place a person or a group above the other persons or groups.
2. Economic crime is an action to increase one's wealth at the expense of others.
3. Accidental crime is an action that caused damage or discomfort to others when this wasn't the intent of that action.
4. Mental illness.
5. Hate crime is an action taken with the goal of destruction of the particular group or community.

As i do not have time to discuss all the permutations i will only shortly talk about anti-social acts that come as a result of an individual choice, as it is the hardest one to deal with.

The two things that are the most important when dealing with these sorts of acts is to eliminate the idea of vengeance in all aspects of the community and to lead by example wherever possible. Without the former most attempts at social opposition to anti-social acts will fall back into vigilanteism while without the latter the risk is to actually recreate a police force, both of which are the causes of more anti-social behaviour.

Acceptance of differences and acceptance of change promote the lessening of anti-social acts. Acceptance of differences allows for slow, but sure, process of elimination of "clash of civilisations" mindset and "us against them" rhetoric, as works to eliminate the breeding ground of hate crimes. Acceptance of change allows for people who have already been labelled as anti-social by the community to actually get out of their alienating position and rejoin the society; without that they have no incentive and will only grow more anti-social with time.

Social, political, and economic equality is a factor of great importance, as without these our society cannot demand the stop of violence and secrecy (as a form of voluntary alienation). While i do agree with the statement "to be an anarchist you must be non-violent, and to be non-violent you must be an anarchist" i do realise that to be a radical one needs to understand that revolutionary violence is a result of political repression, and not an atomic act of a crazy persons.

However, it is clear that at some point these measures will not work, often they will not work because anti-social acts will be committed in the name of fighting against "other" anti-social acts. In this case i would propose the expulsion from the community as the way of dealing with what then becomes a hate crime (an act that is destroying the community). However, while implementing that policy it must be done in the way that doesn't recreate more anti-social aspects inside the group, for example, a person must be allowed to re-enter, possibly under the condition of working to rectify the results of the previous anti-social acts, and this policy should not be used to gain control over the community or the territory.

http://eng.anarchopedia.org/index.php/anti-social_act