



# DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE

*a collection*

JULY 1, 2011

Two years ago today, I declared my independence.

I began my self-employed life and left behind regular pay, boring meetings and a simple answer to the inevitable “what do you do?”

But independence (like any worthwhile commitment) isn't a one-time prize, to be grabbed and possessed.

It's a daily practice and an inexplicable journey.

It wasn't enough to declare my independence from an office.

To fully live my life and embrace the opportunities, I have to daily declare my independence from fear, from giving in, from the weight of other people's expectations and definitions.

But that's the joy: It's mine to declare. It's my choice to make.

And it's YOURS.

Your independence is yours to declare, to own, to cherish.

What do you declare your independence from?

What freedom do you claim?

I asked a few of my friends these questions and you'll find their answers within.

But it's not enough to read and be inspired. You have to do your own claiming.

Before you read another word, fill out the next page and declare yourself independent.

Yours in freedom,

Tara

# DECLARE YOUR INDEPENDENCE

I declare my independence from...

I declare myself independent. I am free to....

(make it pretty! Use markers, stickers + paint! Hang it up on your fridge, your mirror or your desk)

I DECLARE MY INDEPENDENCE FROM  
HAVING MY POTENTIAL DEFINED BY  
anyone BUT me.

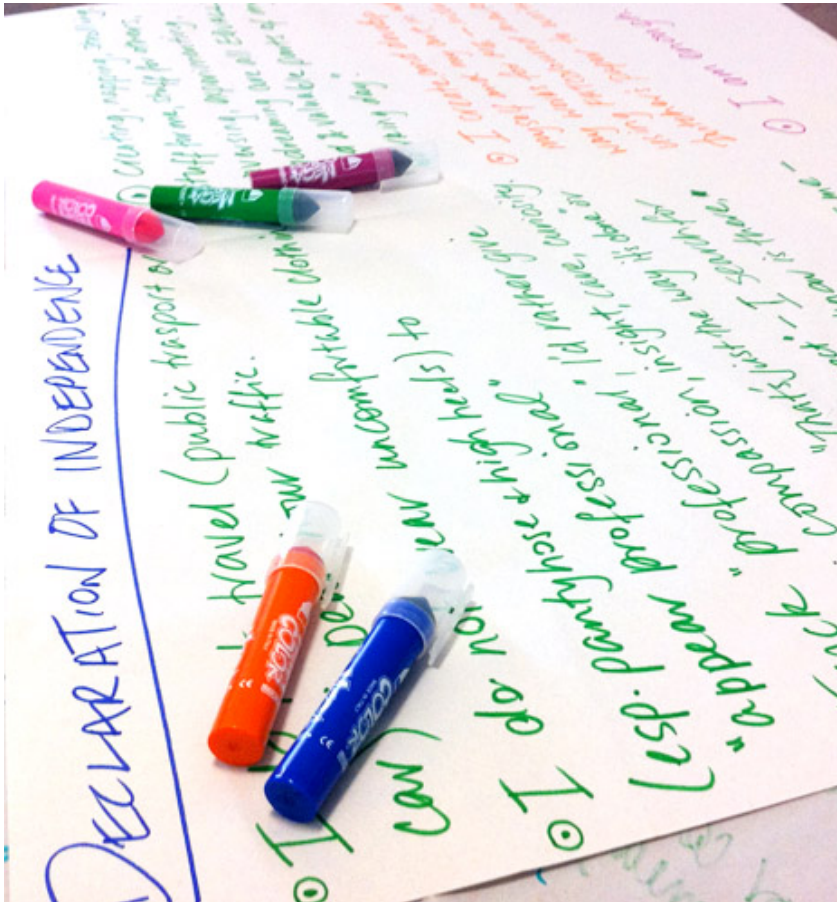
No more funneling my mojo into stuff that doesn't totally turn me on.  
And I'm done dimming down my awesome because it might inconvenience someone else.

I set myself free from believing that I have to play the game by anybody's rules but my own.

And I happily reject anything that says I can't be fully, deeply, deliciously me and still thrive.

IN FACT, I INSIST ON A LIFE THAT  
TOTALLY OOZES me-ness  
FROM EVERY PORE.

- [Fabeku Fatunmise](#)  
[@fabeku](#)



I create, and develop myself and my art, in ways that work for me -- including using FAT coloured markers and BIG sheets of butcher's paper to write.

**I am enough.**

I do not travel (public transport or car) in peak hour traffic.

**I do not wear uncomfortable clothing -**  
- especially not pantyhose or high heels and especially not to 'appear professional'.

F\*#k 'professional'. I give people compassion, insight, care and curiosity.

I do not do "That's just the way it's done" or "That's what people expect" -- I search for the beauty:clarity I know is there, every time I create.

I work with people who want ME -- I don't chase, convince, pander or pretend to be anything other than perfectly imperfect me

Creating, napping, strolling, stuff for me, stuff for others, conversing, experimenting and daydreaming are all EQUALLY valid and valuable parts of my 'working day'.

[-Rebecca Leigh](#)  
[@rebecca\\_leigh](#)

I want **Independence** from.....

Self-flagellation (of the mental variety)

Minnesota winters (unacceptable. I mean, really.)

**Futuristic thought-flinging**  
(the unproductive kind)

Pulling all-nighters (except the *scandalous* sort)

The Internet (at least 5 days a month)

[-Alex Franzen](#)  
[@Alex\\_Franzen](#)

I will not hedge. I will not qualify. **I will not equivocate.** I will not apologize for my thoughts or feelings.

I will choose my words carefully so that they match what I actually mean.

I will allow people to own their own experience, including their experience of me and their reaction to me.

I WILL GIVE MYSELF THE SPACE TO NOT KNOW FOR a WHILE. But I'll also acknowledge that sometimes not knowing is just not noticing yet. {Or choosing not to notice yet.}

I will warm to ideas from my place of personal power. And if I don't -- that's great, too. I can't say yes to everything. Or even most things.

I will nurture and lean on a core group of female entrepreneurs who have integrity, focus, strength, desire, passion, and love rolling into and through their businesses. These are my peers and who I want supporting me. I will expand into myself as I expand with them.

[-Abby Kerr](#)  
[@abbykerr](#)



I am declaring

independence

from ever thinking

that I am

not

a giant, ridiculously glorious & breathtakingly beautiful

wonderland.

(I am a wonderland of them.)

-[Leonie Allen](#)  
[@goddessLeonie](#)

I declare myself to be independent  
from the **need to ever grow up**  
if that means I have to stop playing, stop dreaming and stop being ridiculously silly.

I declare myself to be independent from  
having to always act like I know what I'm supposed to be doing.

I declare myself to be independent from  
**not saying what I want**  
for fear that it will upset someone or that I will be misunderstood.

I declare myself to be independent from  
thinking that I need to be improved, fixed, changed or modified in any way,  
shape or form.

I declare myself to be independent from  
**the fear of being completely and utterly myself!**

-Chris Zydel  
[@wildheartqueen](#)



I'm declaring independence from trying to conform to the idea of normal business and a normal schedule.

I will only accept advice if it is from a place of helpfulness and not let others dictate how I run things.

I KNOW MYSELF AND MY BUSINESS  
BETTER THAN ANYONE and I am proud to say so.

[-Dryden Driggers](#)  
[@designatedryden](#)

# I HEREBY DECLARE INDEPENDENCE FROM a "normal" BUSINESS

and instead plan to fully embrace a craftybiz:

embracing my creative spark,  
the ebbs and flows of my health,

**and the value of self in every little step.**

The expectations of working for someone else may not have respected my individual talents in the past, so my new future, I can surround myself with all of the activities I do best.

And being online will let me continue to meet others who have the same goals and celebrate our successes together!

-[Kristine Beeson](#)

@[kdlb](#)

I declare my independence from...

Fear of getting it wrong. **It's okay to get it wrong.**

Expectations I have not agreed to.

Living on someone else's schedule.

Being a square peg in a round hole.

I DECLARE MY INDEPENDENCE.

I am free to...

Be who I am, to express my full self with joy and abandon.

**Shine my light.**

**Love my life.**

Make my own choices.

Be a contradiction.



-[Jamie Ridler](#)

@[starshyne](#)

# I declare myself independent from your expectations of me.

I declare myself independent from limits imposed by those who know me - and moreso of those who do not know me. I declare myself independent from "should's and "supposed tos" set out by an aging and frightened society.

I declare myself independent from stifling painful closets that try to hide my beautiful shining light from the world just because I happen to be "different".

## In fact, I declare myself independent from "normal".

I declare myself independent from self-imposed limits, too. *They're not real, anyway.* They're just there to keep me in line - and I declare myself independent from that line.

I declare myself independent from the stupid silly left-over rules from my childhood that never even made any sense anyway, like "no chewing on your straw" or "no singing at the table" - and I will chew my straws and sing with wild abandon at whatever table I'm at when the mood strikes.

And I declare myself independent from fear. Fear is an unfair, unjust ruler - and a world without fear will be a world full of love.

That sounds far better to me - so

I DECLARE MYSELF DEPENDENT ON LOVE

-[Kyeli](#)  
@[Kyeli](#)

# I declare my independence from the EXPECTATIONS other people have of me.

I am free of people's judgments of my quirky business ideas, of my relaxed and adventurous parenting, of my habit of swearing on the internet, of the books I choose to read.

I will not try to define my work simply because it eases others' confusion; the people I work with get it, and that's what is important.

Further, I declare my freedom from the guilt related to not having enough time to do all the projects I want to do, and to help all the people I want to help.

WHAT I'M ABLE TO DO IS ENOUGH,  
AND THAT IS OKAY.

-[Kim Werker](#)  
[@kpwker](#)

# I'M DONE TRYING TO BE GOOD. DONE!

(I might even be allergic.)

In 30 years, trying to be good has never helped me be more myself. It's never helped me feel more alive or woken me up or opened my heart.

## SO I'M DECLARING MY INDEPENDENCE.

From here on out I'll be refusing all attempts and advice, urging and pushing. Anything that leaves me feeling clenched or guilty is definitely out.

## INSTEAD, I JUST WANT TO *FEEL* GOOD.

In case I need a reminder, I think feeling good might look something like this:



-[Briana Aldrich](#)  
@[BrianaAldrich](#)

I declare myself independent

from consumerism and the need for immediate gratification;  
from financial irresponsibility and the self-imposed mental battery that comes with it.

I DECLARE economic  
INTELLIGENCE

and

**will revel in the freedom**

that wise spending yields and in the greater delight it brings.

I will live simply, mindfully and appreciatively.

-Carissa Adams  
(one of my dearest friends)

## I am NOT an EMT

Here's what gets my whole-hearted, full-voiced big N-O: **emergencies**.

Some people are hard-wired to respond well under pressure, when someone else's game is on the line.

Not me.

It's not that I'm not good under pressure, actually. It's more that I take emergencies personally, your problem becomes my problem. And that's just not healthy. It makes it more difficult for me to take care of myself and much more difficult for me to take good care of others.

so I'm DECLARING my INDEPENDENCE FROM  
RESPONDING TO LATE NIGHT emails, urgent Twitter requests, and... okay...

mostly the late night emails. It's not that I don't want to be responsive or helpful.

I want to create a business with systems in place to contain & mitigate emergencies.

It's not that I don't want to handle emergencies, it's that I don't want to have them in the first place!

On this day, I vow to communicate boundaries, implement processes,  
and follow through on commitments.

ON THIS Day, I DECLARE my INDEPENDENCE FROM  
emergencies.

-[Tara Gentile](#)  
[@TaraGentile](#)

I DECLARE MY INDEPENDENCE FROM WHERE I CAME  
FROM.

I opt out of inherited anxiety.

I say "no thanks I'm full" when people try to serve me fear.

I give up on stuffing down scary feelings.

I decline pretense.

I refuse to believe there is not enough good for me.

I REJECT THE IDEA THAT SOMEONE  
ELSE'S GAIN DIMINISHES ME.

I regret to inform the world that

WHAT I AM IS EXACTLY, ALREADY PERFECTLY  
JUST RIGHT.

[-Eileen Corrigan Valazza](#)

[@evalazza](#)

Whew! Was that a big ole dose of independence-declaring-independence or WHAT?

I hope you enjoyed this free gift but more than that, I hope it inspired ACTION in your own independence building.

Please pass this around, share it with those who need it

and quote from it freely on your blog, twitter, facebook or heck, even in your conversations.

When you do, **please credit the person who said it**

(their site + twitter link is at the bottom of their quote) and go on and link back here.

If you're talking about it on twitter, use the hashtag #declareindependence.

**Feeling the call to move forward with Independence, on your own terms?**

Check out the [Map-Making Guide for the Adventurous](#).



I'm [Tara Swiger](#), crafter of businesses, maker of yarn and Captain of a [Starship](#).

I believe your [craftybiz is a world](#) that you'll LOVE exploring.

Let's [hang out on Twitter!](#)

Cover image: [Eileen Valazza](#)