

TTT March Participant Summary: Playing with power 2: changing the system

Our third session, facilitated by Bob and Rachel, looked at how activists could work with power to effect change: it proved to be a busy and stimulating day.

Starters

- In big circle, participants, one at a time, make eye contact with everyone in the circle, and then give their own name.
- With eyes closed, we joined Bob in clapping. His gentle fast rhythm, became a slower beat that increased in volume and speed to a crescendo and then faded.
- With no time to debrief games, we divided into pairs for an active listening exercise, where we described our own experience of effecting positive change to our partner. Highlights were briefly shared with whole group.

First Course

Rachel's Role Play

The Roles

Volunteers took the role cards for a scenario about **Frank, an assylum seeker**

who had worked in a care home for several years and made friends with his

fellow care-worker, Sarah. He had got to know **online Emma,** and she had links with the organisation **No Borders.**

Frank was also a member of a 2000 strong church community represented by a **church member.**

Other roles-the Home Office rep; the journalists; the protesters; the Detention Camp guard; were assumed by the ensemble as appropriate

The Scenario

Frank was given a 72 hour deportation order and detained in a detention centre in Dover. He manages to phone his friend Sarah, and the resulting scenario, brought to dramatic life by the participants, saw Sarah, Emma & the church community mobilising quickly to stop the deportation. Media, MPs,

lawyers, demonstrators were bringing this case into the public arena. When legal representation and the usual government channels had been exhausted, Frank's supporters mobilised to stop the plane taking off. Victory turned to despair as the Home Office then illegally deported Frank with no notice. He lay low (in Uganda) and was saved by a judicial ruling that the Home Office had acted illegally as Frank was in danger in his home country.

(Based on real life. Case continues)

Second Course

Santi's Participant Facilitated Exercise was a reflection on our consumer lifestyle

In small groups we were asked to think about our criteria for using our buying power and examples of **how buying power has been used to effect change**

The four groups were given one of these four examples to consider;

- Cadbury adopting **Fair Trade** mark for its chocolate this year
- The **Boycott** of Nestles Products over Baby Milk issue
- **A Non-Violent Video Game** "A More Powerful Force"

A simulation game in which the player role plays activists in one of 10 scenarios

York Zimmerman Inc www.afmpgame.com

- **Carrotmob**: Using positive consumer power to reward businesses.

Lunch Break;: *What more food?*

The Beef or (Wholesome Wholemeal Bread. V)

Bob offered us an outline of **a tool for activists** for which there is a clear 4 page handout: so briefest of sketches here.

Bill Moyer's: Eight Stages of Successful Social Movements

This is a linear model giving *a framework to help activists reflect and evaluate* on what activities are most appropriate at a particular stage of a movement for

social change. We discussed the history of the Environment Movement from **normal times**, when problem is not on anyone's agenda(Silent Spring?) through the **beginnings of** environmental activism that challenged the powerholders, to **changing** public perceptions, some change of behaviour, the Green movement, etc to Kyoto Protocol and and **perceptions of failure** and **keeping going**.. Climate Camp etc and the current eco awareness in schools Stage 7 Achieving Alternatives is a **long process** not an event leading eventually to a **paradigm shift** and a redefining of new goals.

On the website the hungry can read 40 pages of the Moyer Model; dieters are recommended to look at the 2 case studies that are included in this.

Stretch

Physical stretching to match the mental stretching.

Affinity Circles

We wrote on A4 paper

1. Something that inspires you
2. Something I'm working on
3. Something I need help with

Then we milled around the room with paper pinned to our tops. Individuals stopped and shared their thoughts & those who felt a connection with the thought linked arms.

4 Roles of Activists (another bite from Bill Moyer)

A 2 page handout detailed the four roles that activists can play:

- **Citizen**
- **Rebel**
- **Reformer**
- **Social Change Agent**

We then stood in a position in room, corresponding to where we felt we belonged today. In the discussion of our choices we recognised the way we may play all four roles at different times.

Dessert

We enjoyed a 4 min film, shot in a shopping centre in Australia. A guy held up a sign

FREE HUGS. Some shoppers availed themselves of the opportunity..but the shopkeepers **BANNED** the guy; a **PETITION** began to bring him back. **Total Signatures: 10,000!!**

After Dinner Mint or Evaluation

On post-its

1. **Head** Eureka mental moments
2. **Heart:** Felt connected
3. **Bag** Will take away from day
4. **Bin** Probably for the bin

Diana Stephenson 15-03-09 Thanks for the Feast!