



for **LOCAL GROUPS** and **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Notes to Facilitators

- This workshop is intended to be a **20-30 minute activity** for groups that already have some familiarity or affinity, to organise into Affinity Groups before a specific action/Rebellion.
- It can be **led by anyone**, and should be fluid and flexible for the relevance and needs of your group. Have fun with it! **Make it your own!**
- Ideally this workshop is led with a minimum of **10-15 people**, to form plausible groups. If fewer, feel free to use the material in whatever way works best for your group.
- Brief introduction of how Spectrum Line activities work:
 - Spectrum Line activities can be used as a tool to divide up larger numbers into groups with some affinity on that particular subject or help a single AG understand each other better.
 - Facilitator will explain the spectrum, then ask question.
 - Participants will place themselves on a spectrum (eg. from violent to non violent).
 - If online, this can happen by holding up fingers to the screen or writing in the chat.
 - If in person, this can happen physically in the space.
 - A brief discussion will follow.

WELCOME!

AFFINITY GROUP SPIEL (5 mins)

An Affinity Group is:

A group of people who support each other to take action.

- AGs are often the **organising structure for mass actions**.
- They are made up of **8-20 rebels** who all have some form of **affinity** (whether that be a willingness to get arrested, or a belief about what constitutes nonviolence, etc), and are there to **support** each other.
- Some AGs have stayed the same since the birth of XR. Others have swapped/changed/merged/lost members. Some are just created for a particular action.
- The important part is that **AGs stay the same for the duration of the 'Action Cycle'**, i.e. from beginning to end of any action.
- It is important to **be flexible** in your AG.
 - Some members may drop out of a planned action at the last minute, or change roles within the AG.
 - The most important thing is to stay connected, communicate any changes and support each other whatever happens e.g. looking for symptoms of burnout in each other.
 - **The Affinity Group Support Network (AGSN)** is a regional support group to help any AG at any time. - Use them! (xraffinitysupport@protonmail.com)
- AGs should hold collective awareness of people's different levels of comfort.
- AGs are **autonomous, non-hierarchical structure with equal voices** (everyone is crew, everyone is important), to make last-minute decisions during actions.
- There are different **ROLES** in an Affinity Group. Some examples:
 - **AG Coordinator** - Connected up to the AG comms system, facilitates regular check-ins.
 - **Wellbeing** - someone who is willing to avoid risk for a particular action, and pay attention to the needs of the group. Does anyone need a break? Food? Water? Diaper?
 - **Arrest Support** - going to the police station if someone in your group is arrested, to wait for their release with a warm hug and tea. All participants should know how to Witness an Arrest (how-to videos available online).
 - **Media** - someone who knows how to work a camera or livestream and, when applicable, write up the messaging for a press release.
- Socialising outside of actions is super important. - Keep up the affinity!

SPECTRUM LINES (5-10 mins)

Try one or more of the following Spectrum Lines, or make up some others that feel applicable to your group.

An example:

Explain the following spectrum:

1 - extremely violent

10 - completely non-violent

Ask Question:

How violent is breaking a window with a brick, then running away?

- **let people organise themselves, then follow with -**

How violent is breaking a window with an emergency escape hammer, then waiting to be arrested?

Open brief discussion:

Ask a few people to share why they placed themselves where they did on spectrum.

Other spectrum line ideas you could use:

How much disruption would you be willing to cause to the general public?

(Spectrum: **1** - we would fly drones at Gatwick at Christmas / **5** - mass roadblocks / **10** - public disruption is counter-productive)

How much time do you have for XR?

(Spectrum: **1** - XR could become a big part of daily life / **5** - up for dedicating about a day a week / **10** will have only a couple of hours per week to dedicate to XR)

At the moment, how willing do you feel to put yourself in a situation that involves risk? (eg. of arrest)

(Spectrum: **1** - willing to face significant risk and potentially more serious charges / **5** - possibly, depending on type of action and potential charges / **10** - not able to put self at risk at all)

ORGANISE INTO GROUPS (for dividing larger groups into AGs - 3 mins)

Group people according to their overlapping answers to the spectrum line(s).

It doesn't have to be perfect: **separate people into groups according to how often they were on one side of the spectrum or the other.** Aim to have between 8-20 rebels in each new Affinity Group.

An example: if you tended towards answering between 1 and 4 on spectrum lines, you are in one group. If you answered between 7 and 10 on spectrum lines, you are in another group.

REGEN QUESTIONS (10 mins)

Encourage each person to share in their group a response to each of these questions:

1. What are you most excited about being in an AG / participating in this action?
2. What are you most nervous about being in an AG / participating in this action?

If you think other questions are more appropriate, feel free to lead with your own.

This round is intended to encourage Rebels to connect around our emotional experiences, so we can support each other more deeply.

REGISTER ALL NEW AFFINITY GROUPS HERE:

We ask AGs to register for each rebellion anew so we can keep data up-to-date and as secure as possible. Please register here for the Autumn 2022 Festival of Resistance and get connected with action planners: <https://tinyurl.com/WoR-Oct-22-AG-reg>

Contact the **Affinity Group Support Network** with any questions here:

xraffinitysupport@protonmail.com