

## **Citizens Assemble! Trafalgar Square, 5 September 2020, 1pm**

### **Speakers bios**

#### **Alex Barker, Trust the People**

Alex is from [Trust the People](#), a grassroots community organising programme that supports people to become neighbourhood leaders and advocates of alternative forms of organising. She also leads [Be More Pirate](#), a global network for people who want to break and rewrite rules. At Citizens Assemble! Alex will talk about how Trust the People works, why engaged citizenship at a community level is the foundation of a real future democracy, and how Trust the People are building a coalition of aligned movements, including the 2021 nationwide [Flatpack Democracy](#) campaign.

#### **Frances Foley, Compass**

Frances works for Compass, an organisation which helps build alliances for a more democratic, imaginative and participatory politics. She has a background in democratic education and deliberative engagement and has experience facilitating citizens' assemblies on climate. Last year Frances led a project designing and campaigning for a Citizens' Convention on UK Democracy, part of her mission to democratise deliberation and dispel its dry image! Frances will talk about what kinds of deliberative processes exist and why they work.

#### **Dr Charlie Gardner, Conservation Scientist, University of Kent**

Charlie is a Conservation Scientist at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent. He spent a decade working with local communities to manage protected areas in Madagascar and has published over 80 papers on biodiversity and our efforts to conserve it. He is a member of Scientists for Extinction Rebellion and his local XR group in King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

#### **Cameron Joshi, Global Justice Rebellion**

Cameron is a climate justice activist who has organised in Global Justice Rebellion for over a year. He is also a member of the radical youth collective Our Future Now, and works at the radical NGO Global Justice Now - which campaigns against corporate power in the global economy. His focus in his time as an environmental activist has been on trying to popularise an understanding of how modern day colonialism and capitalism have created the climate crisis. At Citizens Assemble! Cameron will address the root causes of the climate and ecological emergency and intersections with other crises, here and around the world.

#### **Marijn Van de Geer, XR Citizens' Assembly Working Group**

Liba Navindran, XR London Communities, Steering Group and Anti-Oppression Circle

Liba is a 28-year-old poet of Sri Lankan Tamil heritage, born in Norway and living in North London. He also writes essays and short stories. The content is ironically quixotic and surreally perceptive covering dreams, love, reality and nature. Liba was external co-ordinator for his local XR group in North London before stepping into the London Communities role. He recently started the Anti-Oppression Circle, which is intersectional in its approach and brings many marginalised voices together.

Anna Pick, participant in Camden Climate Assembly

Anna Pick was a member of Camden Council's citizens' assembly on the climate and ecological emergency in 2019. She has since become an advocate for citizens' assemblies, through work with XR and other climate action groups. She works for Positive Money, an organisation dedicated to reforming the money and banking system to create a fair, sustainable and democratic economy.