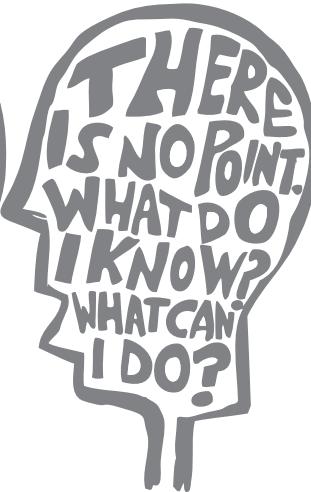
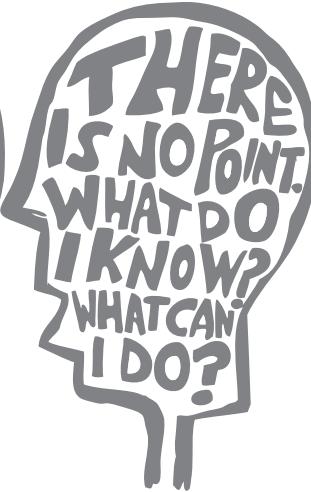
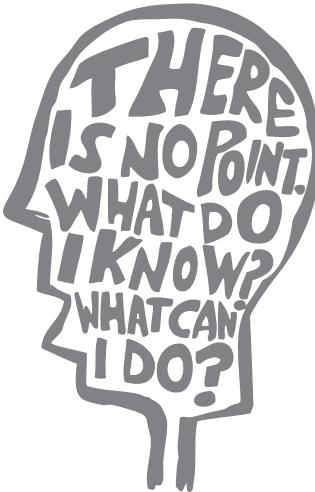


A Toolkit  
for  
**OCCUPY**  
**EVERYWHERE**

ON  
DECEMBER  
15TH  
2011

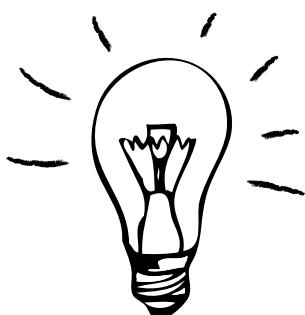


# GET INVOLVED

OCCUPY EVERYWHERE IS AN INVITATION TO COMMUNITIES UP AND DOWN THE UK AND IRELAND

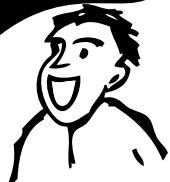
TO TAKE THE MESSAGE OF OCCUPY – that it is time for change, that we need dialogue and that we can create a better world – **AND MAKE IT THEIR OWN.**

**Whether** you plan to visit one of over 40 Occupy camps in the UK and Ireland or are thinking of starting your own, or wanting to add to the movement with like-minded people by creating an event in a community hall or an action outside a symbol of social economic injustice, this guide will give you some useful ideas.



"FOR ME, OCCUPY IS ABOUT THINKING DIFFERENTLY. IT IS ABOUT IMAGINING CHANGE, TALKING ABOUT WHAT A MORE JUST SOCIETY WOULD LOOK AND FEEL LIKE, AND THEN DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT,"..... "WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT DAVID CAMERON'S PHONY BIG SOCIETY, BUT SOMETHING REAL THAT WE CAN ALL BE INVOLVED WITH AND HAVE A STAKE IN. THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT WHAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS COULD DO. IT COULD BE AS SIMPLE AS GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOUR LOCAL OCCUPY OCCUPATION, SETTING UP A FACEBOOK EVENT FOR YOUR OWN OCCUPY GET TOGETHER, OR HOLDING AN EVENT AT YOUR LOCAL HALL, SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, UNION OR CHURCH. DO SOMETHING BOLD AND MAKE A STATEMENT, WORK THROUGH EXISTING CHANNELS IF YOU LIKE - IT'S THE FACT OF DOING SOMETHING THAT'S IMPORTANT."

**COMMENT FROM SUPPORTER FRANK HOBSON.**



**Over** the past two months, the Occupy movement has drawn national attention to the role organisations across the banking and financial industries, including their regulators, have played in causing the financial crisis and further deepening existing social and economic inequalities. Occupy recognises that it is part of a global movement that has drawn inspiration from struggles for social and economic justice and real democracy across the US, Southern Europe and the Middle East.

**We** will no longer tolerate the oppression by the 1% who do not want to see a creative movement, based on inclusiveness and tolerance, triumph over a system deeply rooted in social inequality. We will shut down the 1%, and we will occupy everywhere with our bodies, voices and ideas.



**Across** the world, people are standing up, stating that the crises of unregulated finance, broken democracy, and corrupt institutions will not be solved by those who caused them. Occupy London invites those who feel similarly to take the movement into their own communities: Christmas is coming early this year and your presents could be your presence.

**IT'S TIME TO  
OCCUPY  
EVERWHERE.**

# HOW DO I HOLD A PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY?

**The People's Assembly** is the most common way that the Occupy movement holds meetings. It has been used by Climate Camp, the 15M movement in Spain as well as being used extensively in South America for over twenty years but its roots go back to the consensus making practice of the Quakers in the 1700s. It also has strong parallels with the birth of democracy in ancient Greece.

**The** following is a basic description of how the process works. It may feel strange using the hand signals and can be unwieldy to begin with, but it is the most efficient way to hold meetings where everyone's voice is heard and valued equally and decisions can be made that have the full consensus of all at the assembly; that is, the meetings drive towards reaching 100% agreement and not simply a 'majority'. In emergency

meetings where a decision needs to be made quickly, a significant majority usually suffices (a four hour meeting trying to reach consensus over the fact that strong winds are destroying the tent you are meeting in would be a little pointless).

**There** are no standard rules to this process and many camps are still developing what system suits them best. These are basic guidelines and not a model set in stone, for you to experiment with and develop for yourselves. Whether you are in an assembly of 1,000 people in a town square or a group of five in a garage, the principles remain the same.



# YOU NEED:

- 1 A SPACE** to hold the assembly (could be a street corner, a park, a living room, a community hall or places that may be symbols of social and economic injustice)
- 2 PEOPLE TO COME** (get creative with flyers, events pages on social networking sites, posters, posting online film clips, local radio shout outs, group texts, press releases and public stunts to get the attention of the community)
- 3 A FACILITATOR** (the person who guides the assembly so that people stick to the process and everyone can be heard; for larger groups, you may want to add a co-facilitator, a mike guard, a stack taker and a time keeper)
- 4 AN AGENDA** (what you are going to be discussing at the assembly, usually discussed at a meeting before hand, often called a Process Group meeting)
- 5 A WAY OF BEING HEARD** (you could use a mobile sound system, megaphones, a space where people can be heard just by standing and speaking or you may want to use the PEOPLES' MIKE, where the speaker uses short sentences which are then repeated by everyone else so that everybody gets their words)
- 6 MUTUAL RESPECT FOR ALL AND THE WILL TO LEARN FROM OTHERS**

"IT IS THE MARK OF AN EDUCATED MIND TO BE ABLE TO ENTERTAIN A THOUGHT WITHOUT ACCEPTING IT"

ARISTOTLE

# **HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS USING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY:**

**On** 15th October just outside the London Stock Exchange, around two thousand people took part in the first assemblies for the London camp, mostly using the Peoples' Mike. Their first agenda points were about how to react to the police presence (the whole area had been 'contained') and how to set the camp up. But soon, the agenda turned to 'why are we here? What are our aims?' these meetings resulted in a nine point statement being given full consensus by around 1,000 people and sent out as a press release within 48 hours of the site being occupied.

**There** was a rotation of facilitators. At the beginning of each assembly, **THE FACILITATOR OR A CO-FACILITATOR WOULD RUN THROUGH HOW CONSENSUS-MAKING WORKS, TEACHING THE HAND SIGNALS TO USE.**

**THE FACILITATOR WOULD STATE THE ISSUE ON THE AGENDA,** this could be a general discussion on banking or a proposal from a working group to make a change to the camp or bring a statement up for consensus. In this case, it was deciding a set of statements reflecting why the camp had started.



**CLARIFY POINT**



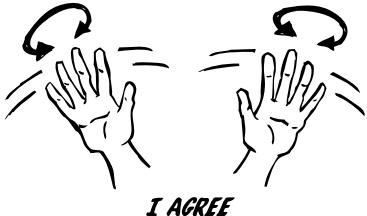
**POINT TO MAKE**

If people were not sure what was meant they would hold their hand up, shaping the letter 'c' with their thumb and first finger. This symbol is always used if you want someone speaking to **CLARIFY SOMETHING.**

Once everyone was clear, then the facilitator would look out for people with their finger raised, showing that they had a **POINT TO MAKE**. These people would go up to the speaking area and make their point. If there were lots of people, then they would queue up to make their points.

You may need someone to be **THE STACK TAKER**, who is the person who stands beside the facilitator and gives an order to who is coming up to make a point.

## 2 MINUTES TO MAKE A POINT

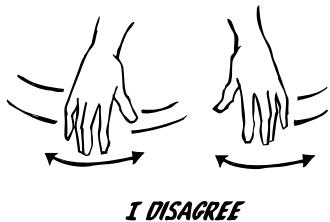


**A TIME KEEPER** can check that people don't talk for too long (two minutes for someone making a point is the common limit).

If someone is making a point that you agree with, you wave your hands in the air. As well as being the way of communicating clapping amongst deaf people, it is also a very quick way to tell how much people are in

### **AGREEMENT ABOUT SOMETHING.**

Everyone in the space waving their hands like this means you have full consensus on an idea.



If someone is **MAKING A POINT THAT YOU DISAGREE WITH**, you can either shake your hands downwards or you can hold your hands up, crossing at the wrist. People with disagreements come up and have their reasons heard and often, that can become accepted by the assembly if they all show agreement by shaking their hands upwards. This is how changes or amendments can be made.

### **IF SOMEONE HAS A PERSISTENT DISAGREEMENT**

that cannot be incorporated into what is being proposed, it is a useful practice to arrange for this person or group of people to arrange to meet with the working group making the proposal and see if they can not work through their differences together and bring the amended proposal back to the assembly another day. This process has worked remarkably well with a number of statements that have been brought to the assemblies, which have been improved greatly by working closely with persistent disagreements or 'blocks'/'objections'.

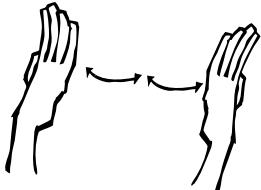
If you disagree with an idea but don't want to stop the process going forward, you can choose to '**STAND ASIDE**'.



**TECHNICAL POINT**



**A POINT HAS ALREADY  
BEEN MADE**



**KEEP IT SHORT**

If you want to make a point that is immediately important to what is happening to the space itself (like a fire has broken out, the police are surrounding the building or last orders are being called) then you make a 'T' shape with your hands. This is a '**TECHNICAL POINT**'.

If someone is making **A POINT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE**, people can roll their hands to signify this.

If people push their hands together, palms pointing inwards, this shows that people speaking need to **KEEP IT SHORT**.

## **BREAK OUT GROUPS**

### **WHEN CONSIDERING SOMETHING COMPLEX**

such as 'why are we camped here?' it is useful to

have the **ASSEMBLY BREAK OUT INTO**

**SMALLER GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE**

**AMONGST THEMSELVES.** Each break out group is a 'mini-assembly', where a nominated facilitator uses the same consensus and facilitation methods. There

is also a **NOTE-TAKER** who usually feeds back to the main assembly once it is brought back together. Break out groups are useful for assemblies considering their views on many issues or one complex issue. For example, discussing their views on economics as a whole, discussing how to create an event to bring Occupy outreach to the suburbs or how best to react to an offer from the local council. Break out groups usually last for 20 minutes.

**GIVE BREAK  
OUT GROUPS  
APROX. 20  
MINUTES**

**In London** on October 15th – after several break out groups where people had been discussing what they thought the movement should be focusing on and then feeding that back to the assembly – the spokespeople from each group joined together and had their own mini assembly where they worked out what the main points were that had emerged from everyone's opinions in their groups and in the assemblies. These were discussed for three

hours on the pavement outside a bank, until the group had arrived at nine key points. These nine points were then fed back to the main assembly and people were again able to give their opinions about how it should be drafted. Eventually, the statement found 100% 'forest of hands waving' consensus and the following statement was released, reflecting the ideas of the thousands of people who had taken part:

## **THIS IS THE OCCUPY LONDON**

# **INITIAL STATEMENT**

**1** **The** current system is unsustainable. It is undemocratic and unjust. We need alternatives; this is where we work towards them.

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**2** **We** are of all ethnicities, backgrounds, genders, generations, sexualities dis/abilities and faiths. We stand together with occupations all over the world.

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**3** **We** refuse to pay for the banks' crisis.

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**4** **We** do not accept the cuts as either necessary or inevitable. We demand an end to global tax injustice and our democracy representing corporations instead of the people.

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**5** **We** want regulators to be genuinely independent of the industries they regulate.

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**6** **We** support the strike on the 30th November and the student action on the 9th November, and actions to defend our health services, welfare, education and employment, and to stop wars and arms dealing.

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**7** **We** want structural change towards authentic global equality. The world's resources must go towards caring for people and the planet, not the military, corporate profits or the rich.

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8

**The** present economic system pollutes land, sea and air, is causing massive loss of natural species and environments, and is accelerating humanity towards irreversible climate change. We call for a positive, sustainable economic system that benefits present and future generations". [1]

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9

**We** stand in solidarity with the global oppressed and we call for an end to the actions of our government and others in causing this oppression.

---

10

## **THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE. COME & JOIN US!**

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[1] **This** point was added to the statement following a proposal being passed by the Occupy London General Assembly on 19 November 2011.

---

**Finding** consensus is not easy but once it is found, it creates a strong bond amongst all who participated as in a very real way, it is their statement, they helped make it and collectively, it speaks for them.

**There** are plenty of other details of this process for finding

consensus through participatory democracy but you now have the basics to run assemblies. From discussing whether to make a camp's kitchen vegan food only to planning non-violent direct action, this technique should prove to be very useful.

**REMEMBER:**  
**CONSENSUS MEANS YOU  
GET YOUR SAY—IT DOESN'T  
MEAN YOU GET YOUR WAY!**

**"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."**

**MARGARET MEAD.**

# SOLIDARITY & ESCALATION IN THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT

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THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT IS BASED AROUND THE IDEA OF GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS COMING TOGETHER TO CHALLENGE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE IDEA THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE – THROUGH PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY – CAN CREATE A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER, OUTSIDE OF THE BROKEN AND UNJUST SYSTEM THAT THEY CURRENTLY LIVE UNDER.

**Instead** of being a single issue campaign – addressing cuts in education, labour rights or climate change for example – the Occupy movement has identified the current global economic system as being the disease behind these many different symptoms that the 99% suffers.

**The** common idea about where the movement goes from here is to bring about solidarity nationally and globally and to ensure that the movement escalates rather than stagnates.

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## SOLIDARITY:

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**Currently**, there are over 40 Occupy bases in the UK and Ireland (see map: <http://www.occupyuk.info/>)

**Solidarity** between all the Occupy bases is a central strategy. Part of the Occupy Everywhere event on December 15th is to strengthen that.

**BELOW IS A RECENT SNAPSHOT OF OCCUPY DEVELOPMENTS  
FROM AROUND THE UK AND IRELAND:**

### NEW OUTDOOR OCCUPATIONS, EVICTIONS AND RELOCATIONS

**11th December - Occupy Bath** dismantle camp Queen Square camp, plan on regrouping at the Friends' Meeting House on 15th December.

<http://www.thisisbath.co.uk/Occupy-Bath-protesters-leave-Queen-Square/story-14093223-detail/story.html>

**1st December - Occupy Swansea** campaigners set up camp in Swansea's Castle Square.

<http://www.thisissouthwales.co.uk/Occupy-campaigners-set-camp-Swansea-s-Castle/story-14006543-detail/story.html>

**30th November - Occupy Tunbridge Wells** begins outside St John's Church.

**27th November - Occupy Bournemouth** sets up new protest camp in Boscombe.

**26th November - Occupy Liverpool** begins on St George's Plateau in the city centre.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-15934218>

**23rd November - Occupy Warwick** begins on-campus occupation.

**23rd November - Occupy Totnes (and Dartington)** begins at Heath's garden.

**22nd November - Occupy Manchester** evicted from Spinningfields after bailiffs serve eviction papers.

[http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/1465853\\_video-occupy-manchester-protesters-leave-spinningfields-after-bailiffs-serve-eviction-papers](http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/1465853_video-occupy-manchester-protesters-leave-spinningfields-after-bailiffs-serve-eviction-papers)

**20th November - Occupy Cardiff** finds new protest site outside Welsh headquarters of union Unite.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-15810623>

**17th November - Occupy Glasgow** establishes new camp in Blythswood square.

[http://www.scotsman.com/news/occupy\\_glasgow\\_establishes\\_new\\_camp\\_1\\_1971062](http://www.scotsman.com/news/occupy_glasgow_establishes_new_camp_1_1971062)

**14th November - Occupy Exeter** begins on Exeter Cathedral Green.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-15659835>

**13th November - Occupy Leicester** begins on Leicester's High Street under Clock Tower.

**11th November - Occupy Bournemouth** evicted from town hall.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-15689271>

**11th November - Occupy Cardiff** begins in Cardiff city centre.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2011/11/08/occupy-movement-to-set-up-protest-camp-in-cardiff-s-city-centre-91466-29741213/>

**11th November - Occupy Leeds** begins in Leeds City Square.

**5th November - Occupy Sheffield** begins in front of Sheffield cathedral.

**4th November - Occupy Bradford** evicted from Centenary Square following court order.

**2nd November - Occupy Birmingham** vacates Victoria Square after being served with a notice to vacate by the City Council, relocates to a site behind Birmingham's Repertory Theatre.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-15565237>

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2011/11/487922.html>

## BUILDINGS SQUATTED AND INDOOR SPACES OCCUPIED

**11th December - Occupy Plymouth** reclaim a building (location still undisclosed).

**10th December - Occupy Bournemouth/Boscombe** squat in empty restaurant.

[http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/9412560.Occupy\\_Boscombe\\_sqats\\_in\\_empty\\_restaurant/](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/9412560.Occupy_Boscombe_sqats_in_empty_restaurant/)

**30th November - University of Essex** students occupy lecture theatre in support of striking workers.

<http://www.socialistworker.co.uk/art.php?id=26932>

**30th November - RHUL management** corridor occupied.

<http://occupyrhul.blogspot.com/>

**30th November - Occupy Edinburgh** reclaim 3 Bistro Place in central Edinburgh, rename it The Peoples Cafe.

<http://peoplescafe.noflag.org.uk/>

**29th November - Occupy Bristol** occupy University of West of England in support of striking workers.

<http://www.occupybristoluk.org/uwe-occupation-is-now-in-progress/>

**26th November - Occupy Cardiff** reclaim old Inland Revenue offices on Westgate street, rename the building "Tax Invasion".

<http://occupycardiffthegreattaxinvasion.blogspot.com/2011/11/press-release-26th-november.html?spref=fb>

**25th November - Occupy Bristol** occupy 4 main banks as part of National Move your Money day.

<https://www.bristol.indymedia.org.uk/article/706807>

**24th November** - Students, workers and locals in the Bloomsbury area occupy the property located at 53 Gordon square, rename it the **Bloomsbury Social Centre**.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/212053.html>

<http://bloomsburysocialcentre.wordpress.com/about/>

**18th November - Occupy London** reclaim a multi-storey building situated on Sun Street, Hackney, rename it Bank of Ideas:

<http://www.bankofideas.org.uk/>

## NATIONAL OCCUPY MEETINGS

**17-19th December - Second UK-Ireland Occupy assembly** hosted in Edinburgh.

**11th December - Second All Ireland Occupy assembly** hosted in Cork.

**26th November - First All Ireland Occupy assembly** hosted in Dublin.

**19-20th November - First UK-Ireland Occupy** assembly hosted in London.

## NATIONAL OCCUPY COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Mailing list: Sheffield server.

To join, e-mail [occupysheffield-request@email-lists.org](mailto:occupysheffield-request@email-lists.org)

Contacts list: Norwich/Glasgow-maintained website

<http://www.occupyuk.info/>

## SOLIDARITY WITH ARTISTS, LOCAL ACTIVIST GROUPS, UNIVERSITIES AND UNIONS

**8th December - Occupy Birmingham** releases statement in support of protesting Birmingham University students. Also in support, Amnesty International and UK human rights groups.

<http://www.occupybirmingham.co.uk/occupy-birmingham-uni-press-release>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/dec/11/birmingham-university-protest-ban-condemned>

**7th December - Occupy Norwich** hold march to commemorate one of the first protests against poverty, injustice and the privatisation of common land.

<http://www.norwichpeace.org/?p=2015>

<http://occupynorwich.org/main/?p=422>



**3rd December - Occupy Dublin and Occupy Cork** join alliance of artists for Parade in Defiance, a pre-budget anti-austerity march:

<http://www.broadsheet.ie/2011/12/03/a-day-of-protests-dublin-and-cork/>

**1st December - Tunbridge Wells Uncut:** 'We're so proud of our colleagues @occupytw. We're just happy to be playing a small part. If it can happen in Tunbridge Wells it can happen anywhere, right? Astonishing amount of respect due.'

**26th November - Goldsmiths** declares solidarity with N30 UK-wide strike and the global occupy movement.

<http://occupygoldsmiths.wordpress.com/2011/11/26/our-statement-again/>

**24th November - Occupy Birmingham** thank Unison for their offer of support.

<http://www.occupybirmingham.co.uk/birmingham-unison>

**22nd November - Students occupy University of West Anglia** main building.

<http://bristol.indymedia.org/article/700954>

**15th November - Unions helping out Occupy Leicester** with printing leaflets.

**22nd October - Protesters from Occupy Dundee and UKUncut** set up camp outside Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) in Dundee city centre.

<http://www.rstewart.org/2011/10/22/photos-occupy-dundee-protest-outside-rbs/>

## STATEMENTS

**Occupy Bristol:** <http://www.occupybristoluk.org/about/statement-of-purpose/>

**Occupy Leicester** adopts Occupy London's 10-point statement

[http://occupyleicester.org/?page\\_id=28](http://occupyleicester.org/?page_id=28)

## **Occupy Norwich:**

[http://occupynorwich.org/main/?page\\_id=127#Statements\\_Agreed\\_by\\_Consensus](http://occupynorwich.org/main/?page_id=127#Statements_Agreed_by_Consensus)

## **Occupy London:**

Economics working group initial statement

<http://occupyLSX.org/?p=2204>

## **Occupy Dublin:**

<http://www.occupydamestreet.org/our-statement>

Corporations working group initial statement

<http://occupyLSX.org/?p=1526>

## **Occupy Glasgow adopts Occupy London's initial statement:**

<http://occupyglasgow.org/about/statement-of-intent.html>

## **Occupy Sheffield adopts Occupy London's initial statement:**

<https://occupysheffield.org/2011/11/07/initial-statement/>

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL COUNCILS**

**13th December - Occupy Totnes** to meet with Totnes Town Council.

<http://occupytotnes.wordpress.com/2011/12/11/general-assembly-101211/>

**7th December - Sheffield City Council** votes to support Occupy Sheffield.

<https://occupysheffield.org/2011/12/08/statement-8-dec/>

**2nd December - Edinburgh City Council** does not condone latest Edinburgh occupation

<http://local.stv.tv/edinburgh/news/28493-city-council-does-not-condone-latest-occupy-edinburgh-action/>

**26th November - Edinburgh City Council** "endorses" Occupy Edinburgh and Occupy movement as a whole.

<http://takethesquare.net/2011/11/26/edinburgh-city-council-voted-in-favour-of-the-motion-to-support-occupy-edinburgh-and-the-occupy-movement-as-a-whole/>

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH CHURCHES + RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

**9th December - Occupy protest: Sheffield cathedral** fearful of bank reaction.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-16110648>

**8th December - Archbishop of York** echoes Occupy concerns in Fighting for Fairness: “We live in a throwaway society (...) it seems we have created a culture in which people too have become disposable. That can't be right.”

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/pages/8-december-2011.html>

**24th November - Archbishop of Wales** Dr Barry Morgan visits Occupy Cardiff camp

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2011/11/24/archbishop-of-wales-dr-barry-morgan-visits-occupy-cardiff-camp-91466-29831775/>

**18th November - Archbishop of Wales** ‘would not close doors to protest’. Says he would allow Occupy activists to shelter overnight in Llandaff Cathedral if they set up camp outside.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-15778206>

**17th November - Quakers express support** for the Occupy movement.

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/news/news-release-quakers-express-support-occupy-london>

**13th November - Sermon preached by the acting Dean of Exeter Cathedral** discusses Occupy Exeter: “Perhaps this is where we need to find the ethical and moral voice that all in positions of power, and especially the financial sector should listen to.”

<http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/content/news/sermon-preached-by-the-acting-dean.ashx>

**6th November - Buddhist and Yoga teachers** and leaders in support of the Occupy movement.

<http://occupysamsara.org/>

**30th October - Occupy London** is in sync with Jewish values and tradition.

<http://www.jewdas.org/2011/10/a-statement-of-support-for-occupy/>

**17th October** - Islamic think-tank offers support for Occupy London campaign

<http://irna.ir/ENNewsShow.aspx?NID=30616968>

## N30 SUPPORT

**Occupy Bristol:** Estimated 20,000 in Bristol for rally

<http://www.occupybristoluk.org/estimated-20000-in-bristol-for-rally/>

**Occupy Glasgow:** #n30 was excellent today, was incredible to see 6000+ people snaking through the city for social justice. shame it'll be back to normal tmrw!

<http://www.occupyglasgow.com/1/post/2011/12/occupy-glasgow-supports-the-workers-strike.html>

**Occupy Leicester:** Largest rally the city has seen in 30 years.

**Occupy Norwich:** <http://occupynorwich.org/main/?p=416>

**Occupy Nottingham:** It was great to have the march go past the camp, and for the camp to be able to cheer and join in as it passed... Power to the People!

**Occupy Oxford:** An amazing day with a turnout of 4000 - over double what organisers expected.

## SNAPSHOT OF EVERYDAY LIFE

**10th December** - Spontaneous hugging broke out - culminating in a massive group hug! woo (@OccupyExeter)

**10th December** - Everybody fine after EDL attack on @OccupyPlymouth. Cops still nowhere to be seen.

**7th December** - Occupy Tunbridge Wells camp temporarily moved off-site out of respect for mourners (funeral taking place).

**6th December** - Occupy Nottingham. We collected a large frame tent from Derby and rigged it up. We now also have two small wood burning stoves for warmth in the evening. All in the camp are preparing for winter stay.

**5th December** - UK Uncut Tunbridge Wells visits Occupy Tunbridge Wells

<http://twuncut.wordpress.com/2011/12/05/our-visit-to-occupy-tunbridge-wells/>

**2nd December** - In-tents relationship: Protesters to tie knot

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/in-tents-relationship-protesters-to-tie-knot-175668.html>

**26th November** - Police officer tries filming spontaneous demo in Westgate street. Sergeant says "leave 'em". #OccupyCardiff

**25th November** - A massive thank you for the lovely pizzas for tea from Nottingham Law Centre! :-) (@OccupyNotts)

**24th November** - Kurdish and Egyptian activists conversing in Arabic over tea. #Cardiff multiculturalism #OccupyCardiff

**14th November** - We are proud to unveil our geodesic dome, built from scratch by occupiers in Norwich last night! [twitpic.com/7e4fhr](http://twitpic.com/7e4fhr) (@OccupyNorwich)

**13th November** - We're still staying on alert tonight to be safe regarding the EDL threat. Any available support/solidarity will be appreciated. (@OccupyNotts)

**11th November** - This is the first time "We are the 99%" has ever been chanted in Welsh (@OccupyCardiff).

## VISITOR COMMENTS

**2nd December** - Kristopher Craig.: Lying in bed, drained. Thinking of the folks still keeping #Occupy alive, despite the awful weather. Especially @weoccupyglasgow.

**2nd December** - Ian Beavis: Participants see @occupytw camp as being in Tunbridge Well's radical tradition epitomised by Victorian activist Henry Albert Seymour

**13th November** - ZDF Politbarometer: 79% Germans questioned support the occupy movement, 12% don't care, 6% disagree. GREAT! (@occupynorwich)

**25th October** - @OccupyNewcastle I pass your camp every day after my badly paid job and it cheers me up to see someone trying to make a change thanks guys

## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

In the hope of improving communication, co-operation and raising the political temperature worldwide, we have put together the following information on global platforms, call outs and ideas for People's Assemblies and Occupations worldwide.

1

ENG / Summary of the main English language global platforms including on-line meeting details:

<http://www.peoplesassemblies.org/panforum/>

2

ENG / ESP / FR / Important invitation to the new world assemblies email list, created to provide noiseless inter-assembly communication and a shared newswire to the world:

<http://www.peoplesassemblies.org/2011/11/eng-esp-fr-important-new-assembly-email-platform>

[Anyone can subscribe, but only Assemblies can post - please ask your assembly to participate in this !]

3

ENC/ The London International Commission initiative to develop a joint statement: This is an open invitation for assemblies to draft their own proposals and suggest platforms where to continue the discussion:

<http://www.peoplesassemblies.org/2011/11/invitation-to-develop-a-global-statement>

**4**

Many Languages / Call to a Week of Alternative Action  
December 10th-18th  
Dec10-17 <http://dec10.takethesquare.net/>  
Dec10-17 <http://www.occupytogether.org/2011/11/19/call-for-an-alternative-day-of-action-on-human-rights-day-saturday-december-10th-2011/>  
Dec 18 Global Action for Migrants and Refugees:  
<http://globalmigrantsaction.org/>  
[Endorsed by Occupy London General Assembly, Madrid International Assembly, Dublin Assembly, Assemblies in Italy, Brasil, USA and elsewhere]

**5**

Many Languages / Jan 14th the anniversary of the Tunisian Uprising,  
call for a world day of action for popular assemblies  
<http://www.peoplesassemblies.org/2011/10/14ja-world-popular-assembly-day/>  
Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note\\_id=130830977023895](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=130830977023895)

**6**

ENG/ Call Out for Europe-wide weekend of action  
March23rd-25th:  
<http://www.peoplesassemblies.org/2011/10/march-23rd-25th/>  
[for European Assemblies to consider endorsement]

**7**

May 12 2012 is under discussion as the next possible world day of action. Join the global platforms set out at 1 to participate in the discussion.

## A REPORT FROM THE LONDON OCCUPY INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH WORKING GROUP:

# INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH- A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

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**Occupy** has been global right from the start. Our actions emerged in response to a deep systemic crisis in the financial system worldwide, as a struggle that was sparked and inspired by the recent events of the 15M in Spain, and Occupy Wall Street in New York, to mention

but a few. We need to talk across the globe, as a united movement and as local movements within a greater set of events. The International Commission consists of people from several nationalities and with links to international movements,

who came together to connect London with other assemblies. They have been working to establish connections and build platforms for common discussions and actions on global, regional and local levels, in collaboration with people from other occupations and movements internationally. Locally, we have worked as a channel to communicate international solidarity actions; arranging talks, workshops and events at the steps of St Paul's and in Tent City University, and supporting marches for other groups who are fighting for a just, democratic and sustainable future.

**On** the day of the G20 summit in Cannes, a statement was presented

at the G20 counter-summit in Nice. This statement had been approved by the General Assembly in London the day before, and is a standing invitation to start a global dialogue about the alternative to our current system. It did not emerge from London; the idea was partly an answer to a call to establish connections, and partly a new initiative by an international group within the camp to start the discussion about a global alternative. It aims to include both Occupy-movements and the rest of the 99 per cent in the creation of a document about the kind of society we really want to live in – what the words mean, and how we can go about making them real.

## OCCUPY LSX STATEMENT TO CREATE GLOBAL DIALOGUE

**1**

**Our** global system is unsustainable. It is undemocratic and unjust, driven by profit in the interest of the few.

**2**

**An** economic system based on infinite growth, but which relies on finite resources, is leading humanity and the environment to destruction. As long as this system remains in place, people of the world continue to suffer from an increasingly unfair share of income and wealth.

**3**

**We** seek a global system that is democratic, just and sustainable. The world's resources must not go to the military or corporate profit, but instead go towards caring for people's needs: water, food, housing, education, health, community.

**4**

**An** international, global collaboration has started, and is working on a statement that will unite the occupy movements across the world in their struggle for an alternative that is focused on and originates from people and their environment.

## SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO THE UNIONS

**November 30th** saw the Occupy camps come out in mass support of the strike actions. Unions have been coming to camps to support and to show solidarity and outreach teams from the Occupy camps have been giving talks at union meetings regularly.

**In London**, the Occupy camps have seen a regular high profile of Occupy campaigners coming to support actions by the Electrician's Union outside Balfour Beatty premises. The Occupy camps are able to offer support with non-violent direct action as well as support by researching possible tax avoidance by the corporations in question.

## SOLIDARITY WITH EXISTING CAMPAIGNS

**There** is no point in reinventing the wheel. Many of the issues that Occupy addresses link closely to campaigns that already exist. For example, the

### Tax Justice Network

([http://www.taxjustice.net/cms/front\\_content.php?idcatart=2&lang=1](http://www.taxjustice.net/cms/front_content.php?idcatart=2&lang=1))

has outstanding research on the ways that big business can avoid paying tax. In order to become informed about these issues, it is worth studying the site and even inviting members of the group to come and talk at your event or your Occupy camp.

In the same way,

### Transparency International

(<http://www.transparency.org.uk/>)

have excellent research on corruption both globally and nationally. Both of these sites are also useful for identifying symbols of social economic justice in your own area as is this link from the

**UK Uncut site:** <http://www.ukuncut.org.uk/targets>.



# **ESCALATION**

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**The** Occupy movement continues to be in the mainstream news but more importantly, public support is growing nationwide. December 15th should not be seen as an isolated occasion where people are called out to Occupy Everywhere but the start of an initiative that people can carry on with every day.

**It** is a growing movement and by its nature, can not remain stagnant. This is the importance of escalation. There are several ways of moving forward, from Outreach to Direct Action, from networking nationally and globally to holding shared assemblies online.

**To** enter into a dialogue with a stranger about social and economic justice is a form of escalation. Occupy considers the current political system to be failing and the people's assemblies have become a daily form of political engagement. Before, political engagement was confined to just once every five years whereas now, people are coming together and forming their own political decisions and directions, outside of that represented by the failing institutions of governance.

**ON DECEMBER 15TH, YOU MAY DECIDE TO HOLD YOUR OWN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OR YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE PART IN SOME FORM OF CREATIVE NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION.**

**The following are just a few ideas that may inspire you:**

**OCCUPY A SPACE** - Start up your own occupy base. There are many ideas here in this guide to help you and this site is also an excellent resource: <http://www.howtooccupy.org/>

**HOLD YOUR OWN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY** - This can be done anywhere, from town squares to your mate's garage. You now have a basic guide showing you how to do this.

# HOLDING A TEACH IN OR TEACH OUT

- These are events where speakers on Occupy related events occupy a space for a debate or lecture. These can be held within a space (teach in) or they may be held in a public space that has been temporarily occupied (teach out). This is one of the hearts of Occupy, where people can learn more about the finance industry, politics, the struggle for human rights, climate change, new solutions to broken systems etc.



## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

# ORGANIZE AN EVENT AROUND AN HISTORICAL SITE

- You may choose to have a gathering at a site that has historical significance resonating with the core issues of Occupy. For example, on December 7th, Norwich Occupy laid a wreath at the gates of Norwich Castle to commemorate one of the first protests against poverty, injustice and the privatization of common land, the Ketts Rebellion of 1549. In January, London Occupy have decided to hold an Assembly in Putney at the Church Of St Mary in Putney (Giles Fraser's first church) in order to commemorate the Putney Debates of 1647 where ordinary people engaged in debate about a fairer and more equal society.

# MEDIA STUNT

- This is where people create an event that can grab the headlines and serves to help get their points out to the wider public. UK Uncut have been well known in the past two years for occupying places that they see as representing outstanding symbols of tax avoidance. They have transformed shops into libraries and banks into comedy clubs. They have a Christmas Special day of national action planned for December 17th. Their site is full of excellent resources:

<http://www.ukuncut.org.uk/>

# **CREATIVITY AND HUMOUR ARE STRONG WEAPONS FOR NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION.**

**organisations** like the Spacehijackers, the Clown Army and Bankers 4 Boris have all shown great ingenuity in ways to make their points. The Clown Army once took over a Scottish petrol station and turned it into a 'tropical island' thanking the bemused drivers for buying petrol and helping to add to the process of global warming which will ensure that global warming will change the area into a tropical climate.

**Some** media stunts don't need to make the news if they can go viral instead, as this recent action in Melbourne Australia shows, reacting to the fact that in Australia, the police are determined not to allow any camps to start up:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKMwigI3mdM>

## **USING THE MEDIA WISELY.**

for maximum effect is a complicated affair that needs thought and preparation, this is an excellent guide:

<http://www.safecom.org.au/monbiot-media.htm>

## **ART**

**ART** is a central tool for raising awareness about an issue as well. Making banners and costumes has always been a powerful way of drawing attention to your cause. But often, what makes a piece of art powerful is where to put it as much as what it looks like. Banner drops in public places are immediate candy for a photojournalist.

These are just a very few pointers for you and it's not hard to research the thousands of successful non violent direct actions that have been happening worldwide.

**"CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IS NOT OUR PROBLEM. OUR PROBLEM IS CIVIL OBEDIENCE. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE OBEYED THE DICTATES OF LEADERS...AND MILLIONS HAVE BEEN KILLED BECAUSE OF THIS OBEDIENCE...OUR PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE ARE OBEDIENT ALLOVER THE WORLD IN THE FACE OF POVERTY AND STARVATION AND STUPIDITY, AND WAR, AND CRUELTY. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE ARE OBEDIENT WHILE THE JAILS ARE FULL OF PETTY THIEVES... (AND) THE GRAND THIEVES ARE RUNNING THE COUNTRY. THAT'S OUR PROBLEM."**

**NOTHING CAN  
STOP AN IDEA  
WHOSE  
TIME HAS  
COME**

VICTOR HUGO



**GET INVOLVED**

OCCUPYLSX.ORG  
TWITTER.COM/OCCUPYLSX  
FACEBOOK.COM/OCCUPYLONDON  
OCCUPYUK.INFO/