

Guide for Transition group deciding who to send to the Assembly

It matters who is in the room when decisions get made. As we plan the Transition Assembly, we want to build a space for the people with different life experiences who make up our Movement and our society to be present, heard and help shape the future. It's not enough to hope for that - we all have a part to play to make it real.

As organisers, we are working hard to remove barriers that might make it harder for some people to join in, and to offer extra support with costs and other practical access needs.

As Transition groups, choosing who will attend, you can add to the richness and diversity of our whole Assembly. This is an invitation to share as much of the difference, richness and wisdom living in your group as possible.

It's a fact that people are affected differently by the climate, ecological and social crises unfolding around us. Our society is unequal - and the challenges we face impact us unevenly, influenced by our wealth, class background, age, gender, race, whether we experience disability, have caring responsibilities, where we live and more. It's why we work to build a Just Transition, which everyone helps to shape and where everyone thrives. And we have to start with our own Movement.

We're inviting this awareness as a guide to help you identify which two members might represent your Transition Group at the Transition Assembly in February.

It could be useful to consider the following questions as you explore who you could send:

- ❖ Are there two people who could bring a contrast in lived experience, social identity or perspective?
This could be as simple as one person who has been with Transition for many years, and one who joined a few months ago; an elder and a young person or people from different backgrounds.
- ❖ Are there members who have a different experience and background to most of the group? Are they able to and want to bring their perspective to the Assembly?
- ❖ Can your group decide collectively who will attend the Assembly, in a way which invites each person as a potential representative?

As we explore how to build resilient, thriving local communities and the Movement we want to be, the Transition Assembly is a golden opportunity to welcome all this rich experience to the table and actively listen and include those who have often been at the margins. Please consider this when selecting your Assembly representatives.

Original text here: **Choosing your pair of representatives...**

In striving to embed principles and practices of Just Transition into the Transition Assembly, we acknowledge the essential role of **welcoming and centering different experiences, patterns of experience, social identities** (e.g. age, race, class, gender etc.), **locations and voices** into all of our conversations and decision making processes as a movement.

In recognising that climate, ecological and social crises do not impact everyone in the same way, attuning to such different impacts is essential to co-creating resilient and equitable alternative ways of being and living together. When we engage actively in listening to the margins, we can honour the diversity of life experiences within the collective, and **attend to the unequal impacts of the intersecting climate, ecological and social crises which we are striving to meaningfully respond to together**. Expanding our collective awareness in this way allows us to respond to challenges with a more enriched and representational understanding of what is really needed. Hearing directly from those impacted by particular issues is a really important practice in **actively listening to the margins and sharing power**.

We're inviting this awareness as a guiding lens to support you to identify which two members might represent your Transition Group at the Transition Assembly in February. This is to invite as much of the difference, richness and wisdom living in your group as possible to be transmitted and represented with care and agency.

It could be useful to consider the following questions as a way of exploring who those members might be...

- ❖ Is there a possible combination of members from your group which offers a significant **contrast in lived-experience, social identity, or perspective?** (e.g. this could be as simple as one representative who has been with Transition for many years, and one representative who joined a few months ago)
- ❖ Are there members who consider their experiences within the group to not reflect the dominant experience, and **are able to and want to bring their perspective** to the assembly?
- ❖ Can the process of deciding who will attend the assembly be a collective process which **invites each person as a potential representative?**