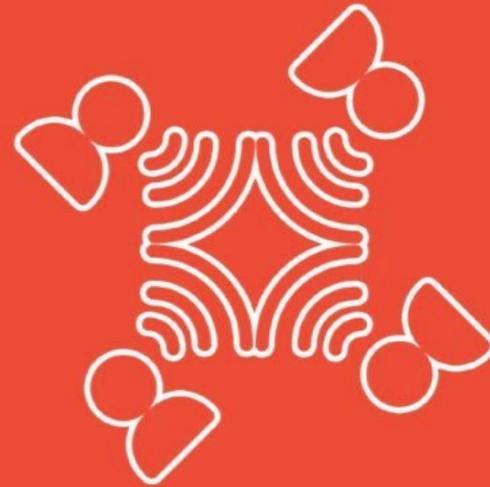
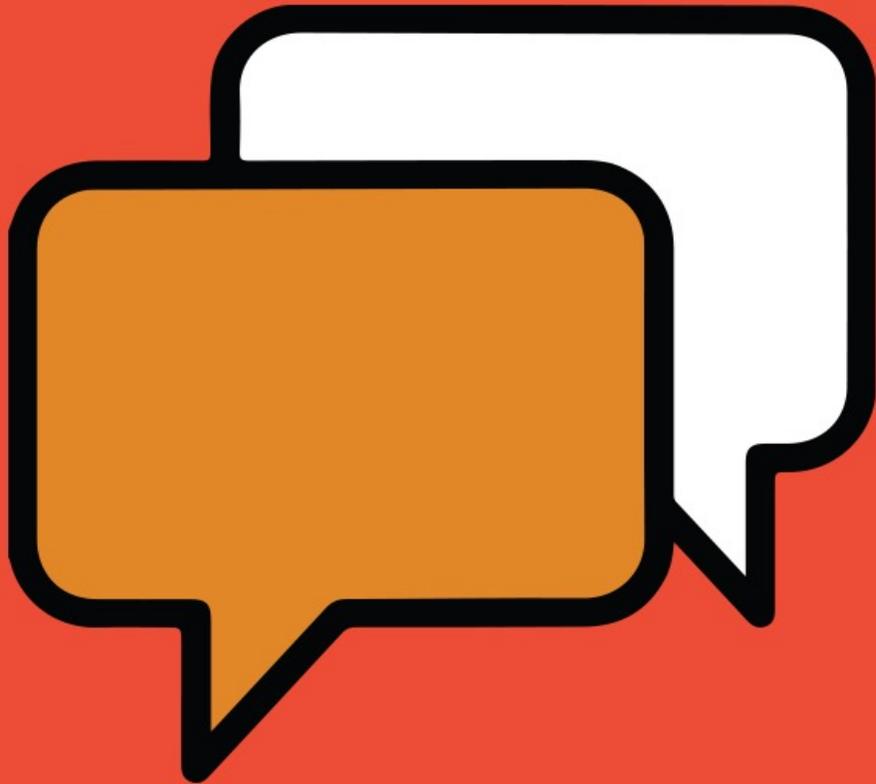


# CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

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# Why this Project?

- Because CONVERSATION holds the key to the challenges of life – the challenges we face both personally and collectively
- Personally, Conversation offers us the only meaningful space where we can share our concerns, anxieties, hopes and aspirations
- Collectively, Conversation is almost certainly the most powerful tool for social change



# Why this Project Now?

- ❖ Because of the situation we currently find ourselves in
  - ➡ A situation unlike anything we've encountered in modern history
- ❖ Multiple life threatening challenges are pressing in on us
- ❖ But before us also lie exciting possibilities
- ❖ So, we're at the crossroads
- ❖ And this is where conversations truly matter

# How should we approach the Conversation?

- ❖ Over time conversation needs to open us to a diversity of cultures, age groups, interests, points of view
- ❖ Conversation bears fruit when it is conducted in a spirit of dialogue, respect for different attitudes and perspectives
- ❖ We need conversations where listening is as important as speaking
- ❖ We want to foster conversations that go beyond echo chambers, political spin, and platitudes
- ❖ In **Conversations that Matter** we engage in frank, vigorous conversations, while empathising with the concerns and needs of others and actively nurturing friendships, trust and a sense of community.

# How should we approach the Conversation?

- ❖ ***Nothing can be achieved overnight*** –there is an important element of trial and error – all this takes time. Key questions we must ask.
- ❖ ***What is the problem?*** Identify: What is at stake? What are the likely consequences?
- ❖ ***What lies behind the problem?*** Dig deep – go beyond the symptoms – ask? what has caused the problem?
- ❖ ***Can the problem be fixed?*** If so, how? What are desirable solutions? What are the outcomes we want to see?
- ❖ ***What roadblocks stand in the way?*** Are our institutions part of the solution or part of the problem?
- ❖ ***How do we overcome the roadblocks?*** Do we need to reform our institutions? If so, how? Who needs to do what, when, in what numbers, and with what resources?

# What are we proposing?

- ❖ *Small Conversation Groups* in different places, with different formats, catering to different needs and different interests
- ❖ *Conversation groups that network* over time
- ❖ The long-term vision – the ambition is *a global network.*

# Key issues in getting a group started

- ❖ Which topics or themes will the group focus on – at least in the first 6 months?
- ❖ How often, where and when will the group meet?
- ❖ Who will introduce the discussion at each of the meetings?  
It's a good idea to begin each conversation with a 10-minute introduction by a group member, or two 5-minute introductions by two group members?
- ❖ Who will facilitate the Conversations?
- ❖ Who will a liaise between the Group and C@C Coordinating Group?

# Available Resources

- ❖ Discussion Guides
- ❖ Podcasts
- ❖ Contacts with people and organisations that can share knowledge, expertise and connections
- ❖ *The best of times, the worst of times: Navigating life at the crossroads*

**A 7-week program** delivered in person & online to skill, inform and inspire ***22 February – 5 April 2022***

# First Crucial Step

- ❖ **Expression of interest**
- ❖ Identifying the **key issues** that people would like to reflect on
- ❖ Identifying **preferences** and capacities