

# WELCOME TO S11 AWOL

Autonomous Web of Liberation

This sheet has been designed to help new comers to AWOL meetings feel more comfortable and aware of process; not just to make the meetings more accessible but to also help the meetings run more smoothly.

If this is the first AWOL meeting you have attended then we would appreciate it if you read this sheet before joining the meeting. If you have been to previous meetings we would also like you to read this sheet to familiarise yourself with the process and things that you may not have been aware of before.

## ABOUT S11 AWOL

S11 AWOL aims to facilitate actions, hold skill-sharing workshops, provide support and empower people with information and tools to enable "US" to most effectively shut down the World Economic Forum. S11 AWOL is a non-hierarchical, decentralised and autonomous network. We are committed to taking direct action for social and environmental justice through creative resistance to capitalism and for the defence of our lives.

S11 AWOL has three main aims among others-

1. Provide skills, training, and information on Direct Action, protests and protesting, and legal support through workshops, pamphlets and the fostering of networks.
2. To encourage the formation of Affinity Groups through workshops and networking, and to promote the benefits for organising in Affinity Groups.
3. To provide logistical support during the S11 protest and post-protest period, eg, medical, legal, etc.

## ABOUT MEETINGS

The meetings are structured to allow the most work to be done in the shortest amount of time, with the most amount of participation from all those who are attending.

If you are late then you have missed the introductory session for new comers. If this is the case then we would appreciate it if you would refrain from asking questions about what AWOL is and how we run until the end of the meeting. This is to avoid repetition in meetings that

take up a long time. If you have an announcement there is an allocated session in the agenda towards the end of the meeting for announcements. If you need to leave before this session you will need to write down your announcement and give it to someone to announce in that session.

If you have an agenda item then you can announce it at the beginning when the agenda is being formed or if you are late you can announce it in the New Agenda Items session.

AWOL meetings are run in a non-hierarchical way that is based on consensus decision making. We aim for the most participation and the most appropriate outcome to suit the needs of the group.

We have a timekeeper, stacker (taker of names for speaking order) and a facilitator. When joining the meeting it is important that you make yourself aware of who these people are.

The agenda on this page gives a rough idea about how the meeting is structured and generally the facilitator will use this. When the next agenda item comes up the person who is responsible for putting it up generally speaks first. If it is

## AGENDA

### Introduction / Kudos

### Report backs

### Old Agenda Items

### Working Groups

(This section may split into groups)

- Convergence •Workshops
- International Solidarity
- Fundraising

### •Housing •Propaganda

### •Prisoner •Roadshow

### New Agenda Items

### Announcements

### Feedback



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connected to a working group, the coordinator of that group will usually speak on the matter. The item is then up for discussion, and people can offer their opinion or make a proposal.

What is the difference between offering your opinion and making a proposal?

When you are talking in the meeting it must be clear if you are making a proposal or giving your opinion. If you are making a proposal then you are suggesting that the group agree or disagree to do, say or participate in something. If you are not doing this then you are stating your opinion. An opinion is when you are stating something or agreeing or disagreeing with someone/thing. If you are making a proposal then you should state so at the beginning by saying, "I propose that..."

None of the above is static, however, to make meetings effective and fun we try to stick to this as much as possible. And please remember that facilitation is not easy, so these set of principles/rules help them as well.

If for any reason you feel you need further explanation about this sheet, we are sorry, but you will have to wait until the end of the meeting to ask someone. The fewer interruptions to the meeting the quicker we will be able to answer them for you.

## HANDSIGNALS

To have input at AWOL meetings it is important to know, use and understand some hand signals that we use to facilitate the meeting.

•**Clicking the fingers** – People in the group click their fingers when they would like to second a proposal, agree to a proposal or like what someone has said. In the instance of a proposal, that has been seconded, the facilitator will ask if there is any dissent to the proposal. If there is it goes into further discussion, if not then the proposal has been accepted.

•**Forming your hand in the shape of a C.** This means Clarification. This occurs during discussion when a person would like to clarify a point or proposal they made, or correct something someone said eg. No the meeting is on Thursdays not Monday.

•**Making an 'L' shape with your thumb and forefinger.** This is different to raising your hand to be put on the speaking list. This occurs when a person would like to speak directly to a proposal or a statement that has just been made, which is different from offering your opinion on the agenda item.

•**Rolling your hands around each other.** If someone is rolling their hands at you they are politely asking you to finish talking. Anyone in the group can do this.

**We hope** that this sheet has helped you understand and participate in our meetings. However, you must remember that none of this is static and can change, for this reason we welcome comment and criticism. We also hope that you will be inspired by the things that we are doing and become an active participant.

## WELCOME!

\*Kudos means thank you. It is a quick session where we can thank people for work they have done.

