

Strengthening our Institutions

through action for the Common Good

East London, 26-29 April 2016

Citizens UK, is best known for its campaign successes on issues such as the Governance of the UK, the Living Wage, tackling usury and ending the detention of children in the UK asylum process. In the USA and Canada, the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) has seventy years' experience of building citizens alliances that are powerful enough to change their cities and train thousands of citizens in what we all call 'the art of politics'. In Germany, DICO has organized migrants organisations, business clubs and faith groups to reclaim their neighbourhoods, welcome refugees and work together for the common good. In Australia, the Sydney Alliance, has pioneered similar work with a diverse alliance and very active involvement by trade unions.

But what unites us and makes broad based Organising so unique is the shared curriculum and our focus on democracy, developing leadership and strengthening the key institutions of civil society.

This international symposium will bring together some of the leading practitioners of broad based Community Organising, and those at the heart of academic reflection on this practice. The aim is to help, support and learn from those involved in Organising from around the world. Delegates have been invited from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Germany, Sweden, Poland, France, Denmark, South Africa, USA and Canada. The aim is to;

- strengthen our civil society institutions through and for action for the Common Good;
- root Community Organising more deeply in the values (and in many cases, the faith) of their institutions;
- learn alongside practitioners from sister churches, mosques, schools and unions from around the world;
- experience the UK's largest ever Citizens Assembly – with 6000 organised citizens, a radical Agenda for Housing and the two main candidates to seeking to be the next Mayor of London

The conference will cost £300 for residential places (delegates will be hosted with members of Citizens UK in London) or £200 for non-residential places.

You can find out more, or reserve your place as soon as possible, by contacting Sarah Hutt at events@theology-centre.org

Citizens UK members may be able to get attendance bursaries from their local chapters – or UK participants may be able to secure funding as part of their professional development. If you are attending from outside the UK you are welcome to bring your partner and/or family. There will not be a program for them but they will be welcome to join you at the Assembly in 28th April. If you can arrive by the weekend of 23rd April or stay on for 30th April and would like to visit (or even preach or teach in) a CUK member institution that would be possible by arrangement with the leadership.

We are grateful to Boston College for financial support for this conference, as part of its ongoing partnership with the Centre for Theology and Community.

Provisional Programme

Tuesday, April 26th

16.00 to 22.00 - Delegates meet for **Rounds and Opening Dinner** at the London Muslim Centre, E1 with welcomes from **Dilowar Khan** (Director, East London Mosque) and **The Rt Revd Adrian Newman** (Bishop of Stepney and Trustee of Citizens UK) and **Sheila Marriott** (Royal College of Nursing) and **Dr Kaneez Shaid** (Chair of CUK Trustees).

Wednesday, April 27th

9.30 to 10.30 – Keynote address 1: **Canon Dr Angus Ritchie** (Founding Director of the Centre for Theology and Community) and **Sr Judy Donovan** (IAF Lead Organiser, One LA) on ***Going Deeper: Institutional Development through Community Organising***

Delegates will then meet in different venues in east London to explore **Community Organising in their own tradition** – and the opportunities for deeper engagement with theology and core values, and for institutional development. (This will include lunch)

Churches and other Christian organisations will meet at St George-in-the-East Church, E1

- *The Pentecostal stream will include presentations from Bishop James Hansen-Sankey (Apostolic Pastoral Congress), Bishop Eric Brown (New Testament Church of God) and Selina Stone (Co-ordinator of CTC's William Seymour Programme)*
- *The Anglican stream will include presentations from the Rt Revd Adrian Newman (Bishop of Stepney), the Revd Adam Atkinson (Senior Tutor at CTC) and Fr Simon Cuff (Research Associate at CTC)*
- *The Free Churches stream will include presentations from Major Nick Coke (author of Marching Towards Justice: Community Organising and the Salvation Army) Des Figueiredo (Balham Community Church) and Terry Moe (Lutheran Church & IAF Northwest)*
- *The Roman Catholic stream will include presentations from Dr Anna Rowlands (University of Durham) Fr Tim Byron (RC Chaplain at Manchester University) and Fr Sean Connolly (Assistant Director of CTC)*

Mosques and other Muslim organisations will meet at Darul Ummah Mosque, E1 with a presentation from **Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari** (Amana Parenting) and **Farooq Murad** (Director General of The Islamic Foundation).

This Symposium unfortunately coincides with the Jewish Festival of Pesach so although our Jewish members wish us well, we do not anticipate any Jewish presence.

Educational institutions and trade unions will meet at the Citizens UK office, E1 with presentations from Prof Tim Hall (University of East London) and Ed Marsh (Middlesex University Students Union) on university and student union engagement; Hugh Murdoch and Jonathan Cox (CUK Organisers) on engaging with schools and Amanda Tattersall (Sydney Alliance) and Deborah Littman (IAF/Vancouver Metro Alliance) on engaging with trade unions.

We will then reconvene at London Muslim Centre from 1600-18.00 to share the learning from the different groups.

Thursday, April 28th

9.00 to 10.30 – Keynote address 2: **Dr Anna Rowlands** (Durham University and Tyne & Wear Citizens) on ***Building a Church of the Poor: Pope Francis and Community Organising*** with responses from **Fr Leo Penta** (Founding Director, DICO) **Jim Barnaville** (Citizens Cymru Wales) and **Msgr John Armitage**, (Rector at Walsingham Shrine and Basilica, and Fellow of CTC)

11.00 to 12.30 – **Parallel workshops:** Delegates will have an opportunity to choose between a range of 45-minute workshops, with an academic and/or practical focus; National Groups can also meet to reflect and plan.

Free lunchtime and early afternoon

16.00 to 22.00 - Delegates and families have a choice of worship services or receptions to attend, as the diverse groups in London Citizens **International Reception and Briefing** at the Copper Box Centre on the Olympic Park; **London Citizens' Mayoral Accountability Assembly** with 6,000 citizens and the two main rivals for the post of London Mayor.

Friday, April 29th

9.30 to 10.30 – **Evaluation of Mayoral Accountability Assembly** at St Paul's Shadwell, E1

11.00 to 12.30 – **"Conversations of the Heart"** – small group sessions, engaging with religious and secular texts, to discuss the spiritual, practical and ethical motivations for our engagement in Community Organising

Lunch at St Paul's Shadwell; Friday Prayers at East London Mosque and Darul Ummah

14.00 to 15.30 – Keynote Address 3: **His Excellency Ebrahim Rasool** (former Premier of the Western Cape and South African Ambassador to the United States) on ***Faith, Diversity and the Struggle for Justice*** with responses from **Prof Vincent Rougeau** (Dean of Law, Boston College) and **The Revd Karen Rooms** (Nottingham Citizens and Co-Chair of CUK Council)

16.00 to 18.00 – **Evaluation: What have we learnt? How will it change us?** Discussions in geographically-based groups, followed by presentations by each group in a final plenary session

19.30 – Gala Dinner at St Paul's Shadwell with after-dinner address by **Neil Jameson CBE** (Founding Director, Citizens UK)