

XRNL Vision in times of Covid-19

Our lives are changed profoundly by Covid-19. Some of us know someone who's been affected by the virus, or are infected themselves. Governments are taking emergency measures that just a few weeks ago would've seemed impossible. Covid-19 also has a profound impact on XR as a movement. With our society in lockdown, we're all of a sudden no longer able to take to the street. The Spring Rebellion has been cancelled. This can be disheartening for the rebels who have put their heart and soul into organizing it. It also forces us to rethink our tactics and strategy for the coming months.

Time seems to have stopped in our rooms, but it is definitely accelerating all around us. While reflecting and taking time to transform, we should not let this moment slip from our hands. On Wednesday the first of April the Political Strategy and Change circle (PSC) and the Future of Democracy Circle (FoD) hosted a bilingual online Public Assembly (PA) for rebels from all over the Netherlands. Nearly 40 rebels shared experiences and reflected on the coronacrisis and what it means for us as a movement going forward.

This document was based on the written output from the PA. Under 'common ground' you can find the topics we reached general agreement on. ***You can already use these as inspiration for your circle or local XR-group.***

In a second ***Online Public Assembly on the 22nd of April*** we will discuss the outstanding questions in a sociocratic process.

Common ground:

- **Time of Reflection:** Both the severity of Covid-19 and the lockdown make this a time of reflection. This goes for us as individuals and for XR, but for society as well. We are "re-valuing" value on a societal level and people are re-thinking what is really valuable these days, e.g.: health(care), loved-ones/ community and nature to go out to.
- **Radical Change is possible:** The Corona Crisis shows governments can take quick and radical action. For this to happen the government first has to Tell the Truth. Only when the Dutch government started to acknowledge the severity of Covid-19 the Dutch public was starting to call for more radical steps.
- **Vulnerability and Inequality of Society:** Covid-19 lays bare the vulnerability of our society. It shows that times of crisis disproportionately hit the most vulnerable. Crises magnify the inequalities and unjust power structures that are already in place in society.
- **Community is Key:** The Corona Crisis is seriously affecting our ability to maintain strong connections inside the XR community, causing demotivation, distancing, and uncoordination. However, this time of forced physical distance can become the perfect regenerative moment, if we use it well.
- **Regenerative Culture:** Now is the time to build a truly regenerative culture, both within the movement and in broader society. By showing regenerative practices we can be an example for the rest of society.
- **Movement Building:** we can use this time to build our movement. We should use the following months to (1) strengthen our own community (online), (2) strengthen bonds between local and national groups and (3) have an open process to come up with a long term movement strategy.

- **Movement of Movements:** This is a time to reach out to other movements and strengthen our ties. To build a movement of movements we have to focus on the topics that bind us, instead of looking at what disagreements we might have.

Outstanding questions and points of discussion:

- **Reflection and action:** We all agree the Corona Crisis is a time for reflection. But what does that mean for us as an action movement? *Do we still wanna organize actions in this time of pandemic, and if so, what sort of actions?*
- **Similarities between the current and ecological crises:** There are similarities between the coronacrisis and the ecological and climate crisis, both in the causes, the grief it creates and the ways in which governments can respond. There were disagreements about how to handle this. A risk with drawing comparisons for example is becoming, or being perceived as ecofascist. *Do we want to draw comparisons between the corona crisis and the ecological crises? And if so, which similarities do we want to highlight and downplay?*
- **Shock Doctrine:** A risk with strong government action is that of Shock Doctrine: governments using this crisis to enact long term policies that strengthen the status quo of the neoliberal system. Even though this has implications for our ability to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises, many shock doctrine policies don't have a clear-cut link to the climate. *Do we want to work towards stopping shock doctrine policies, and if so, how?*
- **Pressure to Power:** Political pressure is needed now, more than ever to make sure climate issues aren't neglected. But do want to apply public pressure (like with the #GeenPoenZonderPlan campaign), do we want to work behind the scenes more (like the political liaison circle is doing) or both. *How will we put pressure to power during this pandemic?*