A weekend of events, debates and activities for grassroots and community activists

**Grassroots Gathering**

**What is a Grassroots Gathering?**
Grassroots Gatherings are weekends of debate and activity for activists which have been taking place in Ireland every few months for the last 2 years. The participants are aiming to create a network which would:

- Be based on the principle that people should control their own lives and work together as equals, as part of how we work as well as what we are working towards.

Within the network this means rejecting top-down and state-centred forms of organisation (hierarchical, authoritarian, expert-based, Leninist etc.). We need a network that's open, decentralised, and really democratic.

- Call for solutions that involve ordinary people controlling their own lives and having the resources to do so: the abolition, not reform, of global bodies like the World Bank and WTO, and a challenge to underlying structures of power and inequality.

- Organise for the control of the workplace by those who work there and for the control of communities by the people who live there.

- Argue for a sustainable environmental, economic and social system, agreed by the people of the planet.

- Work together in ways which are accessible to ordinary people, particularly women and working-class people, rather than reproducing feelings of disempowerment and alienation within our own network.

**Grassroots Gathering 5: Agenda & Specific Aims**

- **We aim to create a bridge** for non-hierarchical & direct action activism between the mobilisations against the war on Iraq in the spring and the mobilisations against the World Economic Forum in the autumn

- **We wish to encourage networking** between different movements, with workshops that encourage people to mix between different movements, rather than primarily "issue-based" themes

- **We are trying to develop diversity** within the movement by inviting participants from different movements, particularly inviting named people to give 5-minute intros to each individual workshop

**Teachers Club**

36 Parnell Square West, Dublin

Friday June 27th - Sunday June 29th

All welcome. Admission free. http://grassrootsgathering.freeservers.com

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**Friday June 27th**

- **7pm - 8pm** Welcome, registration, sorting out floor space for visitors

- **8pm - 9pm** Introductions:
  - What is Grassroots Gathering?
  - Groups introduce themselves
  - Training session for facilitators

- **9pm - 10:30pm** Argentinian piqueetero puppet show

**Saturday June 28th**

- **10am - 11am** Welcome and opening circle: "Who are we and why are we here?"

- **11:30am - 1pm** Networking workshops:
  - Opposing neo-liberalism in Ireland
  - Keeping going: dealing with defeat and burnout

- **2:30pm - 4pm** Action / Skills workshops:
  - Direct action, the bins, the bombs, the boulders and the bunkers...
  - Building links to community groups.
  - Space is the place: creating, sustaining and defending autonomous spaces

- **4:30pm - 6pm** Activity: Yoga

**Sunday June 29th**

- **11am - 12:30pm** Activities:
  - Monte walking tour
  - The trees & history of Phoenix Park
  - Pub workshop

- **1:30pm - 3pm** Networking workshop:
  - Report back from Evian protest
  - Action / Skills workshops:
    - Co-counselling for activists
    - FEIC'd off! Actions for Ethical Investment (art workshop)
    - Prisoner support
  - Discussion / Debate workshops:
    - What's next for the Grassroots Network Against War?

- **3pm - 6:30pm** Plenary Session: Where to now?
  - Preparing for the World Economic Forum
  - What's next for the Grassroots Gathering?