Global and local
A grassroots gathering

24th November in The Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square, Dublin at 11pm

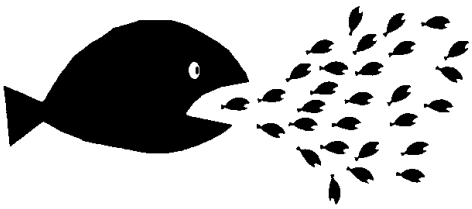
The last ten years have seen an upsurge in radical activity. From the Zapatistas in Mexico, to the anti-road protests, to the campaigns against the Bin Tax and Reclaim the Streets actions to anti-incinerator/dump struggles and the mass demonstrations against the WTO and IMF in Seattle, Prague, Quebec and Genoa, people have been organising to take back control of their lives.

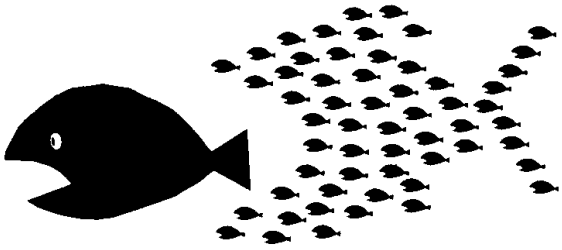
We've all been inspired by the way actions like these have brought so many different people together, organised as equals and without hierarchy. This wave of increasing mobilisation has offered fierce resistance to the notion that the world must be ruled from above by a tiny elite of bankers, politicians and billionare tycoons, showing how millions of people can effectively organise without them.

In Ireland, although there have been many campaigns on these issues, we haven't always been as successful at keeping campaigns open and decentralised, in getting a radical message across or in avoiding the co-optation, fragmentation and professionalisation of activism. That's why we think it's time to set up a new bottom-up (grassroots, libertarian, anarchist, participatory, anti-authoritarian) network.

This network 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.
- Call 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.
- Working 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.





By email contact us at GGcontact@yahoogroups.com

More information: who we are, detailed agenda etc. at

http://grassrootsgathering.freeservers.com

Updates about this gathering by email send an email to grassrootsgathering-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

By post send a letter to Grassroots gathering at, Belfast – c/o PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ, Dublin - c/o PO Box 1528, Dublin 8 or Cork - c/o PO Box 31, Sorting Office, Cork

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