

Independent Resource Centre Govan

Sheet 7 Bottom line



Common Good Awareness Project –Farmhouse Resource Centre

How do we support working class institutions

Many working class institutions disappeared with industrialisation, clubs associations that could be supported by masses of workers living in close proximity. We no longer have that local capacity. We need to broaden the base of support across the city. The problems of one community are usually carbon copies of other communities. We need to create and support the building of places that can be used as templates and function as affiliated resources, that are useful to any community, no matter where they are.

How will we decide what they are for

We write up a manifesto that encompasses our aims and goals through the process of organising and putting together of such spaces. We can start with basic human needs and proceed from there. "Everyone has the right to work, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection for himself and his family [and] an existence worthy of human dignity.. everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care." Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

The bottom line

Some things should be becoming clear to most folk now. Is anyone representing me and my interests in work, rent, housing, education, health, amenities, social and cultural wellbeing and human dignity? If the answer to this is. Seems not. You then might ask. How can I change this on my own? The answer to that is, you can't. You need to find others who may already be doing things. Where? If you discover this is not already happening. You may ask. How do I start a group, or an organisation myself? Where do I find support? Many of our young folk don't know what a union is, no one is teaching them. There is a legacy of knowledge and history of struggle and progress that is out of sight to most people. Most of the institutions that this legacy could be taped into are gone. We need to recreate these places to meet the struggle of the 21st century. If we do not, we will continue to be told what we should be thinking in community development rather than participating players in the process.

The closure of public libraries and places where people meet helps to create isolation and to much reliance on technological communications - owned by the corporations who thrive on our isolation.

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH