

**HARINGEY
COMMUNITY
ACTION
NETWORK**

haringey.we.can@gmail.com

**Together we
CAN build a
better and
brighter future**

**Report from
HCAN event**

**Held on
June 11th 2023**

**In this moment,
let us build a movement**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENOR.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
HCAN GROUPS.....	4
WORKSHOPS: MAKING CHANGE.....	5
PROPOSED OUTCOMES.....	5
CAMPAIGN AGAINST POVERTY	5
CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY	6
DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL	6
HEALTH AND CARE	6
MIGRANT JUSTICE	7
TRADE UNIONS	7
NEW LOGO FOR HCAN.....	8

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENOR

I would like to give a huge thanks to everyone that attended and helped to organise and build for what was a very successful event. This was born out by responses to the questionnaire that was sent out to attendees. I would also like to say a big thank you to the Alevi centre for their generous hospitality.

We have come a long way since our launch in September 2022. From a handful of local organisations plus the trade unions affiliated to Haringey Trades Council, we now have more than 25 local community groups that have formally joined the network.

The workshops gave us confirmation that collaborative working is both possible and desirable. It proved that no matter what we are fighting for, the cause is the same in that the balance of wealth and power is in the hands of a tiny minority.

Much of the inspiration for what we are seeking to build was born out of swingeing austerity, the devastating cost of living and the growing trade union struggles. This, coupled with a perceived lack of a political solution, has led people to conclude that it is time to link the struggles and build a fightback from where it matters, and that is on the streets, in the estates and in the workplaces.

It is time for activists to break out of the reliance of working in silos and to build collective grass roots community and trade union actions. No one said it's going to be easy and things won't happen by themselves. It's been a lot of hard work and determination by a relatively small number of people. However, I am both honoured and proud to be working with and for such inspirational people. We have only just got out of the starting blocks, and there are more questions and challenges than there are answers and solutions.

Collectively we will learn and grow. There is nothing to stop us moving from strength to strength, nothing but ourselves. As I often say: "In this moment, Let us build a movement".

In Solidarity *Steve Jones* (Convenor of Haringey Community Action Network)

INTRODUCTION

The Haringey Community Action Network (HCAN) was launched in September 2022 as a response to austerity, the cost-of-living crisis and attacks on workers' rights. It brings together people, community groups, local campaigns and trade unions who want to make change in Haringey.



HCAN GROUPS

The 25 groups in the HCAN network campaign on a range of issues from housing and migrant justice to the right to food and the climate emergency. Each group works autonomously but can call on others for support and solidarity.

ACORN

Alevi Centre

Climate Justice/COP 26

Day-Mer Centre

Don't Pay

Extinction Rebellion

Haringey Anti Raids

Haringey Claimants Justice Campaign

Haringey Defend Council Housing

Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

Haringey London Renters' Union

Haringey Migrant Support Centre

Haringey Over 50s Forum

Haringey Solidarity Group

Haringey Trades Council

Haringey Tree Protectors

Haringey Welcome

Keep Our NHS Public

Kurdish Community Centre

People's Assembly

Right to Food Haringey

Save Our Warehouses

Stand Up to Racism

Street Kitchen

Tottenham Refugee Alliance

Unite Community



Before the formal start of the event, HCAN groups set up tables to welcome attendees and to provide information and leaflets.



WORKSHOPS: MAKING CHANGE



The workshop day on 11 June 2023 was HCAN's first major event. It brought together local people, campaigning groups and trade unions to discuss actions that we can take to make positive change and take power back to our communities where it rightly belongs.

More than 100 people attended the event and took part in sessions covering:

- Campaign Against Poverty
- Climate and Biodiversity Emergency
- Migrant Justice
- Health and Care
- Decent Homes for All
- Trade Unions and the Fight Against Austerity

Two sessions for each topic (apart from trade unions) were held, so attendees had an opportunity to take part in up to two different discussions. The workshops produced a list of actions, which were shared in a plenary at the end of the day. The outcomes from each group are listed below.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES

CAMPAIGN AGAINST POVERTY

1. Demand that the council implements a food strategy for the borough, devised with and overseen by residents, which would encompass issues such as sustainability, the environment, poverty. It would involve a food hub for the borough and democratic practices such as citizens' assemblies.
2. Communal space, not empty space. More community spaces to be made available – hubs with educational and social uses, and outdoor spaces for growing. Actions at identified empty spaces.
3. HCAN-wide community festival integrated with a Right to Food march.
4. Pressure Spurs to engage proactively with the struggle against poverty in the community.



CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY

1. Dates for action

- 15 June Clean Air Day
- 22 June North London Waste Authority AGM

2. Climate and Ecology Bill

- Needs support – it's a private members bill and, if passed, would provide a legal framework for moving from fossil fuels to sustainable ones

3. Lobby Haringey Council – Communal spaces

- To Facilitate welcome hubs / community centres on streets where people pass by and can easily access. There are plenty of empty shops that could be used for this purpose (Islington has done this and called these places 'Climate Action Centres'). They could be multi-use and provide a base for community worker empowerment training and education.
- Training for council officers in ecology, and officers should attend the Haringey Climate Action Forum.

4. Arrange a follow up 'strategy' meeting in mid July

DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL

1. Oppose demolitions on council estates and support the Save the Warehouses campaign.
2. Tenant protection: disrepair, poor quality housing, fire safety, legal protections.
3. Build support between the different campaigns, with more information sharing.
4. Develop a 'housing handbook' – an audit/toolkit on how to start a housing campaign, drawing on existing and past expertise and knowledge.
5. Open up unused spaces – use FOI (Freedom of Information) requests to push the council to map unused spaces; pressure investors that are holding empty property to put them to use; hold demonstrations outside empty properties (occupy?).
6. Save the Warehouses – get organisations to sign up to support the campaign.
7. Note Housing Rebellion Day of Action 8 July – online actions.

HEALTH AND CARE

1. Arrange another networking event with involvement from other interested groups, particularly health and social care trade unions.
2. Use local networks and communication channels to raise awareness of issues around social care.
3. Campaign for social care to be free at the point of need, as delivered by Hammersmith and Fulham council. What should co-production look like? Co-production should involve users of services and act as a form of involvement.
4. Campaign for a fair living wage for all care workers.
5. Health scrutiny – make sure this is kept at the forefront of the council's priorities.
6. Address the use of digitization in health care – digital exclusion is a significant barrier.
7. The NHS has its 75th birthday on 5 July; organise stalls.
8. Ask the council to help with press and publicity.

MIGRANT JUSTICE

1. Migrant justice must be viewed through the lens of climate justice.
Migrant justice must be central to all campaigns.
HCAN should call for:
The end to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).
The right to work for all.
2. Maintain and strengthen the links within HCAN e.g. Migrant justice and housing; Migrant justice and health (GP access, data audit).
Explore the capacity of someone to run a buddy scheme, accompanying families to assessments, for example.
3. Pressure Council
The council has a Welcome Strategy and a Welcome Advisory Board. Encourage members of HCAN to join the Advisory Board. Keep up pressure on the council to deliver its promises.
Link with other London Councils and the Mayor of London on e.g. transport – free transport, akin to the 'Freedom pass', would allow refugees and asylum seekers to attend appointments, take part in language classes, access support etc.
4. Safe and accessible services

TRADE UNIONS

1. Join a union; if you are already a member of a union, get active.
2. Support the current actions and encourage others to do the same.
3. Invite strikers to meetings.



Paintings by Inga Bystram, the picket line painter



NEW LOGO FOR HCAN

Three logos were presented at the meeting for participants to vote on. The following is based on the image that gained the highest number of votes with some minor alterations as requested at the event.

