

# Civic Action and Transformation (CAT)

## Strategic tools for successful social movement

Today we can look back on a number of successful social movements all over the world, which have ended slavery, overcame discrimination or established processes of social inclusion and self-determination. But at the same time we still have a long way to go until we have achieved the realisation of equal rights for everyone. Time and time again we witness how people's dignity is being trampled upon, how people's freedom of speech is taken away from them, how people's health is deemed unimportant, how equality between all human beings is not put into practice, how distribution of wealth is becoming more and more unequal, etc.

Social movements are the places where ordinary people are claiming their rights and bringing values like dignity, equality, freedom or justice to the attention of policy makers. Therefore, social movements often manage to convince these policy makers to support them – or to bring them down.

New, stable and well-structured organisations - such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - emerge mostly out of the more unstable and unstructured social movement groups. NGOs can play a constructive role for social movements in terms of delivering infrastructure, networks and contacts. Furthermore, they are able to work more continuously in societal areas than volunteers can do. Sometimes, however, NGOs also align themselves too closely to the power holders, thereby paralyzing social movements.

Furthermore, and for reasons of self-preservation, NGOs tend to become the custodians of funds sandwiched between the interests of the movements and the donors.

In order to achieve the objectives of social change and thereby using the full potential of all relevant actors, it requires from social activists, committees and groups as well as from NGOs to take a clear stand on the following questions:

- Which **role** do we take in our society today?
- By what **vision** for our society are we driven?
- What are the **values** at the core of our actions?
- What kind of **power** do we hold and what type do we aspire to hold?
- What **goals** have we already achieved, and what goals are still ahead of us?
- How can we use tools and methods of **non-violent action**: a) in our organization in order to re-politicise our work more or b) in our group or committee in order to remain capable of action in asymmetric power relations?
- What kind of **partnerships** and **cooperation** do we need to achieve success?
- How can we contribute to keep our co-workers **motivated** and **healthy**?

## Our Approach

With our systems approach called ATCC (Approche et Transformation Constructives des Conflits) to recognize conflict and transform it constructively, we link the six core elements of conflict, thereby identifying multi-faceted ways of intervention. Our methodology is inspired by Bill Moyer's Movement Action Plan, and is further developed to meet the needs of current social movements and NGOs.

## Our Offer

We want to convey the theoretical, analytical, and practical action concepts of successful non-violent social movements to participants, in order to support the strategic establishment or advancement of existing movements based on these principles. In this regard, we offer the following:

1. Participatory social analysis tools based on the ATCC-approach
2. Constructive visioning exercise
3. Practical use of the 'Phase model' of social movements and an analysis of phase-related threats and opportunities
4. The strengths/weaknesses model of the different roles in social movements
5. Resources and opportunities for sustainable, long-term work for change
6. Clarifying the way your organisation or group deals with power relations
7. Introduction to civic, non-violent conflict resolution during actions in the public space

We'll be happy to share with you further details on the training programme upon request.

## Conditions

The minimum duration for the above-mentioned training amounts to five days and the maximum number of participants is set to 25 persons.

The participants will receive detailed training materials and supplementary readings where relevant. The structure and form of our training gives participants the opportunity to use their respective work- and thematic contexts throughout the training, and thereby acquire practical and relevant new perspectives.

We are happy to use a location or venue that is related to the theme of the training. We are also more than happy to invite local activists to the training to share their experiences.

## Different Settings – Different Options:

### Activists in social movements

Goal: Action planning for effective social change

### Activists in social movements & NGO staff

Goal: Exploring constructive collaboration towards societal change

### Employees from diverse NGOs from different countries

Goal: Learn from other practical experiences and increase your potential

### Employees from different NGOs from the same country

Goal: Common development of a country-strategy

### Employees from the same NGO:

Goal: Support to an internal strategy and visioning process

## The Facilitators



### Karl-Heinz Bittl,

“I have been active in various social movements since 1975. For many years I was full-time staff and leader within the peace movement. Today I support NGOs and social movements as coach and mentor, as well as external

advisor. The ATCC-approach and power space model emerged after many common experiences with international colleagues and in the context of a research project for the Leopold Meyer Foundation in Switzerland. I am also the author of the training handbook: “Non-violent Action”. [www.eiccc.org](http://www.eiccc.org).



### Karen Johne:

“I have been part of many movements throughout the years, e.g. the peace-, women’s-, and environmental movements. As a trainer, supervisor, and advisor, I support individuals, groups, or teams to realize their political aspirations. This support focuses on both directions: internal, individual and organizational practices, as well as the anticipated and desired external changes.”

[www.karenjohne.de](http://www.karenjohne.de).



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