

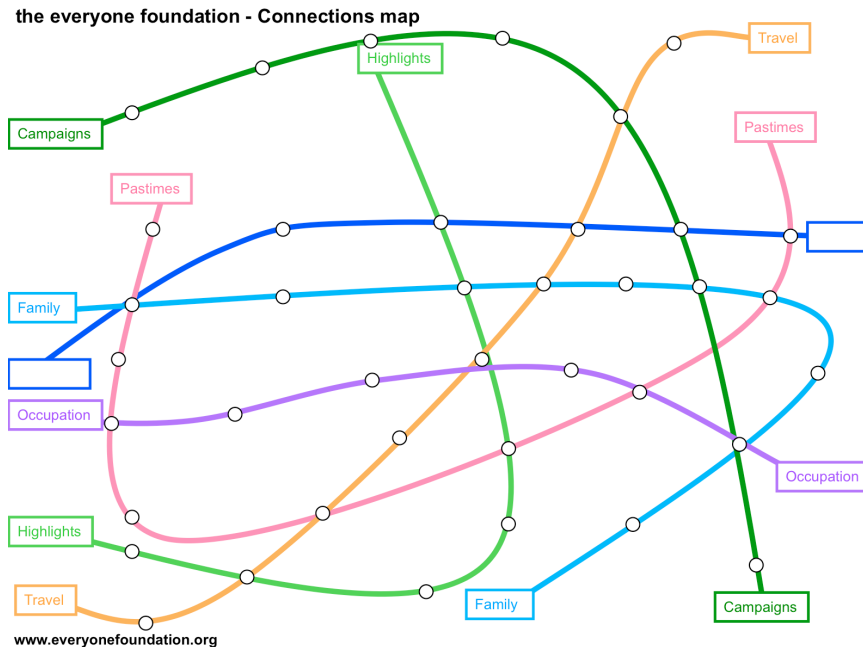
Connections map

Downloadable guidance notes for group facilitators of activists or campaigners

To be used in conjunction with *“inspiring action – a guide for practitioners”* created by the everyone foundation with Oxfam and the WI

Title: Connections map

These instructions should be read in conjunction with the downloadable connections map template.



Purpose

To illustrate to people the ways in which we are all the same, and the extent to which we have connections across our communities, and with people who might at first sight seem very different.

Context

Many of us have become used to looking for difference and diversity rather than sameness. We believe that one way of making stronger connections with people is to invert this, and actively look for connections and sameness.

This exercise can be a useful group activity that also serves to build relationships and break the ice.

Objectives

- To explore the ways in which we are connected
- To create an opportunity for people to get connected and speak with each other
- To practice looking for connections rather than differences
- To be an easy to copy exercise that participants can repeat in their own gatherings and meetings

Instructions

1. Have a conversation about connectedness and the importance of understanding the ways that we are all related.
 - a. This can be on the day to day level of interests, hobbies, travels, families, personal histories etc.
 - b. This can be on an international level of product supply chains, resources, international politics and the legacy of our political and economic decisions of the past etc.
2. Agree the main common strands for the connections map based on this decision (if you have less time you could amend the maps in advance, so that the topics are pre-determined)
 - a. These could be holidays, childhood experiences, family, home life, work experiences, education etc.
 - b. Let the whole group suggest some of the topics that become the 'lines' on the map
 - c. Ensure that at least some of the categories are easy connections, while others might seem less likely
3. Give people a time limit tell them to mingle and find connections. Encourage them to find people who they have a connection with across the map... they should write that persons name on the map at a 'station'. If the connection relates to two threads then they should write their name where those lines interact.
4. Encourage people to explore their connections a little as they move around the group, but also to keep moving every couple minutes until the time is up.
5. Debrief with a discussion
 - a. How easy was it to find connections?
 - b. What surprised them about the activity?
 - c. What impact has it had on them?
 - d. How is it relevant to the wider objectives of the project you are working on together?
 - e. What other conclusions would you draw from this exercise?
6. Review the other tools and resources that are available on the everyonefoundation.org website, including the 'connectedness' workshop and 'facilitation skills to create deeper connections' workshops or speak to the team about what the next steps might be in this conversation by calling 0207 836 8142