

SESSION 2: A PRINCIPLED VISION

Saturday 1:45PM-3:45PM

Session 2 At A Glance

- Framing and Principles 1:50-2:15
 - New people introduce themselves (5 minutes)
 - Framing and present goals (5 minutes)
 - Marcos Quote (10 minutes)
 - Defining the Principles (10 minutes)
- Visioning 2:15-2:45
 - Personal Visioning exercise (10 minutes)
 - Personal Journaling (5 minutes)
 - Pair Sharing (10 minutes)
 - Popcorn-style Report Out (5 minutes)
- Declaration as Vision 2:45-3:15
 - Framing the Declaration (5 minutes)
 - Work in small groups (15 minutes)
 - Report Backs (10 minutes)
- Vision Drawing & Ripping 3:15-3:45
 - Framing the exercise (5 minutes)
 - Role play and pauses for discussion (20 minutes)
 - Wrap Up (5 minutes)

GOALS:

- Collectively envision a world with new roots, using the human rights principles.
- Challenge ourselves to go beyond a laundry list of issues and envision structural solutions to root causes.
- Consider how issue-based campaigns can include and promote these principles, therefore building power to win our long-term vision.
- Reflect upon and continue building the Vermont Declaration for Human Rights.
- Think about what it's going to take to make our vision a reality!

MATERIALS:

- Blank butcher paper and markers
- Butcher paper w/ Human Rights Principles written out
- Butcher paper with goals
- Principle Definition handouts
- Notetaking handouts
- Declaration excerpt handouts.
- Extra paper and pens

Framing and Principles (1:50-2:20)

1. The session's goals and the human rights principles are posted on the wall. Each group has principles handouts, handouts of the declaration excerpt, a note-taking handout, and extra paper and pens.
2. Welcome everyone back to the room.
3. Present this session's goals, already posted on butcher paper. Read them aloud or ask others to do so.
4. Let's do a quick round of introductions for anyone who is just joining us. Please say your NAME and WHERE YOU ARE FROM.



SAY WHAT—In the last session, we thought about the root causes of our different problems and struggles. In this session, we will envision a world with new roots, based on human rights principles.



SAY WHAT—Can everyone pull out their programs and go to page ____?
Can anyone read the quote by Subcomandante Marcos, a leader of the Zapatista movement in Mexico?

5. Have someone read the quote.

**MARCOS QUOTE
IN THE PROGRAM:**

“In our dreams we have seen another world, an honest world, a world decidedly more fair than the one in which we now live. We saw that in this world there was no need for armies; peace justice and liberty were so common that no one talked about them as far off concepts, but as things such as bread, birds, air, water, like book and voice. This is how the good things were named in this world. And in this world there was reason and good will in the government, and the leaders were clear-thinking people; they ruled by obeying. This world was not a dream from the past, it was not something that came to us from our ancestors. It came from ahead, from the next step we are going to take. And so we started to move forward to attain this dream, make it come down and sit at our tables, light our homes, grow in our corn fields, fill the hearts of our children, wipe our sweat, heal our history. And it was for all. That is what we want. Nothing more, nothing less. “In Our Dreams We Have Seen Another World” —Subcomandante Marcos

6. Ask if anyone would like to share a phrase that stood out or was most meaningful to them. Allow 2-3 people to share. If people are hesitant to speak up, try asking something specific, like what people thought about the idea that our vision comes from ahead, not from our ancestors.
7. After 2-3 people have shared, connect the quote to this visioning session by saying something like...



SAY WHAT— The quote refers to a world where justice and liberty are as common as bread, air, and water. This doesn't happen by accident—it happens through organizing and having these conversations.

Concepts like justice, liberty, and the human rights principles can often seem abstract. Like in the quote, we need to bring those concepts down to our tables. In this section we want to make our human rights principles more concrete for us all, so that we can continue moving forward in making our vision a reality.



Now let's remind ourselves of the Human Rights Principles to get ready to use them as a tool in our visioning. Can everyone turn to page ___ in their program, with the human rights principles?

8. Pass out the Principles handout to anyone without a program.



SAY WHAT— Human rights principles guided the Healthcare Is a Human Right Campaign in fighting for larger, systemic change, even though the campaign focused on the healthcare issue.

By using these principles, our campaigns demand different roots, not just trimming leaves on the old tree or add good leaves to a tree with bad roots. Can everyone turn to page ___ in their program, with the human rights principles?

9. Ask for a volunteer to read each definition.

10. After each is read, ask if anyone has any questions or anything to add.

Visioning (2:20-2:55)



SAY WHAT—We are going to pretend that we are in the world or society we want, the one we are fighting for. We're going to think both about what we can see in this world, and what we can't see: what new systems and structures would make this beautiful world possible.

You will read aloud the following questions. Some of them are general and some of them relate specifically to the track. You'll pause after reading each question to give people time to think. At the end you will leave a couple minutes for quiet reflection.

Explain to participants what you are going to do before beginning. Encourage people to get comfortable. Then ask everyone to close their eyes if they feel comfortable doing so.

1. Ask everyone to close their eyes. We are going to pretend that we are in the world or society we want, the one we are fighting for.
2. Read the following general questions, track-specific questions, and broad questions (on the following pages). Read the statements softly and slowly, giving people time to think.

NOTE TO FACILITATORS—

- Be aware that the general questions relate directly to the human rights principles.
- The questions encourage participants to create a new vision where human rights principles would be fulfilled.
- For example, when we ask what we would do when someone was not able to meet their fundamental needs, we're asking how we would meet the principle of universality. When we ask how we would make decisions, we are asking about the principle of participation.





SAY WHAT—First, let’s imagine what this world is...

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

- What does it look like here in this place where _____ is a human right?
- Imagine you are walking out your front door, what do you see in front of you? What do the buildings and landscape look like? Where are you going?
- Imagine how are you interacting with the people around you? How are they interacting with each other?
- How does it feel to you?



SAY WHAT—Now we will think deeply about what makes this vision possible...

When thinking about the Right to _____....

(Ask track specific questions or make up your own!)

TRACK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

- **Healthcare is a Human Right**—How do people receive healthcare? What kind of care do they receive and when? How is it paid for?
- **Right to a Healthy Environment & Livable Planet**—How are people using our planet’s resources? Who is involved in making those decisions? What is the relationship between people and the earth? How is our energy produced?
- **Human Rights and Education**—Where do people learn? Who gets an education? What are they learning about?
- **Housing is a Human Right**—Where do people live? What do our homes look like? How do we ensure that the different housing needs are met?
- **Human Rights in the Food System**—What do people eat? Where does their food come from? Who grows it? What is the relationship between people who grow, distribute, sell, and buy food?
- **The Right to Dignified Work**—What is considered work and what are people doing? Where they working? How do people feel about their work? How are people compensated? What happens when people are not able to work or work full time? What does it look like for everyone to have dignity at work?



SAY WHAT—Now we're going to envision even more broadly about this world

**BROAD
QUESTIONS:**

- How do we meet all our fundamental needs? What do we do when someone can't meet their fundamental needs?
- How are we making decisions that impact us all? How are people sharing power?
- How are we ensuring that none of us is being left out or treated unjustly in our society?

3. After reading all the questions, stay quiet for 1-2 minutes to let people think about what they saw in their vision, looking at a clock if necessary to keep track of time.
4. For the next 3-5 minutes, ask everyone to write down some of what they envisioned and relate it back to the principles. Give out pens and papers if needed.



SAY WHAT— Now turn to your neighbor and share some of your vision. Try to be specific and highlight the ways your vision relates to the principles.

5. After a few minutes, ask for a few people to share highlights from their visions to the big group. Do this "popcorn style" (people shout out a few brief examples).

Declaration as Vision (2:55-3:25)



SAY WHAT—This weekend we are drafting a Vermont Declaration for Human Rights which expresses our collective vision and keeps us on track to get there. Next we are going to get into smaller groups and reflect on specific sections of the draft declaration, relevant to our track.

NOTE TO FACILITATORS—

- Through consultations, surveys, and other outreach, many people have participated in a process to draft this Declaration.
- This is a living document. Even the Declaration we approve this weekend will continue to change and grow.
- The Declaration is a tool to continue organizing in our communities.



1. Ask people to get into 4 small groups by counting off 1-4. Pass out the declaration excerpt (one per person) and the notetaking sheet (one per group).
2. Each group should pick one facilitator and one note-taker.



SAY WHAT— Think about how your piece of the declaration relates to our vision. Small groups should also think about how this declaration can be used to build the strength of our movement and hold decision makers accountable to our vision. Your group should boil down your feedback to one recommendation for the content of the paragraph and one recommendation for how to use the declaration in building our movement. After 20 minutes in groups, we'll come back together and each group will have a couple of minutes to report out.

3. Keep track of the room. If it seems like folks are mostly done, bring people back together. After 20 minutes, ask people to come back together and give each group 3 minutes to report out on their 2 items.

Group Vision Drawing and Vision Ripping (3:25-3:45)

1. Pick one process facilitator to be a Vision Ripper, referred to in these notes as "Ripper." The facilitator that is not in character as the "vision ripper" will be referred to just as "Facilitator." The facilitator will keep an eye on the room and continue moving the group along.
2. **Facilitator:** Ask for 6 volunteers from the group. ***IMPORTANT: Let them know that they are volunteering to do a role playing exercise that might involve some level of physical interaction, contact, and surprises.***



The purpose of this exercise is to show the ways in which those in power maintain their visions and keep us divided. We will think what our movement is up against and how to contend.

3. **Facilitator:** Ask the six volunteers to come up to the front. Split the volunteers into two groups of 3 and set them up in a way that the rest of the participants can see both groups. Give each group butcher paper and markers and ask them to work together to draw their vision for whichever track you are in.
4. **Ripper:** After a few minutes of the groups working on their vision, come around and introduce yourself to each group. Say that you are from the "Community Connections Corporation" and that you are consulting with the city to help realize the community's master plan. Tell them you are excited to work with them and that you hope to see them soon. Walk away and let them keep working on their vision for a few more minutes.
5. **Ripper:** Come around a second time to each of the groups and let them know that there has been a public meeting ("sorry you didn't make it!") and we're going to make some changes. Think about some of the ways decision makers put out false solutions to the crisis that don't meet human rights principles and propose one or two. Use a corner of the paper and actually start drawing some of this stuff—maybe even cover up a couple of their drawings.

Examples may be:

- Change a public school to a charter school to improve education
- Create jobs by building a factory over a natural space, like near a river
- Build a prison to create jobs
- Build a nuclear plant
- Shut down or reduce services we rely on, like the post office or firefighting

6. Let them try different things to stop the Ripper such as protecting their vision, linking arms, and ultimately joining together with the other group. Facilitators in the rooms should encourage folks to organize if they do not come to this organically.

7. Facilitator: After the ripper has come around to both groups and started drawing on their vision yell “PAUSE!”

8. Lead a discussion with both role playing volunteers and observing participants. Ask people:

- What is going on here?
- How did people feel when the person from Community Connections Corporation came around the first time? How about the second time?
- What are some of the ways that this happens in real life?
- What do you think these folks should do next?

9. After a few minutes of discussion say: “Ok lets keep this going and see what happens...”

10.Ripper: Come back around, take a marker out of someone’s hand, and change some of the things in the visions. Say things like, “This is a public-private partnership, which means that our board is deciding where it goes.” You can rip off pieces of the paper and say things like, “actually we bought this, its private property.”

11. Let them try different things to stop the ripping such as blocking you, linking arms, and ultimately joining together with the other group in the room. Try to pit people against each other by saying things like, “He’s the reason your taxes are so high because he’s living on the system.” Or, “She’s trying to steal your job!”

Tip: The facilitator in the room should encourage the two groups to collaborate if they don’t on their own. Ask questions like: “Did you notice they’re doing the same thing to the group over there?”

Important Tip: Watch out for the activity getting too physical or intense. Encourage a peaceful and inclusive environment by saying things like: “Let’s remember that there may be people with different levels of comfort with being physical. Let’s be respectful of one another’s personal space.”



12.Ripper: Eventually, when people try to organize all together, show that you can’t do anything to destroy their vision anymore.

13.Facilitator: When this has happened, conclude the exercise and thank all of the volunteers.

14.Large Group Discussion. Facilitate a popcorn-style discussion within the large group by asking:

- What lessons can we learn from this?
- What happens if we only focus on drawing our vision?
- What were some of the solutions that the vision rippers were trying to promote? Were those solutions in line with our vision?
- Do you think this is happening in the other rooms and tracks? What does that mean?
- What is it going to take for us to protect our vision and make it a reality?
- How does that relate to the what we’re actually doing here at this People’s Convention?