

ABOUT CITIZEN ORGANISING FOUNDATION

The Citizen Organising Foundation (COF) is the UK's primary Training Institute supporting the development of broad based community organising. This is done primarily through affiliate *CITIZENS alliances*. The affiliates are presently *London Citizens*, though there are fledgling groups in Leeds, Glasgow, Milton Keynes and Bel-fast. COF's mission is 'to create a network of competent, informed and organised citizens who act responsibly in the public life of their communities and are able to influence for the common good decisions which impact on their communities'.

To achieve this mission, COF runs regular training seminars for nominated community leaders from across the UK and occasionally abroad. This training is aimed at individuals who are interested in thinking deeply about how to improve their own institution or group whilst also strengthening civil society in the 21st Century so that their values make a real impact in the world. Over the years *London Citizens* and *Birmingham Citizens* have built their strength and relationships on the basis of key leaders being nominated to attend this training and thus gaining a deep understanding of themselves and the ideas, tactics and values of COF.

THE TRAINING...

The training includes sessions on power and self-interest, as concepts which are central to community organising; on connecting faith and values to action; on globalisation and its impact on families, communities and civic life; and on practical strategies for rebuilding civil society institutions of faith, union, school and local association.

This training will help leaders to grow and sustain their institutions through active and intentional relationship development. We also work on skills and tactics for action in public life.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN....

- New leadership techniques
- How to connect your faith and values to practical action
- The role that power and self-interest play in holding a group together and making the world work
- An introduction to a way of campaigning which helps strengthen your organisation and gains recognition and dignity for you, your family and community.



COF National Training

Dates: Monday 12th October 2009 15.00 prompt

Friday 16th October 2009 13.00 sharp

Venue: The Kairos Conference Centre, Mount Angelus Road, Roehampton, London, SW15 4JA



WHAT TO DO NEXT...

You will need to confirm your request to attend the COF Winter training by completing the attached application form and returning it, as soon as possible to your Organiser or directly to us at:
112 Cavell Street London E1 2JA
Deadline – 2nd October 2009

HOW YOU WILL LEARN...

Learning will be through role play, formal lectures, video clips and group discussions. The tutors are all experienced community organisers working in different areas of the U.K.

AFTER THE TRAINING IS OVER...

We hope you will make use of the learning and develop it further by getting your group involved in the local *Citizens Alliance*. For example;

TELCO in East London, is in its eleventh year of action and is running many different, exciting campaigns on low pay, migrants rights, affordable housing, street crime, youth provision and more. You can find out about these campaigns on:

www.telcocitizens.org.uk

SOUTH LONDON CITIZENS is currently focussed on issue concerned with Migrants Rights and the overall performance of the UK Immigration Industry. SLC has oversight on the Independent Asylum Commission. Campaigns on housing, mixed hospital wards and low wages are on-going at the present time. Visit:

www.southlondoncitizens.org.uk

WEST LONDON CITIZENS was successfully launched in September 2005. In January 2006, members voted to tackle issues such as Living Wage and Economic Justice, Secondary Education, A Greener, Safer and Cleaner West London, Ethical and Sustainable Planning and Accountable Government and Active Citizenship. For more information visit our website at:

www.westlondoncitizens.org.uk

After the training is over, please take time to talk with an organiser on the staff of COF or your *Citizens Alliance*-about the role you would like to play and the ideas you have for supporting a *Citizens Alliance* in your city.

WHO ELSE WILL BE THERE...

The diversity of people who attend these trainings leads to a unique learning experience. You will meet people from a variety of cultural, religious and organisational backgrounds, all looking for ways of strengthening their own institution and its impact on the world around it.