



# In Her Shoes

## Creative Activism Workshop 1

### Workshop Preparation

#### **Create supportive environments for women with protected characteristics to speak about prejudice**

*Don't replicate oppressive or discriminating structures that exacerbate prejudice*

- Learn about systems of oppression and how they silence people with protected characteristics
- Find out about the action people with protected characteristics and communities of identity have historically taken and methods they use to challenge and change those systems (Disability Movement, LGBT Communities, Feminism and Women's Rights, Black Civil Rights)
- Be open to learning about experiences outside of your own

### Workshop Aim

The aim of this workshop is to support women speak about their experiences of targetted hostility and to produce art and creative activism to challenge it.

Arts for social justice, encompasses a wide range of visual and performing art that aim to raise critical consciousness, build community, and motivate individuals to promote social change.

### Workshop Introduction & Ground-rules

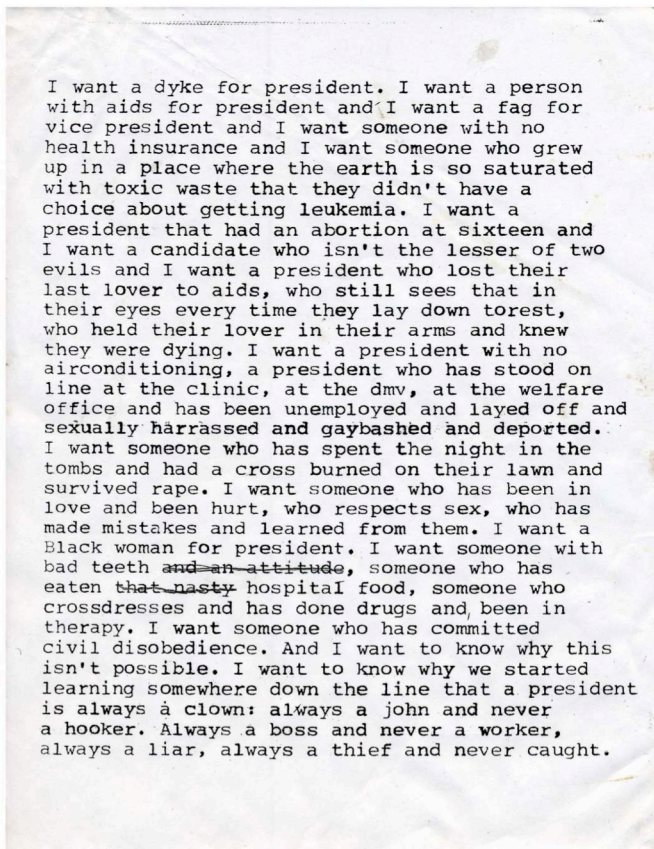
- Welcome women and introduce self and volunteer
- Explain project background and why we are inviting women to join us to talk about this issue
- Explain that some people may wish to share sensitive and upsetting personal experiences during this session, that this may be the first time people have spoken about incidents that are difficult and emotional. Ask that we all agree to listen to each other with respect and patience.
- If any one becomes upset they are welcome to leave the room and return when they are ready. If they would like to speak with a worker privately at any time they can request this.
- Explain that GWL is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reporting Centre for hate crime, there is no expectation or pressure on anyone to report but we are able to support people to do this.

**The intention of this work is to create a powerful collective statement** borne from collective action, our collective power, stating what we want, what we and other women need to incite systemic change.

As members of discriminated-against groups we are forming a coalitions with one another and are taking action for a common interest. This artwork is a plea for more compassionate leadership whose authority stems from having shared the hardships of inequality.

### Activity 1: Inspiring Materials - Discussion

- Introduction to US-based artist Zoe Leonard's 1992 manifesto, "I want a president..."
- READ TO GROUP – Discuss reactions
- Other artists have used this piece with Zoe Leonard on a number of occasions as a live piece of art with women. We are using this as inspiration for our own recording.



»I want a president...«, Zoe Leonard, 1992.



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### Activity 1: Inspiring Materials – Discussion

#### PLAY VIDEO & AUDIO EXAMPLES BELOW

#### **I want a president... Action/Collective reading project, by artists Malin Arnell, Kajsa Dahlberg, Johanna Gustavsson and Fia-Stina Sandlund 2010**

The collective reading I want a president... was first initiated by artists Malin Arnell, Kajsa Dahlberg, Johanna Gustavsson and Fia-Stina Sandlund in conjunction with the general election in Sweden 2010. They wanted to gather activists, artists, friends and colleagues as a response to an increasingly neoliberal political climate in a country just about to give space in parliament to an upcoming fascist, racist and homophobic party.

They made an adaptation of her text I want a president... (1992) in Swedish. On the day before the election they gathered at Sergels Torg in Stockholm, a big square famous for its many public manifestations, and read the text together, over and over again, for one hour. The first collective reading inspired a series of invitations from other countries going towards election.

<https://www.facebook.com/iwantapresidentdc/home>

<https://iwantapresident.wordpress.com/about/>

#### **Artist, Alia Farid at the Serpentine in London, 2015**

**Audio In Arabic** <https://soundcloud.com/serpentine-uk/alia-farid-i-want-a-president-kuwaiti-arabic>

**A Stage for Any Revolution** is an open modular 'stage' by artist Alia Farid based on an architectural model from 1929 by constructivist set designer, Victor Shestakov. The stage, re-envisioned for Edgware Road will be used by the public in different ways; for long-distance participation in events happening across the Arab world, for sitting together to share discussions, for making declarations or speeches, for convening groups of people, and hosting events. Alia Farid launched the stage with a performance of Zoe Leonard's I want a President... in Arabic and English.

#### **AK-OK, Songs-of-Bilitis**

These two sound pieces take their lyrics from lesbian and gay liberation manifestos published in the early 1970s. They are part of an ongoing "song cycle" project, dedicated to the radical lesbian and gay activists of the '70s.

<http://cargocollective.com/AK-OK/Songs-of-Bilitis>



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### **Activity 2: Write 'I want a First Minister...'**

- In groups or individually participants are supported to write their version of 'I want a President' titles 'I want a First Minister' - Discussion and writing.
- Discussion on what comes out of the writing

**Activity 3: Reading versions of participant's 'I want a First Minister...'** to practice tempo.

### **Activity 4: Audio equipment skills**

- Show participants how to use Zoom Recorders.
- NB. Need for quiet to record each other

### **Activity 5: Record 'I want a First Minister...'**

- Break women into groups of 2 or arrange whole group reading.
- Recording each other.
- Listening back to audio quality.

**Activity 6: Evaluation Form**