



Dyski Organise Youth Assembly

Easy-read report

18-07-2026



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What is Dyski Organise?

Dyski [diss-key]

Kernewek, both 'to teach' and 'to learn'.

Born from grassroots movements for social and ecological justice, Dyski Organise works with young and intergenerational activists across the Cornish peninsula, with a clear aim: to connect and uplift the movements for change in our communities.

With a hopeful scene of activists and campaigners, we seek to facilitate collaboration through community events, skill sharing, and resource distribution.

All of this is done with the shared values of reciprocity, resilience, and mutual participation, building a prefigurative vision of the Kernow (Cornwall) we want to see. We want to build an understanding of the institutions and power structures that influence daily life, and help Cornwall's youth in changing them (or tearing them down).

But none of this could be possible without the support and guidance of the Alliance for Youth Organising.

The youth assembly

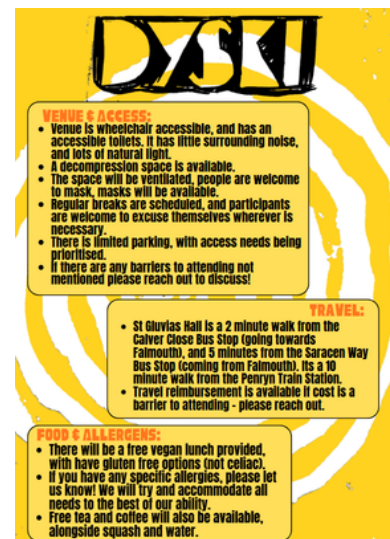
On the 18th of July 2026, Dyski Organise brought together organising groups from across Kernow. These groups were either explicitly youth focused, or if intergenerational, were asked for attendance from organisers aged between 18-35. The aim of this gathering was to map the youth organising scene in Kernow, to connect, collaborate, and learn from each other.

We convened in the midst of a heatwave, at St Gluvias Hall in Penryn. People representing a number of groups attended. Together they shared food, met new organisers, and connected over the desire for change in Kernow.



St Gluvias Hall during a break in the event

Groups reflected on their organising journeys, their successes and learnings, and imagined what could be possible for the Kernow organising movement, alongside the barriers to its realisation. These discussions were rich, and will support Dyski's ongoing workstreams.



The invite to the event, agenda, and accessibility information

Our values

Reciprocity

By centring reciprocity, young people can build a movement that is connected and collaborative. We encourage practical solidarity across groups in Kernow and across the world, recognising that we can be in service to one another through our work.

Resilience

To be resilient is to reject the 'boom and bust' cycles of organising that lead to urgency, overwhelm, and burnout, instead moving towards a sustainable approach that is connective and regenerative. Resilient people build resilient movements!

Participatory practice

Participatory ways of working ensure that all voices are heard and valued equally, and that hierarchies are not replicated in our work. In a culture that excludes and oppresses minorities we must actively and structurally plan for participation to allow people to engage in the movement in a meaningful way.

To put these values into practice during the event, we:

- Held discussions sat in circles, ensuring everyone had an equal opportunity to contribute and be listened to
- Encouraged active listening throughout the event
- Opened the space to diverse ways of contributing, be it through writing, drawing, or speaking
- Offered travel reimbursements for all participants should they need it
- Free food, hot and cold drinks, and plenty of breaks throughout the day



Who was there?

There were nine participants at the event representing groups from across Kernow. There were four Dyski Organise team members facilitating the event.

The groups represented were:

- Gwir dhe Wandra Kernow (Right to Roam Cornwall)
- ACORN Tenants Union
- Pesticide-free Penryn
- Ecological Citizenship
- Dr Soc Leftist football club
- Kernow Rydh
- Enlichen
- VaChina
- University and College Union (UCU)
- Palestine Solidarity Encampment
- Kernow anti-colonialists

Although attendees were encouraged to choose one group to represent, many young organisers wear different 'hats' and are organisers and/or members of several groups.

In total, we invited around 45 groups to attend the event. Some groups responded enthusiastically but couldn't make it on the day as they were at other events relevant to their organising. Other groups responded but could not offer a young representative. Some groups did not respond to our messages. We will continue developing relationships with all groups over the coming months.

What happened?

Over the course of the event, attendees participated in activities and discussions exploring what it would mean to have a thriving youth movement and how to build one from the connections we already have.

We began by exploring our own personal journeys of activism and organising, thinking about when we felt the most and least resilient, successful, energised, and why.

We then explored some questions regarding the resources our groups had access to, through a 'spectrum line' exercise. We began to explore the 'movement ecology' framework, discussing the value and tensions of working in the system, disrupting the system, and acting prefiguratively.

Finally, we held a people's assembly-style discussion. We addressed the questions:

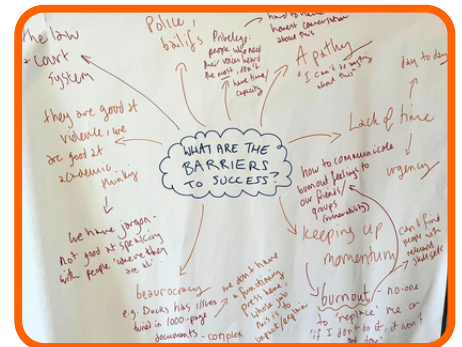
- In your group, where have you experienced success? What are the barriers to success happening more frequently?
- What would a thriving youth movement look like in Cornwall? What are the steps/barriers to achieving that?

Breakout discussions

In your group, where have you experienced success? What are the barriers to success happening more frequently?

Key themes:

- Lack of skills/ training/ strategy
- Systemic, cultural and legal barriers
- Internal group care
- Lack of capacity and connection



These are photos of our mind-maps from the event. Don't worry about trying to read them - all the information is typed out in this report!

What came up in each theme

Lack of skills/ training/ strategy:

- Groups identified the lack of skills as a barrier to their success. This is either in the form of retaining skilled organisers, access to advice and upskilling on how to organise, as well as how to develop successful strategies to achieve short/ long term goals.

Systemic, cultural and legal barriers:

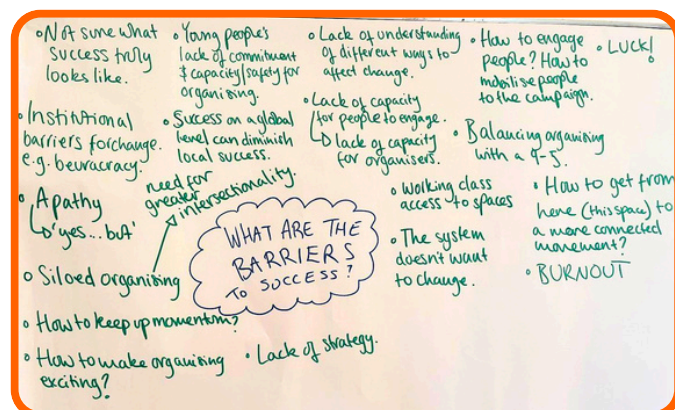
- This contains actors outside of the groups direct control that impact their ability to succeed. Including privilege and who feels welcome in organising spaces, the power of the state and legal system, and young people being disempowered or too busy working to engage.

Internal group care:

- Referring to personal resilience, group resilience and communication within their teams. Neglecting these factors leads to groups losing key organisers, teams breaking down, or creating a culture where new people don't want to join.

Lack of capacity and connection:

- This identified the lack of spaces and channels for communication between different groups in Kernow, and between groups here and those organising on the same issues internationally. Capacity issues arise from balancing jobs and other commitments with organising, and in turn limits groups ability to address the other themes above.



Breakout discussions

What would a thriving youth movement look like in Cornwall? What are the steps/barriers to achieving that?

Key themes:

- Movement collaboration
- Organising skills and culture
- Group resilience and strategy

What came up in each theme:

Movement collaboration:

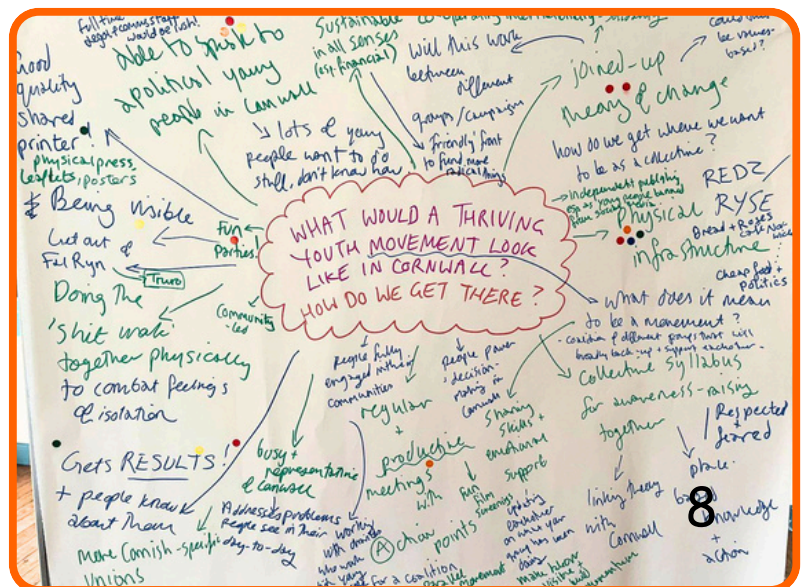
- Greater movement collaboration would create more successful groups and movements, this theme covers three areas: more connection between groups, access to shared resources, and collaborative, movement level projects.
- This could look like events created for communication between a range of groups, on strategy, collaboration opportunities and resilience. Alongside this, the movement would share resources such as physical spaces, printing capabilities, legal support and organising materials; all groups will contribute to and benefit from this. Groups would collaborate on movement level projects such as popular assemblies and organising hubs, creating a movement ecology approach to change.

Organising skills and culture:

- Improving organising skills and culture within the groups in Cornwall would allow the movement to thrive. This would look like the ability to better engage people on issues, learning from other local and international organising spaces, and embedding movement intersectionality to break down siloes between movements.

Group resilience and strategy:

- This includes whole group resilience alongside the development of more effective organising strategies.
- For resilience, this looks like opportunities for group debrief and reflection, and dedicated social events. On strategy, it can be learning from successful social movements, both past and current, and the inclusion of wider demographics and geographies in our organising.



Conclusion

What's next?

We're incredibly grateful to all groups who engaged with, and participated in, this event. Kernow is full with organising groups and a desire for change. This assembly allowed us to connect with organisers we'd never met, take stock of all we have achieved, and come together with a collective vision of a thriving, effective, and resilient organising movement. Through the thematic analysis of these rich discussions, multiple needs of the movement have emerged. We'll use this understanding to create work streams for Dyski, practically addressing these needs.

This could be through running projects, co-creating workshops, sharing resources, and convening events which bring groups together. Including, but not limited to:

- Workshops on resilience, strategy, and organising skills.
- Events which create space for movement collaboration.
- Resource distribution.
- 1-1 support with groups.

We're focussing on moving beyond just ideas, looking to materially and mutually support the vast Kernow organising scene.

Glossary

Kernow - This is the name for Cornwall in the Cornish language Kernewek. We use it where we can

Prefigurative - This is a way of living or doing politics that involves acting as if you have already achieved your aims. E.g. a movement that is working towards social justice would operate in a way that dismantles patriarchy, racism, and oppression

Active listening - This is the practice of fully-focused listening, rather than thinking of what you're going to say next

People's Assembly - A form of participatory democracy where discussion takes place in breakout circles and everyone gets an equal chance to speak. Can be used for discussions or decision-making

Organising - This is long term, gradual work, building strategy on goals which are aligned to the community need. It may build on and between existing structures and groups. Often described as 'spade work', it is constant, requiring knowledge, care, and dedication.

Activism - Often a tangible, visible thing - being 'politically active'. Can be seen as showing up to a protest or march, signing a petition, sharing information online, or direct action. This is often the visible output of organising, it's a moment to support and anchor the movement.

(Social) Movement - A loosely organised and sustained collective of people and groups acting towards a shared goal. They often have common social and political outlooks.

Movement Ecology - A way of looking at movements where all participating organisations have their own goals, methods, resource needs, and relationships that interact with one another, like plants and animals filling their niches in a biological ecosystem

Spectrum line - A practical exercise; one end of the line is 'agree' and the other is 'disagree'. Questions are asked to the group and they stand along the line that fits their answer. They are then encouraged to expand on their answer in a discussion

Appendix - Breakout discussions

In your group, where have you experienced success? What are the barriers to success happening more frequently?

- The law and court system
- Police and bailiffs
- Burnout - no-one to 'replace' me or 'if I don't do it, it won't get done'
- Can't find people with relevant skill sets, so have to learn how to do things from square one e.g. research skills
- How do we communicate burnout feelings to our friends/groups/comrades? This is quite a vulnerable conversation
- Lack of time - day to day and the sense of urgency
- General apathy across society "I can't do anything about this", "yes, but..."
- Privilege - people who need their voices heard most, don't have time or capacity and it's hard to have an honest conversation about this in the movement
- They are good at violence, we are good at academic thinking
- We have lots of jargon - not good at speaking with people 'where they are at'
- Bureaucracy, institutional barriers to change
- We don't have a functioning press here, whose job it is to unpack/explain bureaucracy and long, complex documents
- Keeping up momentum
- Not sure what success truly looks like
- Siloed organising- need for greater intersectionality
- How to make organising exciting?
- Lack of strategy
- Young people's lack of commitment and capacity/safety for organising
- Success on a global level can diminish local success
- Lack of understanding of different ways to affect change
- Lack of capacity for people to engage
- Lack of capacity for organisers
- Working class access to spaces
- The system doesn't want to change
- How to engage people? How to mobilise people to the campaign
- Balancing organising with a 9-5
- LUCK!
- How to get from here (this space) to a more connected movement?
- BURNOUT

Appendix - Breakout discussions

What would a thriving youth movement look like in Cornwall? What are the steps/barriers to achieving that?

We also encouraged people to place stickers next to the ideas they thought were most important or exciting. Each participant got 3 stickers each. The ideas that got stickered have an asterisk (*) next to them

- Good quality, shared printer* for a physical press, leaflets, posters, banners
- Being visible
- Fun, parties*
- Get out of FalRyn
- Doing the 'shit work' together, physically to combat feelings of isolation
- Gets results and people know about them* - celebrating wins
- More Cornish-specific unions
- Busy and representative of Cornwall
- Addresses problems people see in their day-to-day
- People fully engaged in their communities
- Regular and productive movement meetings with action points*
- People fully engaged with their communities
- In terms of younger young people (U18), a movement that works with charities that work with young people, developing a parallel movement for a coalition
- People-power decision-making in Cornwall
- Fun film screenings
- Sharing skills and emotional support e.g. it might be easier to disclose burnout feelings to someone you don't directly organise with
- Updating each other on what your group has been doing
- Make labour visible and build momentum
- Developing a collective syllabus for awareness-raising together, linking theory with Cornwall, to explore place-based knowledge and action
- What does it mean to be a movement? - a collective of different groups that will broadly back up and support each other
- Respected and feared
- Physical infrastructure* (like RYSE or Bread & Roses cafe) - cheap food and politics

Appendix - Breakout discussions

What would a thriving youth movement look like in Cornwall? What are the steps/barriers to achieving that?

- Independent publishing, especially as young people are being banned from social media
- How do we get where we want to be as a collective?
- Joined-up theory of change* (will this work between different groups/campaigns?) (Could this be values-based?)
- Co-operating internationally - solidarity
- Sustainable in all senses (especially financial)
- Developing a 'friendly' front to fund more radical things
- Able to speak to apolitical young people in Cornwall* (lots of young people want to do stuff, but don't know how)
- Full-time legal and comms staff would be lush
- Whole of Kernow is involved
- Hyper-regional hubs - less FalRyn centrism*
- Intersectionality* - bridging barriers
- Celebrate wins and create rituals of connection
- Learning and bringing resilience into spaces
- Centralised resources for capacity, funding, and intel
- Popular assemblies
- Learn from Rojava* - popular assemblies, mutual aid networks, polycentrism
- Reflection of wins and learnings
- Better transport
- Communicate across the movement - open and continual lines of dialogue* - create the network!
- Better transport
- Bring in the shared struggles
- Be welcoming and exciting to new people - something for everyone*, all welcome
- Groups share resources*
- Better networked - not top-down, polycentric
- Aware of barriers and limitations - accessible
- Vision and strategy for the movement
- Barriers to access are removed
- Active movement - groups back each other, have rest baked-in, doesn't mean we are busy 24/7

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