

ACTIVITY 6:

What do we mean by 'movements'?

Materials: paper and markers, handout: *Defining movements and movement-building*

Plenary: Introduce the activity and invite people to brainstorm:

- What is the first word that comes to mind when I say 'social justice movement'?

Note responses on a flip chart.

Share and discuss the quote from Srilatha Batliwala as a kick start and/or the handout: Movement story: *Treatment Action Campaign*.

Small groups: Discuss:

- In your experience, what is a social movement?
- How are social movements organised? How do they come together?

List five key elements of movement building on a flip chart.

Individually: Make a drawing that reflects what a social movement means to you.

Plenary: Each group posts their drawings on a wall and, after a brief gallery walk, groups read out their five points. Together, discuss what you've heard and create working definitions of 'a movement' and 'movement building'.

You might also ask:

- What are the features of different kinds of movements? Can you think of examples?
- How do movements operate? What are some key characteristics?
- What are some of the methods of organising, leadership, and decision-making?
- What formal or informal groups, alliances, or coalitions are movements made up of?
- And what do movements contribute to larger eco-systems of change?

Explore differences of opinion and areas of agreement.

Share the handout *Movements and movement building* for individuals to read to themselves or for a volunteer to read aloud. Then facilitate a plenary discussion.

- How do these definitions and stages enrich or contrast from our own definitions?
- How does this information help us understand movements that are active in our contexts and their contributions to change efforts?
- What is distinct or different about feminist movement building?
- How does our understanding of movements shape our ideas for how change happens?