ACTIVITY 7:

What blocks or generates collective power?

Materials: Flipchart with stickies/markers. Copies of handout: *Organising vs mobilising*.

Plenary: Experience and history demonstrate what prevents people from coming together and what helps people to converge.[1] As discussed in Chapter 4: Intersectionality, systems of oppression within movements can undermine organising effort while, by contrast, political choices and commitments can build equitable, aligned relationships for greater impact.

Small groups: Discuss, with examples:
* What undermines or creates conflict in our movement formations, communities or organisations when we work together to address issues?
* How can our differences in terms of identity and life experience create conflict or confusion?
* What kinds of behaviour, approaches and ways of working across differences enable us to work together better and feel stronger?

Prepare a five-minute skit or a group drawing to share with the whole group, dramatising two scenarios. what undermines and what enables coming together.

Plenary: Groups present their skits or drawings. Invite discussion after each one. Once all the groups have presented, together identify and name the enabling and undermining features. Note responses in two labelled columns:
* What prevents or undermines coming together and building our power?
* What enables us to come together for change?

Discuss each point on the list drawing from experience and examples.

Distil a list of the essentials for building collective power. Each person notes one essential factor that they feel needs attention in their organisation or group on a sticky and posts it on a separate flipchart or virtual board.

Distribute the handout: *Organising vs mobilising* and take a moment to read it. Discuss:
* What is the difference between organising and mobilising? How are they connected?
* What are some examples of ways that people have organised or mobilised to create change?
* What can activists do differently to support either organising or mobilising?

Draw out the differences between organising and mobilising and discuss why this matters. to *Strategies for transformative power* and select examples to discuss further.

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1 See "Sources and Uses of Power" in A New Weave of Power, People and Politics, pg. 42 and 56, and Defining Power and its Sources on We Rise.