

# Massembly Resources

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# Massembly Links

Thank you for taking part in the  
Massembly

Please follow the links below to the following resources:

[Massembly Information Cards](#)

[Click here to access Pol.is](#) - Pol.is sometimes closed between assemblies or for an update

[See a summary of the Massembly results from 31st August](#)

[See a summary of the Massembly results from 13th October](#)

[Find out what happens next](#)



# What happens next?

We hope that you have enjoyed taking part in the online assembly, and experiencing first-hand what it feels like to participate in deliberative democracy! Hopefully you should now have a clearer idea about how democracy could be upgraded and what XR is doing about it. So what happens next?

**See the results from the original Massembly on 31st August in the [summary report](#)**

**See the results from the 13th October online assembly in the [summary report](#)**

**Encourage others to join the conversation**

- We plan to run further assemblies using the same process, so that as many people as possible can take part.
- This may include inviting local groups to run their own assemblies, running a further online assembly, and using Pol.is directly to widen participation.

**Join XR!**

- [Sign up to find out more about how you can help](#)

**Other ways to learn more and get involved:**

- [For individuals] Learn more about [Citizens' Assemblies and XR's Third Demand](#)
- [For XR groups] [Take action on Citizens' Assemblies](#)
- [For individuals and XR groups] [Learn more about our campaign to promote Community Assemblies](#)
- [For individuals] [Support Zero Hour's campaign for the Climate and Nature Bill](#)

# Summary of Massembly

## Results: 31st August 2024

**Here are the results from Saturday 31st August's in-person and online Massemblies.**

Over 450 people took part in our incredible Massembly at Upgrade Democracy, to discuss the question: "How can we take meaningful steps to Upgrade Democracy?"

### **1. Citizens' Assemblies and Participatory Democracy**

- Advocacy for the widespread use of citizens' assemblies at local, regional, and national levels (e.g., replacing the House of Lords, setting up assemblies for long-term issues, starting at the local level to build trust).
- Emphasis on participatory budgeting and decision-making processes that involve ordinary citizens.
- Support for creating spaces and opportunities for grassroots democratic participation, including community assemblies and participatory budgeting.

### **2. Civic and Political Education**

- The need for better and earlier civic education, starting from primary school, to empower young people and encourage political engagement.
- Incorporation of political and ecological education, including rights of nature, to create a culture of informed and active citizenship.
- Promoting a culture of democracy through experiential learning in schools and community involvement.

### **3. Accountability and Transparency in Politics**

- Calls for effective mechanisms to hold elected representatives accountable, ensuring transparency in decision-making and reducing the influence of lobbyists and vested interests.
- Proposals for job descriptions for MPs, declarations of outside employment, and transparency in funding and lobbying.
- Introduction of independent bodies for fact-checking and monitoring disinformation.

### **4. Political Reform and Representation**

- Criticism of the current political system as serving a minority elite, with proposals for reforms to make it more representative and fair (e.g., replacing the House of Lords, limiting political donations).

- Support for fair and transparent government funding of political parties to reduce the influence of private and corporate interests.
- Encouraging inclusivity and diversity in political processes, ensuring that all voices, including marginalized groups, are heard and represented.

## **5. Environmental Protection and Rights of Nature**

- Advocacy for legal rights for nature and the criminalization of ecocide.
- Proposals to integrate environmental considerations into all aspects of policy-making, including the appointment of commissioners or legal guardians to protect future generations and ecosystems.
- Calls for a nature-based curriculum in schools and the protection of the interests of future generations.

## **6. Building Trust and Confidence in Democracy**

- Emphasis on rebuilding public trust in the political system through inclusive, transparent, and participatory processes.
- Encouragement of civic engagement and community involvement as a means to foster trust and counter populist movements.
- The role of local projects and assemblies in building understanding and confidence in democracy.

## **7. Long-term and Future-focused Governance**

- Proposals for creating positions like a Commissioner for Future Generations to ensure policies are assessed for their long-term impacts.
- Calls for policies and governance structures that consider the well-being of future generations and the planet.
- Use of frameworks like doughnut economics to assess policy decisions and their impact on planetary boundaries.

# Summary of Massembly

## Results: 13th October 2024

**Here are the results from Sunday 13 October online Massembly.**

We discussed the question: "How can we take meaningful steps to Upgrade Democracy?"

447 participants voted, 43,153 votes were cast, 96.54 votes per participant on average, 137 commented, 453 comments submitted.

### **1. Citizens' Assemblies and Participatory Democracy**

- Citizens' Assemblies offer inclusive platforms for deliberation on important issues, involving diverse voices and opinions.
- Citizens' Assemblies should be used at local, regional, and national levels, with legally binding decisions and integration into parliamentary processes.
- These assemblies are tools for rebuilding trust in democracy by involving ordinary citizens in decision-making.

### **2. Education for Democratic Participation**

- Civic and political education should begin early to develop responsible, engaged citizens who understand democracy and governance.
- Schools and educational institutions should implement assemblies and participatory budgeting to foster democratic practices.
- Media literacy and experiential learning are key to preparing future generations to resist misinformation and participate effectively.

### **3. Reducing Corporate and Private Influence**

- Corporate lobbyists, political donors, and mainstream media often wield disproportionate power, distorting democracy.
- Regulations are needed to limit donations, increase transparency in lobbying, and prevent private interests from influencing public policy.
- Fair media regulation, including accountability and fact-checking mechanisms, is crucial to protect the integrity of democracy.

### **4. Long-term Thinking and Future Generations**

- Decision-making should prioritise long-term impacts, taking into account the well-being of future generations and environmental sustainability.

- Legal frameworks should recognize the rights of nature, criminalise ecocide, and integrate environmental protection into democratic processes.
- A Future Generations Commission or Commissioner should assess policies for their impact on the unborn and natural ecosystems.

## **5. Transparency and Accountability in Governance**

- Transparent decision-making processes and public accountability are essential for restoring trust in politics.
- Governments should publicly record expert advice and decisions, ensuring that citizens understand the reasoning behind policies.
- Transparency in political funding and lobbying is necessary to reduce undue influence and promote fair, evidence-based decisions.

## **6. Inclusivity and Diversity in Decision-Making**

- Democracy should be inclusive, promoting representation of marginalised groups and fostering gender equality and diverse community participation.
- Grassroots initiatives, such as participatory budgeting and local assemblies, help empower underrepresented voices in the political process.
- Special provisions should be made to include non-voters (e.g., children and future generations) in decision-making.

## **7. Reforming Democratic Structures**

- The structure of political institutions, such as the House of Lords and electoral processes, needs reform to better represent citizens.
- Deliberative and participatory processes, such as Citizens' Assemblies, should replace outdated and hierarchical systems.
- Introducing non-oppositional, collaborative decision-making spaces could enhance democratic functionality and reduce polarisation.

# Have your say via Pol.is

Pol.is voting is currently closed.

Extinction Rebellion UK is developing our own Pol.is platform. Check back here for the link to XRUK's Pol.is - coming soon!



# Online Assembly

This event is now over and result can be found [here](#)

As a continuation of the Massembly in August, we are organising a further online assembly on **Sunday 13th October, 18:30-21:00** to once again consider the question:

**“How might we take meaningful steps to upgrade democracy?”**

Bring your ideas and imagination, discuss these with others and decide together. This is deliberative democracy in action!

**Register for the [online assembly here](#)**

Note: We recommend joining on a laptop. Tech support will be available.

- Increase awareness of the need to upgrade democracy
- Understand the opportunities and possibilities
- Demonstrate the value of the processes and build greater support for XR's Third Demand - a Citizens' Assembly on Climate and Ecological Justice.

## Be prepared!

- Reading the [Information Cards](#) which will be used in the assembly really helps. Or just turn up and join in!
- Watch the [Assemblies Facilitator training video](#) if you would like to take the role of assembly facilitator in your small break-out group.
- View the [Summary of Results](#) from our last Massembly on Saturday 31st Aug.

## What happens next

A summary of the results will be made available after the assembly, together with suggestions of steps to take forward.

### **More information on deliberative democracy:**

- XR's Third Demand: [A Citizens' Assembly on Climate and Ecological Justice](#)
- Read more about [Community Assemblies](#)
- Join the [Community Assemblies](#) Telegram chat.