

WOMEN'S MARCH SYDNEY

Hosting a Huddle Toolkit

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Overview

Huddle (noun) - a small group of people holding an informal conversation

Starting in the first 10 days of February, we will gather together in neighbourhoods all over the world to define our next steps as a movement, and envision how to transform the energy we saw at Women's Marches into local and national direct action.

Beyond marching, hosting a huddle is another way to mobilize millions to take action to help create the world we want.

We'll visualize what a more democratic, just, safer and freer world could look like five years from now -- and we'll work backwards to figure out what we need to do, starting today, to get there. Huddles are meant to be positive, inclusive, action-oriented and productive.

You don't need to have done anything like this before to host a huddle. All you need is a small group of friends, family, neighbours and fellow marchers, this guide, and a space to meet.

Your

role as a host is a critical part of how we keep the Women's March spirit alive, build the movement beyond those who marched, and set a concrete plan of action.

With the help of women's march volunteers, we've pulled together this guide, an agenda, and some basic tools for you to use at your huddle, but this is flexible! If you already know your group's next actions, or you're already planning on hosting a larger planning meeting, feel free to use, change or discard as much of this as you want.

I. GETTING STARTED

STEP ONE: Invite Members of Your Community

Pull together a group of up to 15 people for your huddle. Invite people who joined you at Women's March, neighbours, friends, family, coworkers or anybody else who might want to take action, even if they didn't go to the Women's March.

Try to invite people who you might not engage in conversation with by sharing the event with local community centers, neighborhood groups, or posting on neighborhood forums.

STEP TWO: Choose a Location

Choose a location that can accommodate your group. It could be somebody's living room, a local cafe, park or community space.

The more public, the better - this doesn't need to cost money. Ask your local community centres, religious halls, or meet at a public space.

STEP THREE: Choose a Date

Choose a date between now and 30 April, and register your Huddle at:

https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/first-we-marched-now-we-huddle

The more Huddles listed on the map, the stronger case that can be made for the Women's March as a movement, rather than a moment.

For *private Huddles*, restrict the public RSVP function on your event page by setting maximum RSVPs at one and registering as the only guest. Your Huddle event page on the map should, at the minimum, include contact information (email/number), time, location, a brief event description and a designated max number of RSVPs.

STEP FOUR: Choose a Facilitator & Get Supplies

Choose one person to be a meeting facilitator. It could be you, but it doesn't have to be. The facilitator isn't in charge of bringing a new action plan to the group, just making sure that the logistics are in place, the meeting runs smoothly, and that everybody feels included. Bring some post-its/papers, pens and blank paper. We'll need these for the vision and planning exercises.

II. THE AGENDA

Your Huddle doesn't need to last longer than 90 minutes, but can be as long as you want! Here's a quick overview of the agenda, with detailed facilitator notes below. Feel free to adjust the time that you allot to each activity or modify individual activities to fit your unique Huddle.

GOALS

- For local marchers to meet each other and build a community of support for collective action in their area
- Define what their vision for a future they want to see is and how they can enact change
- Discuss specific actions to make that vision a reality and how those actions can be implemented

Time	Activity
20 minutes	Welcome! Welcome everybody, introduce yourself, describe the Huddle goals and go over the agenda.
20 minutes	What We Did Next. The group envisions what winning in 5 years looks like.

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30 minutes	Can't Stop. Won't Stop. This is the part of the agenda where we discuss upcoming action opportunities.
5 minutes	Make a Commitment. Here's where we decide on some specific action steps each person wants to commit to taking.
10 minutes	Closing with Action! If you have extra time, write an email to send to your MP's. You can search for MP contact details by ministry and electorate here: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members

III. WELCOME

STEP ONE - Introductions:

Introduce yourself, and share one sentence about what brought you to the meeting. Go around the room and have each person introduce themselves and share one sentence about what brought them to the meeting.

STEP TWO - Moment of Inspiration & Action:

Then have each person turn to the person next to them and answer the following questions (5 mins):

- Hope: The Women's March was incredibly inspiring, but given the actions since, we've all felt a lot of outrage and frustration. What is one moment or thought in the past few days that has given you some hope?
- Concern: What is something that most concerns you about this moment?
- Action: What is the one thing that most inspires you to act in response to this concern? What would that action look like?

STEP THREE - Explain the Goals of the Huddle:

Take a few minutes to explain the agenda (above) and goals of this huddle:

- For local marchers to meet each other and build a community of support for collective action in their area
- Define what their vision for a future they want to see is and how they can enact change
- Discuss specific actions to make that vision a reality and how those actions can be implemented

IV. WHAT WE DID NEXT

What We Did Next is a way to envision the world we want 5 years from now, one in which freedom, justice, human rights and democracy are held sacred rather than threatened. Make sure each person has a pen and a piece of paper for this exercise.

STEP ONE - Imagine:

Say to your huddle: “Close your eyes -- take a minute to imagine a world five years in the future -- in 2022 -- one in which our movement has won. What does that world look like? What does that world feel like to live in, to you?” Pause for a minute, then ask people to open their eyes and describe that world to the group.

STEP TWO - Define:

Ask your huddle participants to grab a piece of paper and pen. Say: “Imagine you’re a reporter in 2022 and you’re writing the front - page story of how the Women’s March of 2017 turned into a global movement for justice and freedom. Take 5 minutes to write a headline, a few sentences of an article. What actions did we take together? What strategies did we pursue? How did we practically transform our communities?”

STEP THREE - Share:

Wait for 5 mins as people -- and you -- complete their headlines. After 5 mins, pull the group back together and have anybody who wants to share their What We Did Next article with the group share it and discuss.

What themes are similar among all of them? What actions and strategies are consistent? What might that tell you about how your group might want to take action over the next few months? Before you move on, make sure to take a group photo with everybody holding their What We Did Next visions, and share it on social media using the hashtag #HUDDLE and #WomensMarchSydney

V. CAN'T STOP. WON'T STOP.

Create a timeline of strategies and actions for your group. It's time to take our What We Did Next vision and surface some practical actions steps our group can take. Make sure each person has a pen and a piece of paper for this exercise.

STEP ONE - Brainstorm Actions:

Say: "I'd like you to think about the different actions and work that you've been involved with -- or are interested in becoming involved with -- since the Women's March that relate to the vision we just talked about. What are some of the action, events, or activities you've been involved in or hope to be involved in? Take some time to think and then write them on pieces of paper."

Give people some way to record each activity separately so they can be posted. You can use scraps of paper with tape, post-it notes, or butchers paper that people write on directly with markers.

Give people no more than 5 minutes to do this. The longer you give people, the more things they will come up with and the longer the debrief. Many groups can do this without being too rushed in about 7 minutes.

For additional information, check out the following resources for further inspiration on actions:

Women's March Sydney FB page: www.facebook.com/womensmarchsydney/

Women's March Washington: <https://www.womensmarch.com/100/action2>

Women's March London: <https://www.womensmarchlondon.com/action-2/>

STEP TWO - Share Actions:

Ask: "Let's share what we've come up with. Let's start with actions you've already done since the march, go ahead and shout them out." For some people who move constantly, it can be rewarding to see that they have indeed done a lot ("Ah! That's why I'm so tired!"). For other people, they might invite people to share reflections. Ask: "Now, let's discuss actions we want to do, ideas, plans? Feel free again to just share as you see fit."

STEP THREE - Discuss Actions:

Take a few minutes to discuss the actions and strategies people have mentioned. Which ones have the most energy behind them? Which ones feel like they have some actionable steps that participants in your huddle can take on in the next few weeks?

VI. MAKE A COMMITMENT

Now it's time to make a commitment to taking one action. Make sure each person has a pen and a piece of paper for this exercise.

STEP ONE - Make a Pledge:

Go around in a circle and ask every participant to write down a pledge to ONE action they will take in the next ten days based on the ideas the team brainstormed. These can be actions that they take as individuals or actions that the entire group takes together -- BIG or SMALL!

STEP TWO - Share Your Pledge:

Ask: "Let's share what we've come up with. We'll go in a circle and read our pledges."

STEP THREE - Post Your Pledge:

Ask everyone to take a photo with their pledge and post a picture on social media with the hashtags #HUDDLE and #WomensMarchSydney

VII. CLOSING & NEXT STEPS

Thank everyone for coming and determine a time to meet again if you're able. It's best to select a person who will host and a date that works for everyone while you are all still at the meeting. As facilitator, note these down so you can send a follow-up reminder.

Have the participants swap contact information if you don't have it so you can stay in touch. Be sure to follow up either the night of the meetup or the morning after thanking the participants for attending, providing a meeting recap, inspiring them to stick to their commitments and information about the next huddle.

And **THANK YOU** for taking action for a better future.