

(Virtual)

People's Assemblies

Part of the global mobilization Global Week of Action
#Act4SDGS

TOOLKIT



**Global
Call to Action
Against Poverty**

People Rising to End Inequalities



**ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Key Information

What: Virtual People's Assemblies for Health, Social Protection and Climate Justice - national and constituency assemblies

When: September 2021

As part of the Global Week of Action, 17 to 28 September 2021, A number of key CSO partners are supporting national mobilization for a healthy, green and just recovery- building key steps towards free and universal Vaccination (People's Vaccine) & social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic, linking to Agenda 2030.

Outcome: 1-2 page "Demand Charter" with key demands to send to heads of state & decision makers and media.

Website: <https://gcap.global/peoples-assembly>

Hashtags: #PeoplesAssembly2021 and #GreatRecovery



Objectives

- Virtual **People's Assemblies** organized by civil society with representatives of the people with **marginalized voices at the center** to analyze crucial issues and plan together.
- The People's Assemblies **develop key demands and messages for decision makers** to take proactive policy decisions to address the concerns of the people during the COVID-19 crisis e.g. the vaccination, livelihood and social protection and the implementation of the Agenda 2030.
- The People's Assemblies implement the principles to ***Leave No One Behind*** principle and the ***Furthest Behind First***.
- National People's Assemblies feed into global discussions and the **Global Peoples' Assembly as part of the Global Week of Action**.



Political Situation

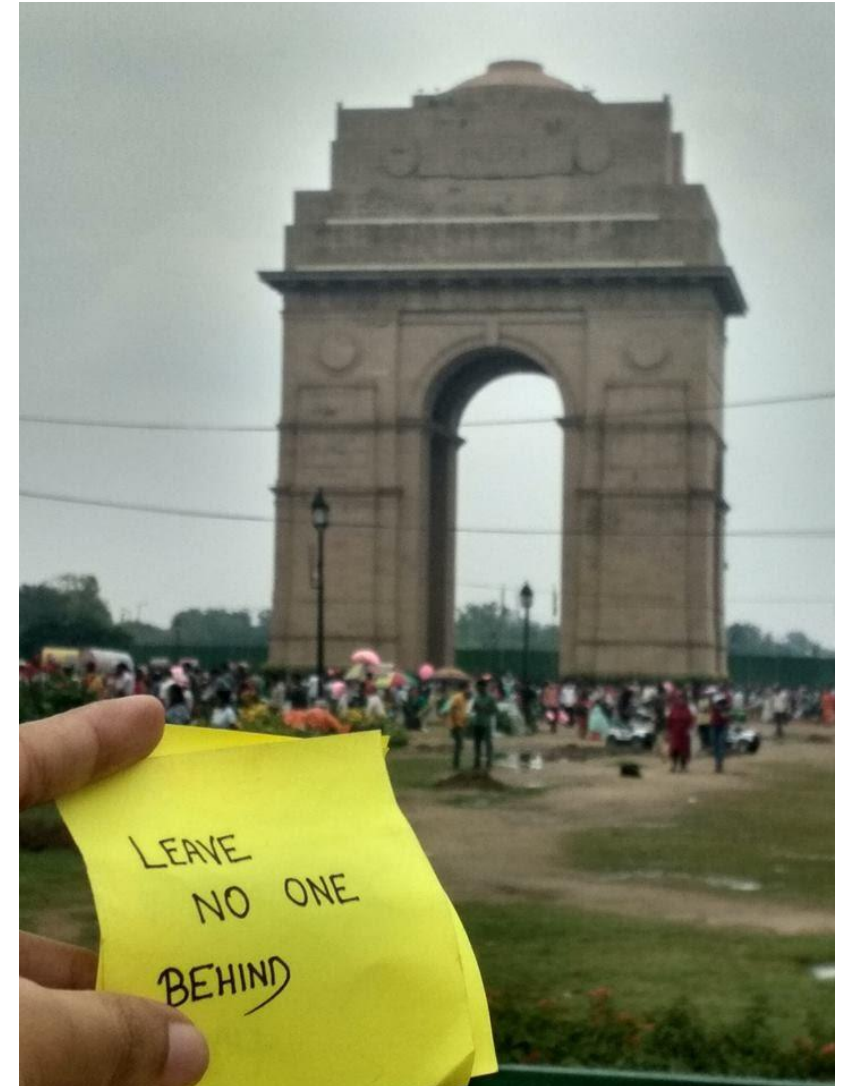
The Covid-19 pandemic is widening inequalities and has vast impacts on the wider social, economic and environmental fabric of the world.

Many people are facing unprecedented challenges in Africa, South Asia, Latin America and across the world. Inequalities in the face of the pandemic have exacerbated a glaring lack of access to health care and social protections; as well as sparking an alarming rise of violence against women and girls.

Older people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, persons discriminated based on work and descent, migrants, women, transgender people, and children are suffering in multiple ways due to the pandemic as the world looks on in shame.

Inequality in vaccination among and within countries is also posing new challenges and must be met with robust global solidarity.

Civil society plays a key role in advocating and implementing much needed change to tackle the structural causes of poverty and inequalities. Civil society groups have been pushing governments for vaccine equity and social protection; and demanding that they implement the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind; but the results have been very limited so far...



Great Recovery Letter

Our world is at a turning point. We need to transform a system that is no longer fit for purpose, and this time it will take all of us.

Many civil society groups and key activists from around the world have been coming together in this critical year to urge leaders to step up in this Decisive Decade to lead this effort – to uphold universal principles of care and cooperation, human rights and gender equality; support a zero carbon economy and green jobs; and ensure we crack the converging crises of COVID-19, injustice, climate change and nature loss.

We are calling for a Great Recovery Plan with action in three key areas, to power a future that is: Healthy, Green & Just.

This includes the following main points:

- Healthy: vaccines for all, universal healthcare
- Green: commitment to delivering on the Paris Agreement principles of cutting carbon emission to guarantee no more than 1.5C temperature rise
- Just: a new social contract that guarantees human rights and also delivers a fairer economic system!

You can sign here: <https://greatrecovery.net> #GreatRecovery

Or create your [own letter to your leader here](#)

**GREAT
RECOVERY
PLAN**



Bottom up process



The People's Assemblies can be organised by any interested communities, constituency groups or wider civil society at local and sub-national level. Representatives should have the chance to present their perspectives at national, regional and global levels.

The participants should identify their own issues and concerns; analyse the structural causes; discuss and develop a set of demands; and then devise joint steps to address these demands. The meetings could be organised by various identity-based groups and/or thematic groups, or by specific CSO networks. These should be embedded in a bottom-up process to ensure that marginalized voices are part of all levels of decision making.

Key steps for the People's Assemblies 2021:

1. **Community and Constituency group meetings/calls- August 2021**
2. **National virtual People's Assemblies held- early September 2021**
3. **Regional People's Assemblies of constituencies- mid September**
4. **An online Global People's Assembly will be held to share views during the Global Week of Action (17-28 September 2021)**

People's Assembly 2019

GCAP organized the first global [People's Assembly](#) in New York on **24-25 September 2019** in parallel with the UN SDG Summit and to create a space for civil society to jointly analyse the structural reasons for the injustices, act and plan for coordinated actions to create systemic change to realise the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The main themes of the People's Assembly in 2019 were:



Voice



In/equality



Climate &
Environmental Justice



[Play video of People's Assembly 2019](#)

It was coordinated by GCAP with 21 civil society partners and brought together **300 civil society delegates, from 80 countries and over 200 organisations**, representing thousands of people especially those who are marginalized and whose voices would not otherwise be heard, much less given seats in the UN.

Based on the inputs and discussions the [Peoples' Assembly Declaration](#) was developed. The representatives called on governments to adopt more responsive policies and implement radical economic measures to stave off the devastation of the earth.

Themes of People's Assemblies 2021

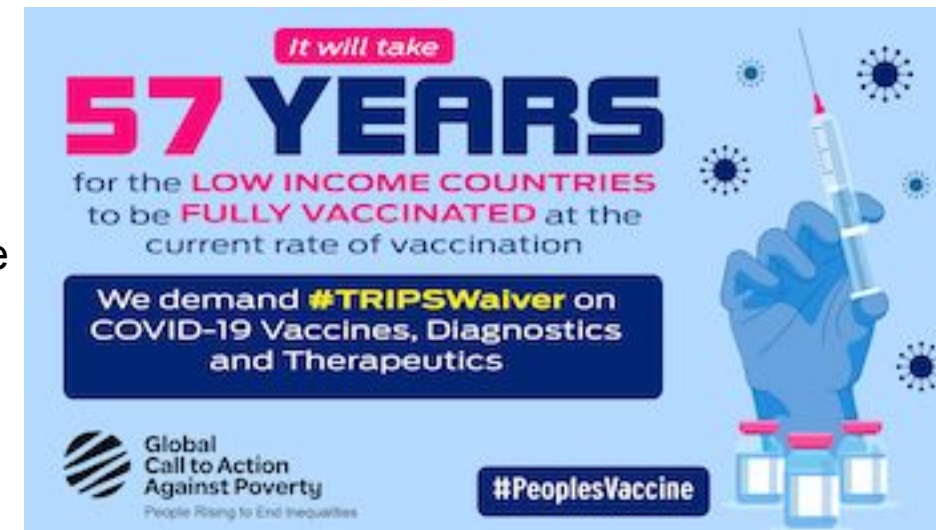
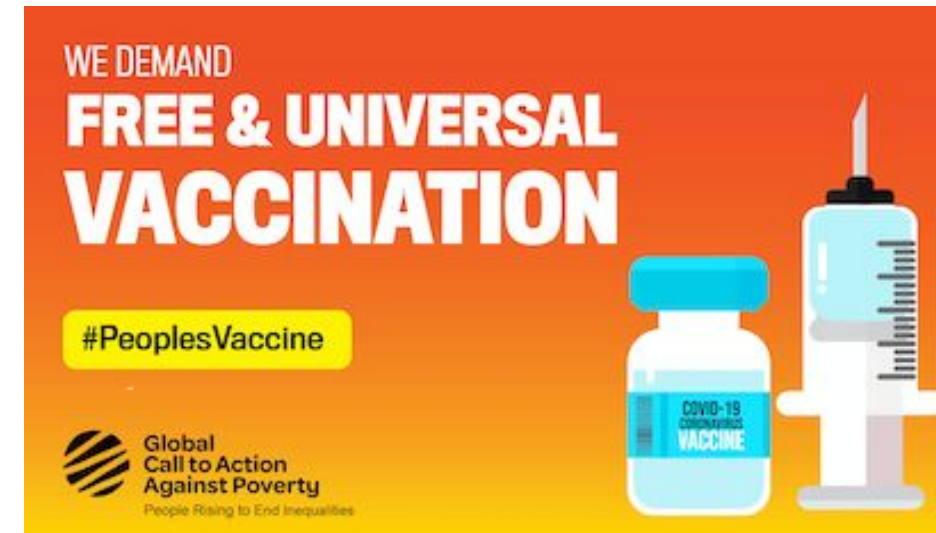
People's Assembly on Health, Social Protection and Climate Justice

Rationale: Covid 19 has exposed the structural inequalities entrenched in societies. The poor have suffered while certain big corporations have reaped huge profits.

The protection measures undertaken by governments to address hunger and offer livelihood opportunities lost by marginalized people during the pandemic have been inadequate

COVID vaccines, which have been developed largely thanks to public investment, are now being SOLD to make HUGE PROFITS for large pharmaceutical companies

Several rich countries are opposing the demand for a **#TRIPSWaiver** to ensure the lifting of patents on COVID vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. While rich countries have cornered most of the vaccines produced, at the same time low and middle income countries are struggling to get even the bare minimum SO, we the people, demand a PEOPLE'S VACCINE, full social protection and adequate measures to revive the livelihood of the marginalized and vulnerable communities!



National People's Assemblies - 2021

How to organise a national People's Assembly 2021?

Given the circumstance, National People's Assemblies 2021 can be held virtually. Wherever permissible, you could consider to do it in person, following COVID norms.

Objectives of the national level People's Assemblies:

- To bring together community and constituency representatives from across the country together in a broad dialogue
- Collate and articulate the issues and demands of people emerging from local assemblies so that they can develop their own demand charter
- Discuss the COVID-19 situation relating to loss of lives, vaccination, social protection and livelihood and link to the SDGs
- Bring Parliamentarians face to face with the people to hear and respond to their demands
- Engage with the global process of organising People's Assemblies by sending their demand charters to be shared in the Global Assembly



National People's Assemblies - 2021



We encourage you to invite different constituency groups to prepare their inputs into the National People's Assembly:

- Youth
- Women
- Older people
- Persons with disabilities
- Other marginalized communities: esp. indigenous and DWD

Optional: Assemblies at constituency and local level

In preparation for the national assembly, local communities and constituency groups can come together to deliberate and capture their analysis, messages and demands on vaccine inequalities, livelihood and social protection, climate and environment issues and civic space. These community meetings or equality circles feed into the People's Assemblies at the national level.

Such **local and sub-national meetings** are optional. National coalitions are encouraged to organise subjects to their capacity to capture voices at the grassroots level.

People and communities come together to:

- Analyse the COVID-19 situation relating to loss of lives, vaccine inequality, social protection and livelihood
- Analyse inequalities people and communities are facing
- Give inequalities a face
- Formulate demands to end inequalities in the community, nationally and globally
- Prepare the inputs for the National People's Assembly
- Decide on actions

National People's Assemblies - 2021

Format: Online gatherings to discuss issues and develop key demands and messages

National coalitions or any civil society groups are encouraged to organize online meetings and to collaborate with other networks to bring together voices from marginalized communities to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on people who are being left behind.

Who participates and speaks?

The focus of the peoples' assemblies is **to ensure no one is left behind.**



You should Invite and encourage representatives of/from groups including:...

- Women
- Youth & children
- Indigenous Peoples & ethnic minorities
- Persons with disabilities
- Older people
- Dalits and other groups discriminated by work and descent (DWD)
- Slum dwellers
- Sex workers
- Religious minorities
- LGBTIQ
- Farming communities
- Daily wage earners and unorganised sector workers
- Fisher communities
- Migrants and refugees
- other grassroots voices.

National People's Assemblies - 2021

Format of Online People's Assemblies:

Example agenda

1. Welcome by National Coalition/network (*10 minutes*)
2. Inputs on the situation in light of COVID-19, loss of lives, vaccination, social protection and livelihood, SDGs and on Leave No One Behind and Inequalities (*80 minutes*)
 - Women's organisation representative
 - Youth representative
 - Older person representative
 - Women with Disabilities representative
 - DWD representativeDiscussion
3. Discussion and agreement of key demands and statement (*30 minutes* - potential small groups of additional 30-45 minutes)
4. Planning for the follow up actions and the Global Week of Action (*20 minutes*)

What are the expected outcomes?

1. **Agreed demand charter/statement:** One or two pages with key demands, to be shared together with your own version of the Great Recovery letter:
 - send to your Head of State/Government
 - send to the media
 - share inputs in the Global People's Assembly
2. **Social media posts:** Each National virtual People's Assembly should share at least one post on both Facebook and Twitter, using the hashtags #PeoplesAssembly2021 and #GreatRecovery, tagging GCAP and Action for Sustainable Development:
Facebook: @GlobalCalltoActionAgainstPoverty
Twitter: @whiteband & @action4sd
3. **Mobilisation for Global Week of Action:** National plans for the week of action should be finalised during the assembly and participants mobilised to participate.

National People's Assemblies - 2021

Do you need support?

Please contact your Regional Coordinator if you need any of the following

1. **Organising the virtual People's Assembly:** The GCAP Global Secretariat can help with technical support to organize your Assembly on Zoom.

- Are you planning a big meeting: 500+ people?
- Do you need break out rooms?
- We can help with the technical management while you focus on the content.



People's Assembly Programme

2. **Developing the programme:** Ideas and advice on...

- Whom to invite
- How to structure the programme

3. **Publication:**

- Designing the invitation
- Publication on the People's Assembly webpage, newsletter, emails and social media

Date and time	Church Center Room 1 (2 nd floor)	Church Center Room 2 (10 th floor)	Church Center Room 3 (9 th floor)
24 Sept 2019	Tuesday		
9:00 – 11:00	Opening Plenary: Representatives from movements from different parts of the world including an indigenous leader from the Amazonas, a young woman from an informal settlement in Nairobi, and a Dalit representative from India, as well as speakers including Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur in extreme poverty and human rights and Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International		
11:15 – 12:45	Climate and environmental justice	Leave No One Behind: Discrimination based on work and descent (DWD)	Peace and Conflict, Transparency & Accountability

Global Week of Action – 2021

The People's Assemblies are part of the mobilization during the Global Week of Action (September 17 – 18, 2021)

The People's Assemblies should...

- ... prepare actions for/or be an action during the Global Week of Action **#turnitaround** including the press and advocacy work (see *next slide*) or
- ... **an action for the Global Week of Action**, for example on the 25 September – the 6th Anniversary of the SDGs.

There will be significant mobilization during the Global Week of Action.

- More information is also available from the SDG Action Campaign website here: <https://act4sdgs.org/>
- A major joint action of youth climate groups will be a [Global Day of Climate Action](#) at the end of September 2021



Tag GCAP on...

Facebook:

[@GlobalCalltoActionAgainstPoverty](#)



Twitter: [@whiteband](#)



Advocacy with MPs and Governments

- **Know the background of the Minister/MP/representative:** Know whom you should approach, and study if that person is likely to support your cause or not.
- **Schedule a meeting:** Contact the office of the representative (mayor, senator, member of Parliament) and seek a meeting by sending a letter via email or telephone.
- **During the meeting:** A meeting may last 20-30 minutes. Do your homework before the meeting. Thank the representative for the meeting. Decide the number of delegations and who will speak what.
- **Presentation:** Hand over the following:

a. 2 to 3 page demand charter, b. GCAP Position paper 2021, c. The Great Recovery Letter <https://greatrecovery.net>

- Make a brief presentation on the issue of COVID -19 and its impact on marginalised people; you can share key messages on the need for vaccine equity, social protection and decent livelihoods. State key expectations from the representative. Listen to his/her response and follow up if they need more information or support.
- **What benefit the representative may receive:** Whenever possible, you can highlight to the representative that taking this issue forward may be beneficial to him/her and their party.



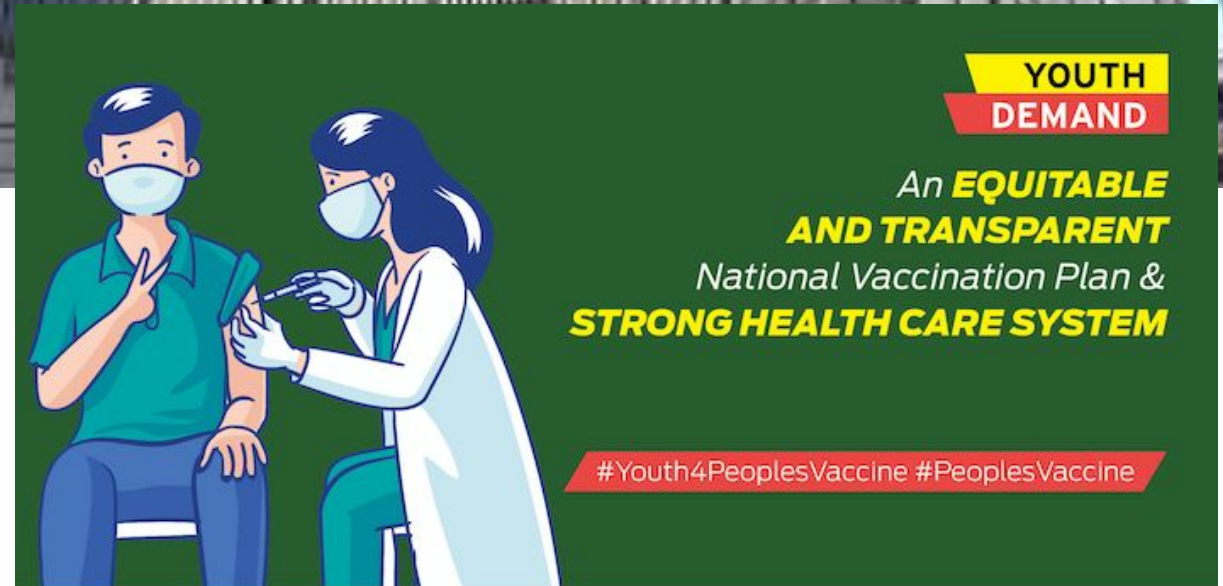
How?

- Letters to the Head of State or Government
- Meeting the head of state representatives or key officials at the end of the People's Assembly or afterwards
- Influencing political party manifestos based on outcomes
- Follow up meetings: September –

Global Advocacy

The UN General Assembly High Level Week in September 2021, starting with the follow up to the 75th Anniversary of the UN, and including the 6th anniversary of the SDGs on 25 September, provides an ideal moment to advocate for transformative policies as part of the Global Week of Action 2021.

As a follow up to the national Peoples' Assemblies, we will jointly organize a Global People's Assembly to bring the political demands raised at the grassroots and national dialogues to decision makers at the UN. In the spirit of "Nothing About Us Without Us" representatives of groups left behind will lead the dialogues.



Press Engagement

Press conference & sending outcomes to media

- The media can be a powerful tool for **promoting accountability** in relation to government actors.
- Press releases, interviews, and informal media contacts are excellent ways of getting your message across.
- After the People's Assembly, you can organize a press conference to share your key outcomes.

How to organize a Press Conference?

- **Contact the media:** Send a Media Invitation to media contacts in your country asking them to join the Press Conference. Follow up over the phone to seek confirmation.
- Identify the **panel who will address the media**. Wherever possible, priority should be given to speakers from marginalised communities
- Define the **key demands/messages** from the Assembly. Summarize it in 3-5 clear points to the press.
- Develop a **press kit**, a folder of information to give reporters background info about your issue or program.
- Be **clear and concise** in your speech. Share lived experience from communities, assume the audience is intelligent and curious.



Op-Eds and TV debates

- Meet Editors and columnists - discuss issues, share material, and request to write columns, Op-Eds
- Identify people in your campaign to write Op-Eds
- Engage separately with Audio-Visual media and share suggestions for coverage and debates
- Take TV reporters to community areas and facilitate an interface with the local residents

Draft press release template

Share your plans with us!

Are you organising a People's Assembly?

Let us know and share details of the link and timing!

We will highlight them in our platforms.

Send us your key demands to share and incorporate into the Global People's Assembly

CONTACT US

FILL IN OUR [ONLINE FORM HERE](#)

**Or send an email to
info@gcap.global**



Technical aspects

Do you need access to or help with a Zoom? Please get in touch!



Global Call to Action Against Poverty

People Rising to End Inequalities

<https://gcap.global>



**ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

<https://action4sd.org>

