



SOUTH AFRICA'S INCOMPLETE LIBERATION: NEOLIBERALISM, MUNICIPALITIES & DEMOCRACY

*International Labour Research and Information Group
(ILRIG)*



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- Introductions & expectations
- Outline of the programme
- Aims of the workshop
- House rules & terms of engagement
- “Post-mortem group”

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

	Activity 1: Welcome and Introduction
09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions & expectations• Outline of the programme• Aims of the workshop• House rules & terms of engagement• Post-mortem group
	Activity 2: Group discussion
10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the experiences & lessons learnt when organising the community on civil society activism? Do we know & understand about the governance of municipalities & the role of civil society organisations or social movements?
	Activity 3: Reflections on the present political state in S.A.
11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The political history & development of the civic movements in South Africa (Pre-1994)• The role of civil society & social movements in the changed political landscape in S.A. (Post-1994)• Participatory democracy & accountability• Neoliberalism, civil rights & democracy• Protest vs grievance procedure
	Activity 4: Group discussion
12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is to be done? Possible actions?• Strategies & methods to organise & mobilise communities for actions
13:00	LUNCH BREAK
	Activity 5: Breaking the barriers to freedom
14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective & efficient forms of organisations• New forms of civil society movements• Case studies & similarities to South African experiences
	Activity 6: Group discussion
15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development & draft of local (west-rand regional) political education programme activity plan• Establishment & implementation of a coordination task teams for sub-regional areas (Rand-west, Mogale and Merafong)
15:45	Concluding remarks
15:55	Vote of thanks

AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

- To share & learn from activists' experiences of community organising & civil society activism;
- To assess activists' knowledge and understanding of municipal governance & the role of civil society organisations & social movements;
- To give an overview of the political history & development of civic movements in South Africa, pre-1994;
- To examine the role of civil society & social movements in the changed political landscape, post-1994;
- To introduce the concepts of participatory democracy & accountability;
- To explore the relationships between neoliberalism, civil rights & democracy;
- To discuss the relationship between protest & grievance procedures;
- To explore what can be done to address people's problems in the community & what kinds of actions can be taken;
- To explore strategies & methods for organising & mobilising our communities for action;
- To explore what effective & efficient forms of organisation might entail;
- To discuss new forms of civil society organisation & social movements;
- To present case studies of new forms of organisation & similarities and relevance to South African experiences;
- To develop a draft local (west-rand regional) political education programme & activity plan;
- To establishment coordination task teams for sub-regional areas (Rand-west, Mogale and Merafong)



ACTIVITY 2: GROUP DISCUSSION

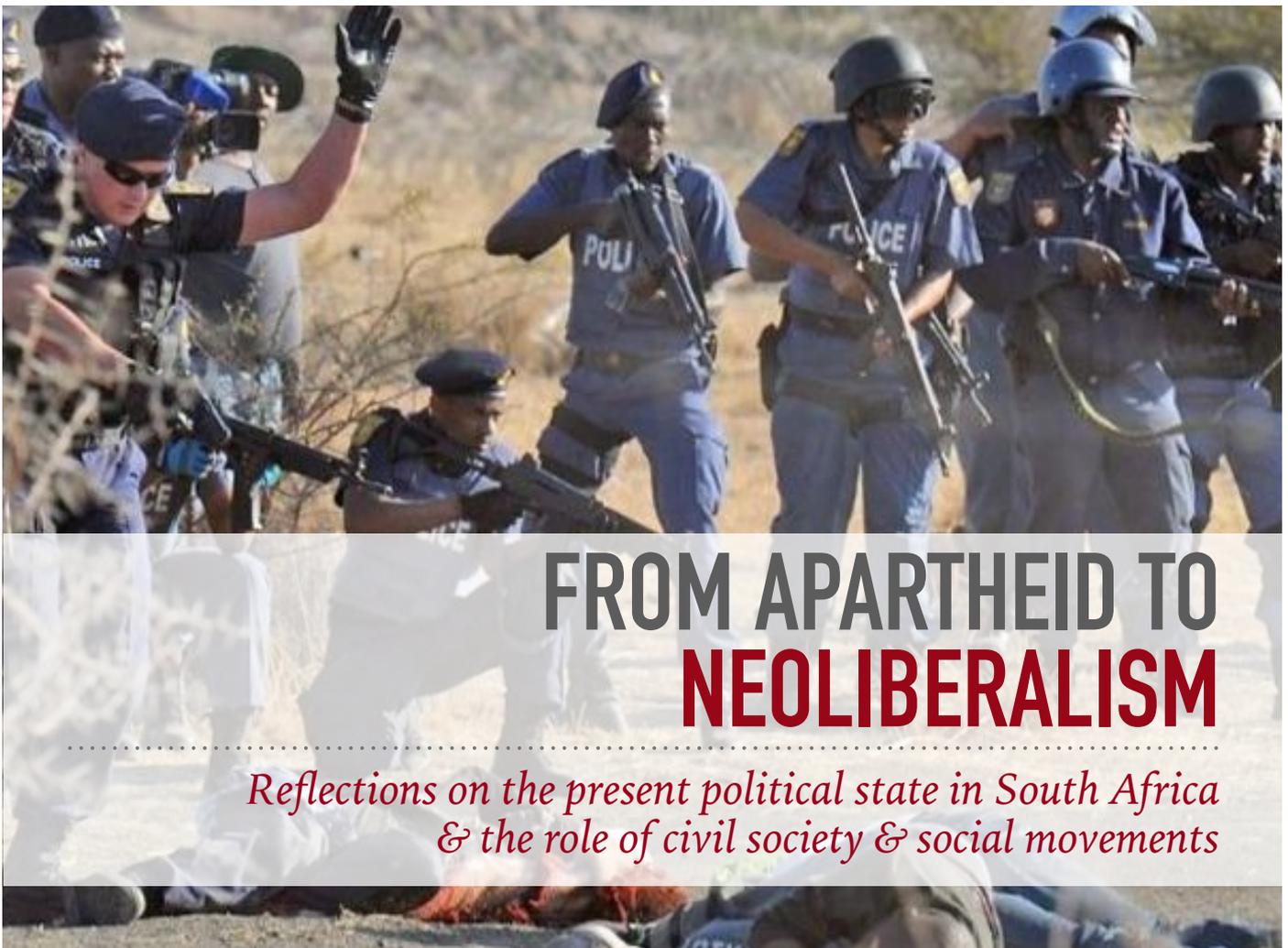
- Experiences of community organising & civil society activism & lessons learned
- Knowledge & understanding of municipal governance and the role of civil society & social movements

EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNITY ORGANISING & CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM & LESSONS LEARNED

- What has your *general* experience of community organising & civil society activism been?
 - What issues/grievances/demands have you organised around?
 - How did you try to organise/mobilise the community & how did the community respond?
 - Were you successful in organising/mobilising the community? Why/why not?
 - Which people/institutions/stakeholders did you address your demands to or approach to resolve your issues/grievances?
 - Did you follow any official grievance procedures? If so, what?
 - What was their response & how was your experience with these people/institutions/departments?
 - Did you encounter any obstacles/resistance to your organising/mobilising? If so:
 - from which people/institutions/stakeholders?
 - how did they try prevent you from organising & why do you think they did so?
- What lessons did you take away from this experience?
 - What do you think you could do differently in future and why?

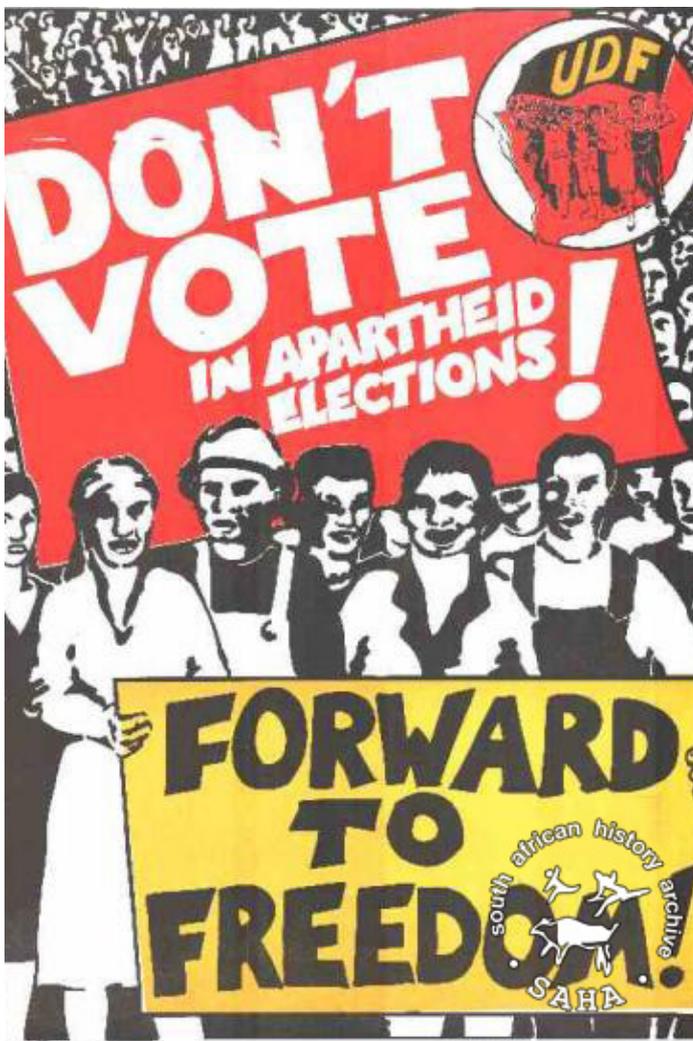
GOVERNANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES & THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- ▶ What is the mandate/function of municipalities in South Africa? Do they fulfil their mandate?
- ▶ How are municipalities in South Africa governed? (i.e. by who/what bodies)
 - ▶ How are these governing bodies decided on?
 - ▶ Who is responsible for managing these governing bodies & how are they decided for that position?
- ▶ Put these into order of importance *from most to least powerful*:
 - ▶ Mayor > Municipal Manager > Executive Councillor > Ward Councillor
- ▶ Which of the following do you have the power to elect?
 - ▶ Mayor > Councillor > City managers > other officials
- ▶ Where do municipalities get their money from?
- ▶ Have you experienced corruption in your local government?
 - ▶ What do you think causes corruption in municipalities?
- ▶ What is the role of civil society & social movements in ensuring the proper management & governance of municipalities?



FROM APARTHEID TO NEOLIBERALISM

*Reflections on the present political state in South Africa
& the role of civil society & social movements*



ACTIVITY 3

- Political history & development of civic movements in South Africa (Pre-1994)
- Role of civil society & social movements in the changed political landscape in South Africa (Post-1994)
- Participatory democracy & accountability
- Neoliberalism, civil rights & democracy
- Protest vs. grievance procedure

POLITICAL HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT OF THE CIVIC MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA (PRE-1994)

- What is a civic movement/association? (Also known as just a 'civic'?)
 - What is the intended purpose of a civic?
 - Is there a difference between a civic movement/association & civil society/civil society organisation?
- When did the civic movement in South Africa emerge & why? (i.e. Was it in response to something? If so, what?)
 - Who was behind the emergence of this movement?
 - Who were its leaders?
 - How was the civic movement structured & how were decisions made? Was it democratic? Was it homogenous?
- What political role did the civic movement play in South Africa pre-1994?
 - Did it achieve its objectives? Why?/Why not?
- What happened to the pre-1994 civic movement & why?

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE CHANGED POLITICAL LANDSCAPE (POST-1994)

- How & to what extent has the political (& economic) landscape changed since 1994?
 - How has the local state been restructured to allow for public participation? Give examples of arrangements for public participation post-1994.
 - Has this been effective? (i.e. Do you think you can participate meaningfully in municipal governance & the local state?) Why?/Why not?
- How & to what extent has the political (& economic) landscape remained the same since 1994? Why do you think this is?
- What is the role of civil society & social movements in ensuring effective & efficient municipal governance & that the state (local, provincial & national) delivers on its mandates?

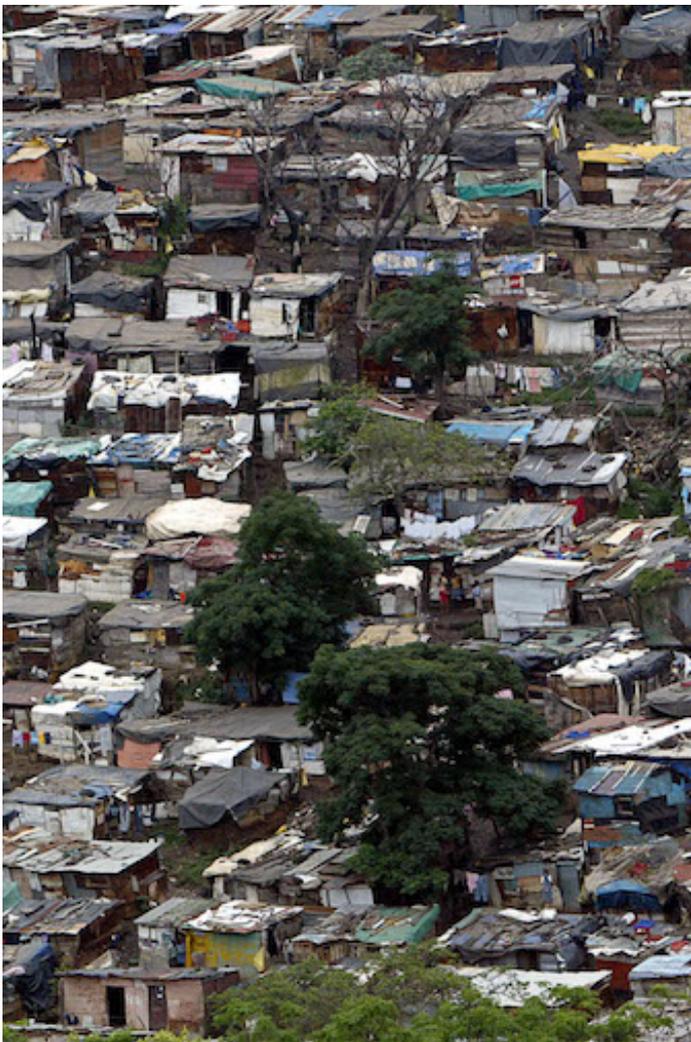
NEOLIBERALISM, CIVIL RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

- What is neoliberalism?
- What is capitalism?
- What is imperialism?
- Neoliberalism & local government
 - The local state must function more independently from national government
 - Local states must compete with one another to attract capitalist investment
 - The local state & service delivery
- Neoliberalism & South Africa's local government restructuring
- The neoliberal local state & its affects on democracy
- Neoliberalism, civil rights & democracy in South Africa

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- What is democracy?
- Democracy in capitalist societies:
 - The nation-state bureaucracy
 - The capitalist firm
 - The armed forces
 - The rule of law
 - Law enforcement & ideology
- What is representative democracy?
- What is participatory democracy?
- Participatory versus representative democracy
- Where does the idea of 'participatory democracy' come from?
 - The participatory budget process in Porto Alegre, Brazil
 - Parallelism in Venezuela
- Democracy & freedom
- How can we ensure accountability?



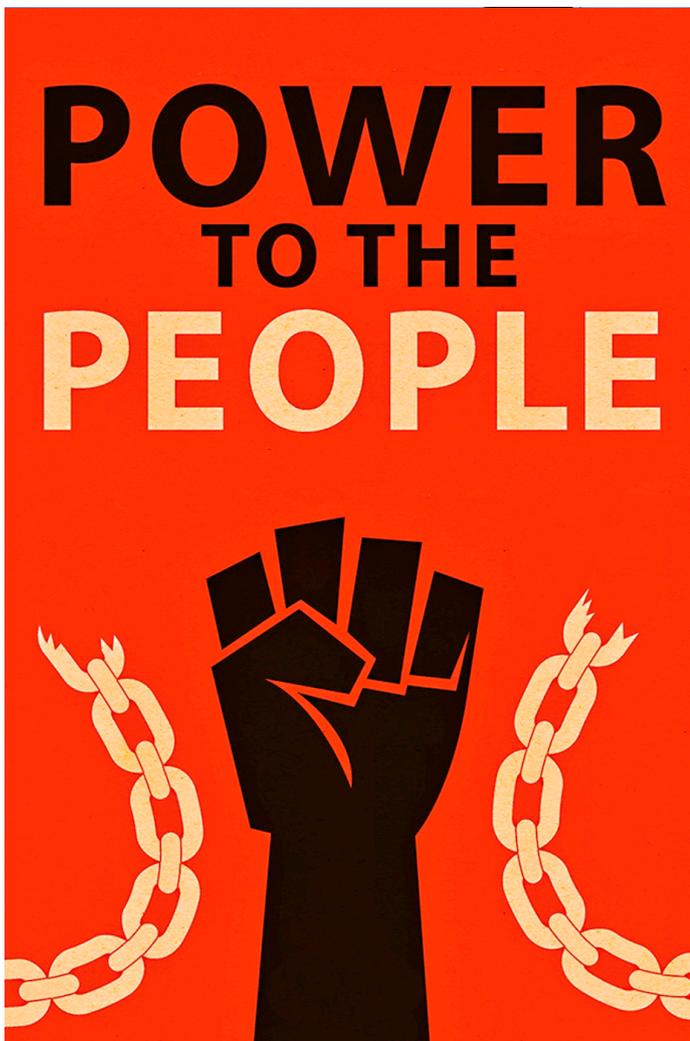


ACTIVITY 4: GROUP DISCUSSION

- What is to be done
- Possible actions
- Strategies & methods to organise & mobilise communities for action

ACTIVITY 4: GROUP DISCUSSION

- Will service delivery & municipal governance improve if we vote new local & national governments in, or for new ward councillors? Motivate.
- What could a people-led solution to corruption, mismanagement & poor service delivery be?
- What do civil society & social movements need to do to help achieve this solution & fulfil their roles as identified in Activity 2?
 - What possible actions could be taken to achieve this in the:
 - short term?
 - medium term?
 - long term?
- What strategies & methods are available to us to organise & mobilise communities for such actions?
- How can we begin to implement & popularise these strategies & methods on a day-to-day basis?



ACTIVITY 5: BREAKING THE BARRIERS TO FREEDOM

- ▶ Effective & efficient forms of organisation
- ▶ New forms of civil society movements
- ▶ Case study & similarities to South African experiences

EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT FORMS OF ORGANISATION

- ▶ Is the state (local & national) an effective & efficient form of organisation?
 - ▶ What makes it effective & efficient/ineffective & inefficient?
- ▶ Do you think there could be other forms of organisation that could fulfil the mandate of the state (e.g. service delivery, safety & security etc.) that are more effective & efficient?
 - ▶ Can you think of any examples in history? What?
- ▶ How can we build effective & efficient forms of organisation without compromising democratic participation & accountability?

'NEW' FORMS OF ORGANISATION

- Do we need 'new' forms of organisation? Why?/Why not?
- What are some examples of 'old' forms of organisation?
 - What are some of the key characteristics that all these 'old' forms of organisation share in common? (Think about their structure; where power lies & how decisions are taken; their principles, analysis of society & theories of change)
- What do we mean by 'new' forms of organisation? (And are they really new or just different/forgotten/suppressed?)
 - What characteristics do they share in common & how do they differ from 'old' forms of organisation? (Think about their structure; where power lies & how decisions are taken; their principles, analysis of society & theories of change)



CASE STUDY & SIMILARITIES TO SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCES

*The Federation of Grassroots Organisations (FOB),
Argentina*



ACTIVITY 6: GROUP DISCUSSION

- Development & draft of local (west-rand regional) political education programme & activity plan
- Establishment & implementation of coordination task teams for sub-regional areas (Rand-west, Mogale & Merafong)

DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME & ACTIVITY PLAN

- What – if any – concepts, ideas, theories & experiences etc. that were discussed today (or were not discussed) would you like to learn more about?
 - Separate them into categories (e.g. political theories, economy, organisational principles, historical experiences) & list them from most relevant/urgent to least relevant/urgent
- How can you go about accessing more information & learning more about them?
- What form & methodology will your education programme activities take? (e.g. workshops, study groups, popular education etc.)
- What resources will you need?
- Who will be responsible for what? (e.g. preparing inputs, producing educational material, organising logistics etc.)
- When do you want to start, how often do you want to have educational activities & how long will the programme last?

ESTABLISHMENT OF COORDINATION TASK TEAMS FOR SUB-REGIONAL AREAS (RAND-WEST, MOGALE & MERAFOG)
