

Just Focus Auckland Group

Sunday June 19 meeting minutes

Present: Cameron, Josheel, Jeremy, Heather
Location: Freeman's Bay Community Centre

Global issues that are important to us: America, poverty, media, Africa, corporate globalisation, war, indigenous rights.

Favourite authors/media people/websites etc: Noam Chomsky, Indymedia (indymedia.org.nz), Zmag.org, Scoop.co.nz, John Pilger, Jane Kelsey, Howard Zinn, Naomi Klein, Aziz Choudry, New Internationalist.

We agreed that the Just Focus Auckland group actually needs to attend meetings. Three people were present for the first two hours or so before Heather turned up, and the meeting ran through until the set ending time of 17:30. The Just Focus Auckland group cannot function if only three/four people are making decisions for the group. At least half the group should be present at meetings.

Having said that, the location of the Freemans Bay Community Centre may have been a factor in the low turnout. Although it is a good place for a meeting, a location in the CBD may be easier in terms of getting there – public transport, knowledge of the streetscape, etc.

We agreed that Just Focus should be an experience in itself, but one where you apply your skills, broaden your knowledge, learn new skills. You'll meet new people and hopefully have a good time.

Although three people do not constitute enough to make decisions that affect the rest of the group, we decided that meetings should be held once a month, on the third Sunday. This makes the next meeting on July 17. We found the time (15:00 to 17:30) suitable, and believe that watching movies that are relevant to the values of Just Focus is perfectly fine for meetings.

We want to learn more about corporate agendas/corporatism, and how the UN functions.

A point was raised about whether being impartial is a weakness for Just Focus – does it mean not taking sides, or does it mean not being associated with other organisations? Cameron and Heather wondered whether Just Focus could collaborate with a group called Radical Youth for a carnival day that is being organised some time.

We think young people need to understand what is going on behind issues. Also, knowing that there are other people (in large numbers or not) who have similar beliefs and values would help motivate people to become active and care about global issues.

In order to get more members in Just Focus, publicity is important. If we could get posters and other such promotional materials to distribute and put up around schools, it would probably be really helpful.