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Preamble

By Karen Johne /Translated by Stefanie Schramm

Who are we?

We are a network of professional trainers and consultants who work with a common approach to constructive conflict transformation, the ATCC approach (abbreviation for the French name: *Approche et transformation constructives des conflits* or in English: *Approach to transform conflicts constructively*). The A.T.C.C Conflict Transformation – Association of Trainers and Consultants is an association recognised as a non-profit organisation. You can find more information here:

<http://atcc-konfliktbearbeitung.de/>

What's moving us?

In the face of the Corona crisis, which as a pandemic affects far more than our health but all of us globally, we would like to create links between people who, like us, are concerned that, for example, fundamental rights will be eroded in the long term, that wars will disappear from the public agenda, that social exclusion will be perpetuated by current policies and that the old premises of our economic system will be revived after the crisis. We want to overcome our powerlessness and develop visions and concrete steps with other people, how our society can look like if we have changed the injustices revealed recently in the current crisis and have learned from it. For example, in the sense of a fair access to social benefits and health care systems for all people, an economic system oriented towards the common good and climate justice, a solidary society in which care work and professions that serve people are valued appropriately, a political system that is oriented towards the dignity of people – regardless of where they come from.

What is CAT?

We, that are Karl-Heinz Bittl and I, Karen Johne, have been developing and leading CAT trainings (Civic Action and Transformation – strategic building blocks for successful social movements) for international activists since 2012. Triggered by the current crisis, we have developed a virtual version in a rapid process and want to ‚copy‘ the covid virus, i.e. CAT is supposed to spread virally and – in the best case – maybe even exponentially! For this purpose, you will form binding reference groups of 8 persons maximum, in which you will meet in at least seven online meetings for one or two hours each and go through the individual steps of this CAT training together. For the moderators, we are preparing a guide and other elements such as worksheets and podcasts. Once a round has been completed, all graduates should be able to form and moderate a new group themselves. Further information here: <http://cat-eng.a-t-c-c.eu>

Who do we set ourselves apart from?

In times of crisis, politically extremist, racist and otherwise inhumane groups often try to profit from the crisis. We distance ourselves from any form of stigmatization, supposed ‚easy solutions‘ and the misuse of this crisis for anti-democratic and non-transparent agendas. We reject violence as a means of conflict transformation. Our thoughts and actions are oriented towards the 10 basic values of the constitution, which are also reflected in human rights.

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