

# Shape the Camp - "Ageism"

## 1. Introduction

It was difficult to gather many people for the Shape the Camp. Several people I've written to did not respond, or responded they did not feel affected. As a result I've had a conversation with two people who had signalled earlier (after an action of mass civil disobedience) that they felt some trouble fitting in because of their age.

## 2. How they feel

- They signalled they felt at times a bit "ostracised", but did not want to name it as a form of oppression, because they felt in wider society it is rather their age group which holds power. They said they don't find it terribly bad, but very present everywhere they go in activism.

- A feeling that they need to prove their worth before being accepted into the group. That they're viewed as a bit suspicious: "What is this old woman doing here?" (Specific mention of intersectionality of age and gender.)

## 3. What do they need?

- Need for care, a feeling of not being alone, welcoming of new people.

- Need for more organisation, things need to be more clear, as fitting in comes a bit less naturally, because people who look alike tend to flock together, leaving older people often isolated in a predominantly young action context.

- A space to talk about this with people of the same age. This was a clear question after the action of mass civil disobedience and once again brought to the fore during our conversation.

## 4. What does it mean for the camp?

- Have spaces where people can meet each other, interact with people they might otherwise not interact with.

- Have a "market" with possible organisations, actions, campaigns, ... to get involved with. If you have a smaller network it is often not so easy to be and stay aware of everything that is going on. Soirée Dynamite was mentioned as a good examples to allow people to join in actions/campaigns without being directly in touch with the organizers before.

- Organization: be clear in our organization and communication what to expect, who is invited, ... Pay attention to comfort levels as well.