**Members of the PEWG (Andrew Tomlinson, Richard Raggett, Carolyn Burch, Martin Pippard, Tanya Jones, Carol Jennings, Cath Dyer) met on 20 March 2022 with Justin Kenrick to compare ideas and hopes for political advocacy. Justin is a Friend from Portobello & Musselburgh Meeting and has worked in political advocacy for Extinction Rebellion; he is an anthropologist and part of his current work is in alliance with indigenous groups defending their land rights; he is also an activist with** [**Grassroots to Global**](https://www.grassroots2global.org/)**.**

The conversation was very reflective and thought-provoking so we thought it worth noting just some key ideas and views that we shared.

* radical activism such as XR has made acceptable concepts such as their key points of ‘tell the truth’, ‘act now’ and ‘trust the people’ (request for assemblies); but where is the change?
* our current system is a profit-driven machine that is dependent upon exploitation
* we - including our politicians - are part of this system that by its nature embeds and exacerbates huge inequalities
* elected politicians can’t deliver the transformation we need because they are trapped in this system, and we need to recognise that our elected representatives are followers – we as the people need to lead!
* in our conversations with politicians we should understand the constraints they feel and bring this into the open, perhaps asking along the lines ‘ what’s stopping you?’ and finding ways to unlock the goodwill we find
* in our society we have different concepts of the urgency and time-scale of the climate collapse even though it is already underway and a harsh reality for many; we have less time than we think!
* exercises such as the climate assembly and government consultations, however well intended, also have their parameters constrained by the profit-driven capitalism ‘machine’
* so … we need to act and enable at a grassroots level, seeking out goodwill and good examples and sharing the inspiration
* we (in the global north/ ‘West’/privileged groups are suffering a crisis of imagination and see everything as hinging on money; perhaps overwhelmed by the breadth and scale of the challenges, we can lose sight of the need to be creative in our envisaging of the future
* we are constantly demanding change of ourselves and of ‘them’ i.e. those in political power, when ‘they’ have little leverage
* to make our work and our advocacy more authentic we need to find and share with our interlocutors examples of grassroots success in finding alternative models that do not continue the harm of inequality but start to bit by bit reverse it and show us how!
* human beings are not truly represented by the malign elite system that dominates; we can think of the current system as an illness that is affecting the ‘body’ of the species
* loss and damage reparations are addressing symptoms, but we also need to address the cause – ‘stop stealing’ (exploitation) and respect local solutions. (Example – off-grid Eigg model shared with Malawi where lower energy needs and high solar ‘resources’ make it work even better)

We’d like to have further conversations returning to some of these issues and considering questions such as:

* how can we apply principles of restorative justice to climate justice policy?
* how do we balance our hopes and vision for the immediate, medium and long-term goals we are striving for?