
CITIZENS'
ASSEMBLY
ON BREXIT

**INTRODUCTION
FOR MEMBERS**

DEAR ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Welcome to the Citizens' Assembly on Brexit!

The Assembly is a really valuable opportunity for you and your fellow Assembly members to influence the Brexit process.

The referendum last year decided that the UK is going to leave the European Union. But it didn't decide the details of what form Brexit will take. That's what the Citizens' Assembly will focus on.

We won't try to deal with every aspect of Brexit. Rather, we will focus on some of the key decisions, relating to trade and immigration. You can find more information about what to expect during the Assembly weekends inside this leaflet.

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to Manchester. We will be there when you arrive and will guide you through the discussions over the weekend.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Member Liaison Team. You will find their details on the back of this leaflet.

Alan and Sarah



ALAN RENWICK
Director of the Citizens'
Assembly on Brexit



SARAH ALLAN
Assembly Design
and Facilitation Lead

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID ABOUT THE ASSEMBLY

“Now that the British people have voted to leave the European Union – a cause I have championed for many years – it is time to ensure that people’s voices continue to be heard. The Citizens’ Assembly on Brexit, by providing all the information people need without the spin, is an ideal way of doing this. I fully support this project and look forward to hearing the recommendations of this cross-section of British society.”

SUZANNE EVANS

Former Deputy Chair of the UK Independence Party

“The referendum on the UK’s membership of the European Union failed to enable the diversity of British opinion to be heard. Now that Article 50 has been triggered, it is vital that we do not make the same mistake again. This Citizens’ Assembly project will make an essential contribution to enabling a constructive and productive national conversation about how we can best move forward, together.”

STEPHEN KINNOCK

Labour MP, Aberavon

“The nature of Brexit is the biggest choice facing the country today. Ensuring the public have a voice in the debate is vital. The Citizens’ Assembly on Brexit will do crucial work to help make that happen. I’m delighted to support you and I look forward to participating in your work.”

PROFESSOR ANAND MENON

Director of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative

WHO IS ORGANISING THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON BREXIT?

The Citizens' Assembly is being organised by a team of academics and democracy advocates, led by Dr Alan Renwick from the Constitution Unit at University College London.

The project is part of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative, which is an academic programme funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The programme is conducting a variety of research projects into aspects of Brexit. You can find more details on their website: ukandeu.com.

KEY CONTACTS

You have already spoken with at least one person from our Member Liaison Team – Rebecca McKee, Aleksei Opacic and Edd Rowe – when you were recruited to join the Assembly.

If you have questions at any time, you can contact them by calling 020 7679 4979 or by emailing citizensassembly@ucl.ac.uk. They are available during normal office hours.



REBECCA MCKEE



EDD ROWE

WHAT IS THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON BREXIT?

The Citizens' Assembly is a group of around 45 people who have been selected to reflect the diverse population of the United Kingdom.

You will meet over two weekends in September to consider what form you would like Brexit to take, focusing on the biggest questions to do with trade and immigration. The Assembly will make recommendations that will be presented to policy-makers in parliament and government.

WHY IS THE ASSEMBLY BEING HELD?

We think it is vital that citizens' voices are heard as the UK negotiates to leave the European Union. You, as citizens, have a right to hear the different arguments, question experts and discuss the issues before making up your minds.

We hope the Assembly will help shape Brexit and help strengthen our democracy.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE WEEKENDS?

Both weekends will start on Friday evening and end at Sunday lunchtime. Over the first weekend you will learn about trade and immigration. There will be lots of opportunities to talk to other members and question experts and campaigners. In the second weekend you will work together on coming up with recommendations.

And there'll be lots of good food throughout!

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE?

You don't have to do any special preparations for the Assembly. Just come ready to listen, think and talk to other members!

HAVEN'T WE ALREADY DECIDED ABOUT BREXIT?

Last year's referendum decided that the UK is leaving the European Union. But it didn't decide the detail of what kind of Brexit the UK should seek or what relationship the UK and the EU should have in the future.

The Assembly will allow us to explore in more detail what kind of Brexit people want.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY?

All the members of the Assembly, including you, have been drawn from a pool of people who responded positively to an ICM survey.

The members have been chosen to reflect the population of the UK. You come from all parts of the country and you all have different backgrounds. Your views on Brexit mirror the different views across the UK population.

HOW DO I GET TO THE HOTEL?

You may have lots of practical questions about taking part in the Assembly. Where is it taking place? How do I get there? Will I be able to get the kind of food that I need? How will I receive the monetary gift?

You will find answers to these questions and others on the leaflet that accompanies this one: "Essential Information for Assembly Members".

WHAT WILL WE BE DISCUSSING?

We can't cover all the issues in the Brexit negotiations in two weekends! So, we'll look at the biggest decisions, which relate to trade and immigration. Decisions on trade and immigration will affect the economy, jobs, public services, and how far the UK can decide its own laws. They may affect different parts of the UK in different ways. There may be difficult trade-offs between the different things people want. Considering these matters is what the Assembly is for!

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO DO?

We simply ask you to take part fully: listen to what others say, ask questions, say what you think, and be willing to change your mind if necessary.

Some of you will be used to speaking in front of groups of people and others won't. That's absolutely fine. We will help everyone take part on equal terms. And we won't make you speak up in front of everyone if you don't want to.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

You can always get in touch with your Assembly Contact Person to ask questions. They can respond to your queries by phone or email during normal office hours. You will find their details on the reverse of this leaflet.

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