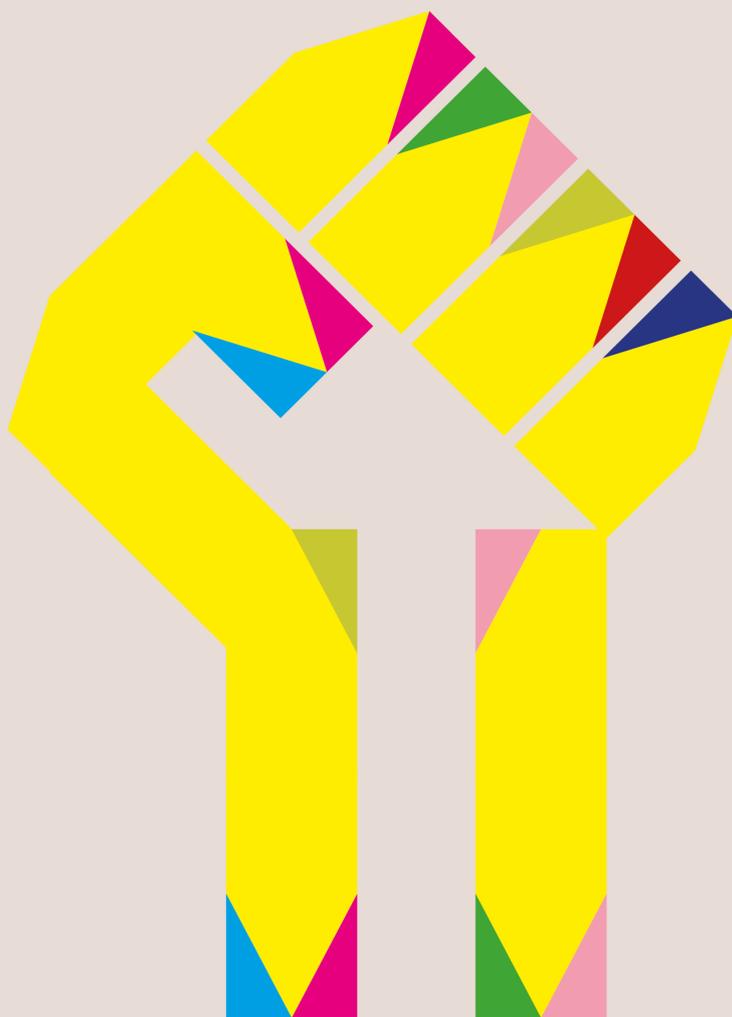


**PREPARATION GUIDE**

**FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY**

**DEBATES**



**emmaus**

**INTERNATIONAL**

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

## HOW CAN I BEST PREPARE FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY DEBATES?

During the World Assembly, several debates are offered, both in plenary sessions and workshops, where you can work in small groups on key subjects for the future of our movement. These sessions will make it possible for us to work together on the responses that need to be jointly developed and implemented. Moreover, the ideas that emerge from these debates will be compiled and used accordingly, either to provide food for thought for the Board to adopt subsequent decisions, or to propose or amend resolutions to be submitted to the vote at the World Assembly.

You must prepare in advance for these debates, so that you can get the most out of them and to ensure that the ideas that emerge are the most relevant for the movement. For this, we are going to briefly introduce the issues involved for each of the subjects that will be discussed during the World Assembly, and we will offer a few documents that you can consult to take a deep dive into the topic. We invite you to discuss these issues in your group before you leave, so as to get some input from the group beforehand.

### How are the proposed debates structured?

The debates that we will have during the World Assembly have been put forward by the Board. They have developed them based on the preparatory work carried out since 2019, which is structured around four words of inspiration:

- **Exist**
- **Resist**
- **Commit**
- **Communicate**

In anticipation of the event in Uruguay, the Board wanted the debates to reflect the continuity of the three "chapters" of the guidance report adopted at the previous World Assembly in Jesolo in 2016. These three chapters are:

- **Strengthening our movement** (debates on why and how we exist and how together we commit to coordinating and running the movement);
- **Tackling the causes of poverty** (debates on how we resist together to confront injustices and make our demands heard);
- **Keeping our heritage alive** (debates on how we communicate to sustain the movement and inspire new generations to engage in our struggles).

## LIST OF SUBJECTS THAT WILL BE DEBATED DURING THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

### The future of our economic models to tackle poverty (see subject no. 1 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

- Words of inspiration: Exist and Commit
- Chapter: **Strengthening our movement**
- Key question: **Between adapting to the crises, new economic challenges, and respecting our fundamentals, how can we exist today?**

## Why are we holding this debate?

Historically, the movement was built primarily on salvaging and selling second-hand goods. This work as ‘rag-pickers’ is still the main source of our collective income today. However, this key activity is sometimes threatened by regulatory constraints, along with the appearance of large, private operators in the market.

Other economic activities are possible and are being developed, but at times questions are raised about their capacity to provide financial means to the movement to enable it to be independent, whilst providing work to all those who must be welcomed unconditionally.

More generally, the choices are related to economic management that favours efficiency, at times conflicting with our political and social objectives.

Lastly, the option of living off the fruits of their labour varies from one region to another, taking into consideration the development inequalities that have not been redressed for decades and have been further exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Building on these reflections, the debate aims to address the following questions:

- What threatens our existence today?
- Do our groups offer alternatives to poverty, injustice and the climate crisis, or do economic issues take precedence over our desire to be actors of social transformation and activists for change?
- What initiatives have already been devised and developed to reform the economic models?
- What kind of development does the movement have in store for the future? Based on which vision and shared objectives?

## What would we like to achieve with this debate?

- Set out a shared analysis of the risks that undermine our balance between economic development and social transformation
- Develop responses by the movement so that our economic models work for human beings and the environment

## What documents should I look at to prepare?

- 2021-2025 Guidance Report proposals, chapter on “Strengthening our movement”
- 2021 Global Report, *Emmaus: Our Voices* (particularly demands 5 and 6)

## What founding texts should be read again on this subject?

- Universal Manifesto (particularly points 4, 5 and 6)
- Emmaus principles and membership charter (sections on “The Emmaus movement” and “Membership and acceptance criteria”)
- Solidarity commitments (section on “Today’s challenges”)

## Self-sufficiency, its meaning for our movement: in the past and for our future (see subject no. 2 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

- Words of inspiration: Exist and Commit
- Chapter: **Strengthening our movement**
- Key question: **What place should be given to self-sufficiency, one of the founding concepts of Emmaus, at the various levels of the movement today?**

### Why are we holding this debate?

Abbé Pierre realised early on that financial autonomy would be essential to be independent. Although many Emmaus member organisations manage to make a living solely from their work, this is far from being the case for all of them, particularly the most recent members, which were not built on the "historic" model of communities or committees collecting and reselling second-hand goods. Furthermore, here again, the different contexts in the regions do not permit groups that have been involved in the movement for several decades to achieve self-sufficiency, particularly in economic terms.

Building on these reflections, the debate aims to address the following questions:

- How does self-sufficiency inspire us today and how is it passed on to new members of the movement?
- What are the obstacles posed to the self-sufficiency of groups and the movement at its different levels?
- What possible leverage is there to move towards self-sufficiency?
- What are the proposals for joint action to help strengthen self-sufficiency?

### What would we like to achieve with this debate?

- Reaffirming our understanding of self-sufficiency and building support systems to enable everyone to meet this membership criterion

### What documents should I look at to prepare?

- 2021-2025 Guidance Report proposals, chapter on "Strengthening our movement"
- Summary of the preparatory debates on self-sufficiency and membership

### What founding texts should be read again on this subject?

- Universal Manifesto (particularly points 4, 5 and 6)
- Emmaus principles and membership charter (section on "Membership and acceptance criteria")
- Solidarity commitments (section on "Today's challenges")

## Keeping our movement alive, the challenge of training and coordination of an international movement (see subject no. 3 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

- Words of inspiration: Exist and Commit
- Chapter: **Strengthening our movement**
- Key question: **How can each of us get involved at our own level to keep our international movement alive?**

### Why are we holding this debate?

Our movement is over 70 years old. It was born and evolved during a time in history that is now behind us. Although our objectives and struggles are as relevant as ever, fundamental aspects such as our founding values and Emmaus' aims and methods need to be fully understood and passed on, particularly to new groups.

More generally, we need to achieve a better and stronger "movement" together, i.e., to act in a collective and concerted way to achieve common goals, which go beyond the scope of our groups acting alone. We need to promote the strength of being an international movement, both in our group and at other levels, such as the national organisations, wherever they exist, and the Emmaus International regions.

Building on these reflections, the debate aims to address the following questions:

- What hinders the involvement of each person in choices made at the World Assembly?
- What responsibility is there at each level and for each actor of the movement to implement the common guidelines?
- What training spaces and initiatives should be set up to strengthen cohesion and coherence within the movement?
- How can we coordinate an international movement while respecting our guiding principles? (Democracy, gender equality, place for the most excluded, equal relationships between groups and regions, etc.)

### What would we like to achieve with this debate?

- Reaffirm the sense of belonging to an international movement
- Offer meeting and training opportunities that will enable everyone to be an actor

### What documents should I look at to prepare?

- 2021-2025 Guidance Report proposals, chapter on "Strengthening our movement"
- Summary compiled of the first group consultation
- Information sheets on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Manifesto

### What founding texts should be read again on this subject?

- Universal Manifesto (Preamble)
- Solidarity commitments (4th founding text of the movement)
- Our Values and Guiding Principles, (5th founding text of the movement)

## Why and how can we take action and speak out together? (see subject no. 4 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

- Word of inspiration: **Resist**
- Chapter: **Tackling the causes of poverty**
- Key question: **How can we take up the historic challenge of our movement together to make our voices heard?**

### Why are we holding this debate?

Up until 2007, Emmaus' mission to raise political awareness was mainly embodied by its founder, Abbé Pierre. His death meant that the movement had to take on this mission collectively. A process of reflection along these lines began in the early 2000s and gradually led to the adoption of six campaign issues, based on collective programmes: the right to water, ethical finance, migrants' rights, the fight against human trafficking, the right to education and the right to health. In 2016, these six issues were then regrouped into three struggles, which are still at the heart of our actions today. A new step in our collective political advocacy work was taken with the publication, at the end of 2021, of the first Global Report on our fight against poverty: *“Emmaus: Our Voices”* In this report, we outline three requirements and six demands, based on practical experiences of the Emmaus groups worldwide.

However, the field of advocacy remains relatively untouched by our member groups, apart from financial support for joint programmes and local demands.

Building on these reflections, the debate aims to address the following questions:

- How have our joint initiatives helped us to tackle the causes of poverty?
- How can we go further and make our demands known?
- What struggles should the movement engage in for the future, given the democratic and ecological challenges, and in light of the exacerbation of the inequalities and forms of racism, directed at migrants in particular?
- What support do groups need in order to be able to advocate for political change?

### What would we like to achieve with this debate?

- To adjust our common advocacy approach and the corresponding initiatives and alliances to meet the challenges we want to face in the coming years

### What documents should I look at to prepare?

- 2021-2025 Guidance Report proposals, chapter on “Tackling the causes of poverty”
- 2021 Global Report, *Emmaus: Our Voices*
- Health report summary
- Education study summary
- Climate and environmental justice memo
- Migrations memo

- “Citizens in solidarity for water on Nokoué” consolidation report
- Emmaus Ethical Fund video

### What founding texts should be read again on this subject?

- Universal Manifesto (points 1, 2 and 3)
- Scope and Limits of Emmaus’s Social Commitment (second founding text of the movement)
- Solidarity commitments (section on “Today’s challenges” and “A voice for change”)

## Being actors of international solidarity at Emmaus (see subject no. 5 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

- Word of inspiration: **Resist**
- Chapter: **Tackling the causes of poverty**
- Key question: **How can everyone do their part to support Emmaus' international solidarity?**

### Why are we holding this debate?

Sharing at Emmaus helps to give meaning to our lives and aims to support people in extreme poverty who, together with others, are taking action to change their circumstances. Solidarity is both a fundamental value and a way to transform society. During the last five years, it has enabled us to support the actions and struggles of many groups, to get involved in international campaigns, to organise a World Forum on Alternatives with the most excluded and to carry out strong joint actions, etc.

However, the Emmaus International Board noted in 2019 that many groups were not involved, it was difficult to set up joint funds for sharing and that the impacts of our social transformation were not visible.

Furthermore, the global health crisis further widened these gaps between our values and our practices. Support for our groups and for the most excluded populations has not been approached in a collective manner. There has been an increase in those turning inward and not sharing.

Building on these reflections, the debate aims to address the following questions:

- What is the meaning of sharing resources within our movement?
- How can we organise solidarity work to collectively wage our struggles, from the local to the global and during times of crisis?
- What collective spaces should we create so that everyone can be actors of international solidarity?

### What would we like to achieve with this debate?

- Identify actions and spaces that allow everyone to get involved

### What documents should I look at to prepare?

- 2021-2025 Guidance Report proposals, chapter on “Tackling the causes of poverty”
- Summary report of the first group consultation
- Summary of the preparatory debates on Solidarity and Sharing

- Post-World Forum of Alternatives video “International solidarity to strengthen our struggles”

### What founding texts should be read again on this subject?

- Emmaus principles and membership charter (section on “Rights and obligations of the groups”)
- Solidarity commitments (part “Our core values”)
- Our Values and Guiding Principles

## Communicating to inspire new generations and new groups to engage in our struggles (see subject no. 6 in the 2021-2025 Guidance Report)

- Word of inspiration: **Communicate**
- Chapter: **Keeping our heritage alive**
- Key question: **How can we make our heritage a source of inspiration for new actors, both internally and externally?**

### Why do we need in-depth workshops?

As the preparatory work progressed, it became clear that all those involved in our movement agree that we do not promote our heritage enough, and that we need to think about tangible ways of passing it on both internally and externally.

There is no debate, there is an urgent need to agree on how to go about it.

This is why we are proposing in-depth workshops to find collective answers to this important issue, which is a concern shared by everyone.

In order to communicate externally, it is essential to address the question of the means and methods of communication to be developed.

For internal communication, the issue of welcoming new groups and supporting them will have to be addressed in particular.

Building on these reflections, the debate aims to address the following questions:

- How can we involve new generations?
- How can we support new groups so that they take ownership of our fundamental values?
- How can we inspire new actors and in particular new leaders for tomorrow?
- What communication is needed to share this heritage and inspire others?



## What documents should I look at to prepare?

- Summary report of the first consultation
- Summary of the preparatory debates on self-sufficiency and membership
- Post-World Forum of Alternatives video “Emmaus changed my life”

## What founding texts should be read again on this subject?

- Universal Manifesto
- Emmaus principles and membership charter (section on “Membership and acceptance criteria”)
- Solidarity commitments (“A voice of change”)

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T O C H A N G E  
**THE WORLD!**



**EMMAUS WORLD ASSEMBLY**

**9-13 MAY 2022**

**ASSEMBLEE-MONDIALE-EMMAUS.ORG**



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