We are in the midst of a meta-crisis, exacerbated by deep polarisation, even between those who could be allies.

Solidarity Matters is our response to a clear and urgent need to foster solidarity across difference for its own sake and to counter the rapid expansion of fear and othering.
In these times of transition we need solidarity more than ever. But what it is and how we foster it is not clear.

To get clearer we commissioned 19 designers. All are passionate, committed activist practitioners whose work inspires us. They bring diverse cultural, issue, sector and lived-experience perspectives.

Together we embarked on a rapid co-creation process to scope and plan ways to rapidly spread effective approaches to fostering solidarity across difference.
What emerged?
A proposed Solidarity Matters Network

- Shared ownership
- Expanding approaches for collaborative imagination
- Supporting collective action and collaboration

Online Learning & Curriculum
Curriculums and resources engaging a diverse community of interest on a journey to a growing community of practice

Infrastructure and governance
Supports global to local processes with online and offline community resources, user-generated content from within the community, supporting new methodologies and resources, adaptation, improvement, and re-sharing, including translation

Community of practice
Safe spaces support collaboration through facilitated and co-facilitated learning and exploration, adding to and developing the curriculum, resources, courses, and methodologies, bringing different case studies, perspectives, and lenses for developing solidarity practice

Multi-lingual
Adaptable and adaptable
Local/regional hubs
A distributed network of practitioners at different levels of engagement with tools, resources, trainings and safe spaces designed to

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Offering

Courses, trainings, learning spaces and resources to foster, sustain and spread solidarity across difference

Structures and functions to attract, engage and nourish a community of interest, deepening into a growing community of solidarity practitioners

Structures and processes to be trauma, power and privilege informed and with decolonising intent

Everything available in the commons for adopting and adapting to spread understandings and capacity
At its heart are proposed cycles of encounter, learning, co-creation and collaboration.
Supported by activist practitioners as communicators, strategists and developers

**Network Advisory board** - 12 activist practitioners, located globally, experience in offering - Network, Tech, Curriculum design/facilitation, responsible for ensuring the user experience, content, ideology and pedagogy are relevant/accessible

**Global community organiser** - scouting and curating other networks and movements to join the network, weaving between funders and members

**Training and pedagogy lead** - synthesising frameworks, tactics and tools, co-writing organisers guides

**Technology lead** - oversees the website and integration with other platforms, maintenance, and user experience

**Network Fellowship** - Strategy - guide development and implementation of strategy. Communications - reviewing and coordinating content, language, outreach, messaging

**Network organiser** - actively incorporates feedback loops and learning, supports coordination around time, energy, resource investments,
Supported and enabled through infrastructure and governance to experience high level of interactions, online and offline delivery

Open-source tools wherever possible
- online courseware
- media repository
- forums for collaborative decision making
- video conferencing
- shared and safe learning spaces

Governance - data and organisational, code of conduct including reporting/dealing with transgressors

Content - creation, delivery, permissive licensing (Creative Commons), production, authoring, submission, user modification (non-destructive) aggregation and dissemination, moderation for quality control, ease of access.

Secure and safe spaces for deeper processes.
Embodying solidarity in how it does and is and supporting participation

• participatory budgeting for distributing programme resources modelling UBI for activists
• honorarium for Advisory board and Fellowship, and participation in courses and trainings
• broad diversity - gender identity, sexuality, ethnicity and race, geography, educational background, expertise, lived experience
A committed, passionate, active community
What might be next?

Fractal
Connected
Dynamic
Horizontal
Feedback on introductory course, and further exploration and development of toolkit of resources
Solidarity Matters Network beta’d

• Initiation phase to test concepts and ground development working with already committed and passionate Solidarity Matters community

• Led by international advisory board, rooted in activism with expertise in strategy, facilitation, online learning and IT already working within and across networks and movements

• Supported to model and foster Solidarity Matters, develop pedagogy, contribute to forums and learnings, and support a community of interest on their journey through practice
Solidarity 101 pilot

6 week course exploring and applying methodologies, processes, tools and practices for:

- building trust
- relationality
- understanding effects of trauma and oppression on our bodies
- repair, rest, regeneration, nurture
- visioning, sensing alternatives
- developing emergent strategy

12 participants, 2 facilitators, flat rate honorarium to support participation, intensive, twice weekly meetups, one to learn one to reflect and share on implementation
Solidarity Fellowship

Six month revolving cycles of smaller groups in fellowship, hosting reflections and deep dives into issues of solidarity, supporting:

- Decentralised leadership – will be led by the community of practice
- Cross cultural and cross issue perspectives,
- Nurturing healthy network culture
- Developing pedagogy, content and learnings,
- Adopting, adapting, translating resources, contributing dynamically through renewal to reinvigorating the wider Network