

Meeting the Moment – Wednesday 26th November

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About HOPE not hate

Our work focuses on:

- the organised far right
- the communities susceptible to them
- the issues and policies which give rise to them.



Aim of session

- Understanding different types of audiences and aims
- Deciding what to do: different options, including opening up a conversation
- Exploring different techniques for engaging in productive conversations

Who is ideally placed to do this?

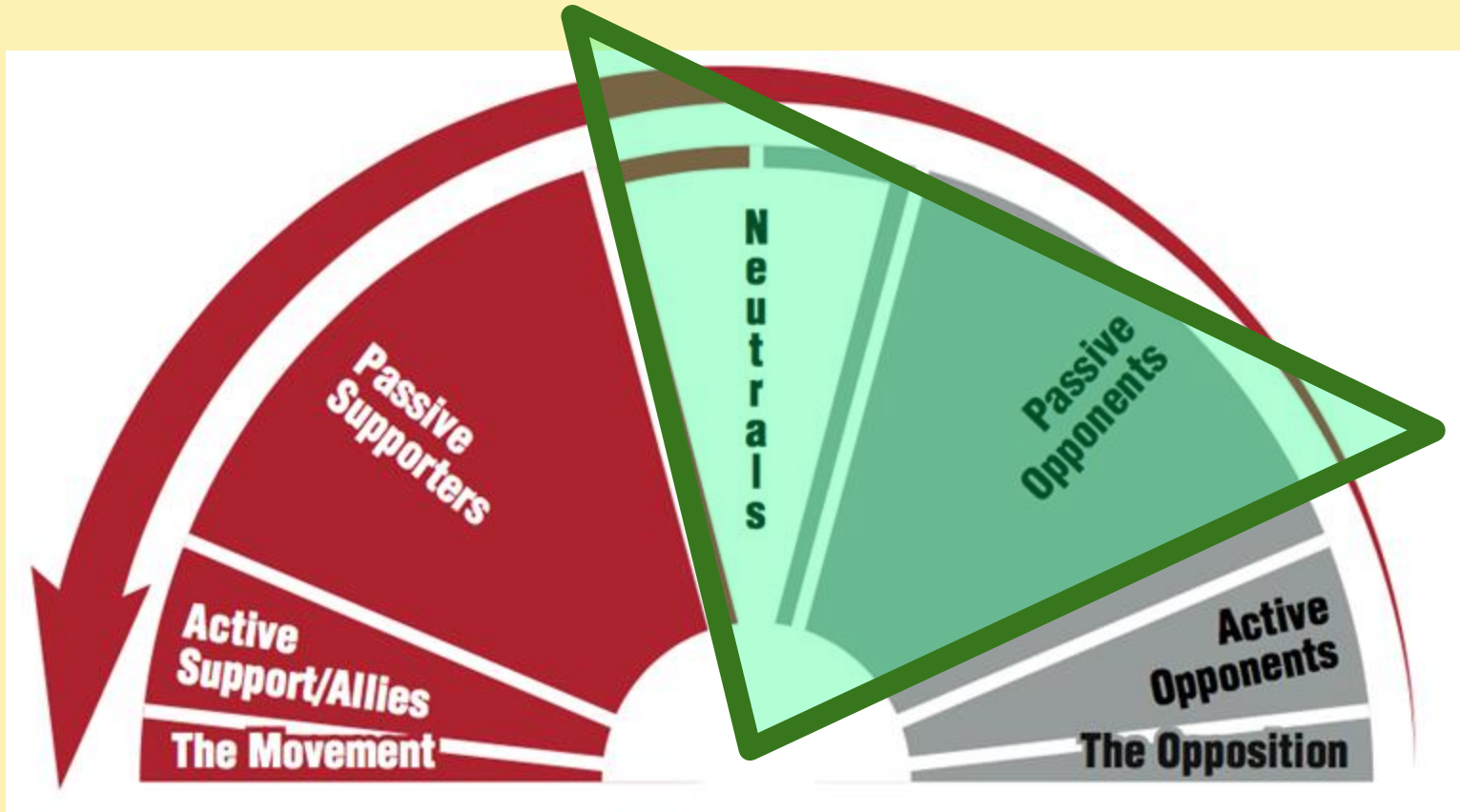
- Local context
- Embedded in community
- Trusted

The far right thrive on disenfranchisement, positioning themselves as speaking up for those who are not being listened to. You can take away the power they have here by simply showing people that you *are* listening to them. This is a win in itself!

What works for you?

When you're having a Difficult Conversation, what do you find works and what do you find definitely doesn't work?

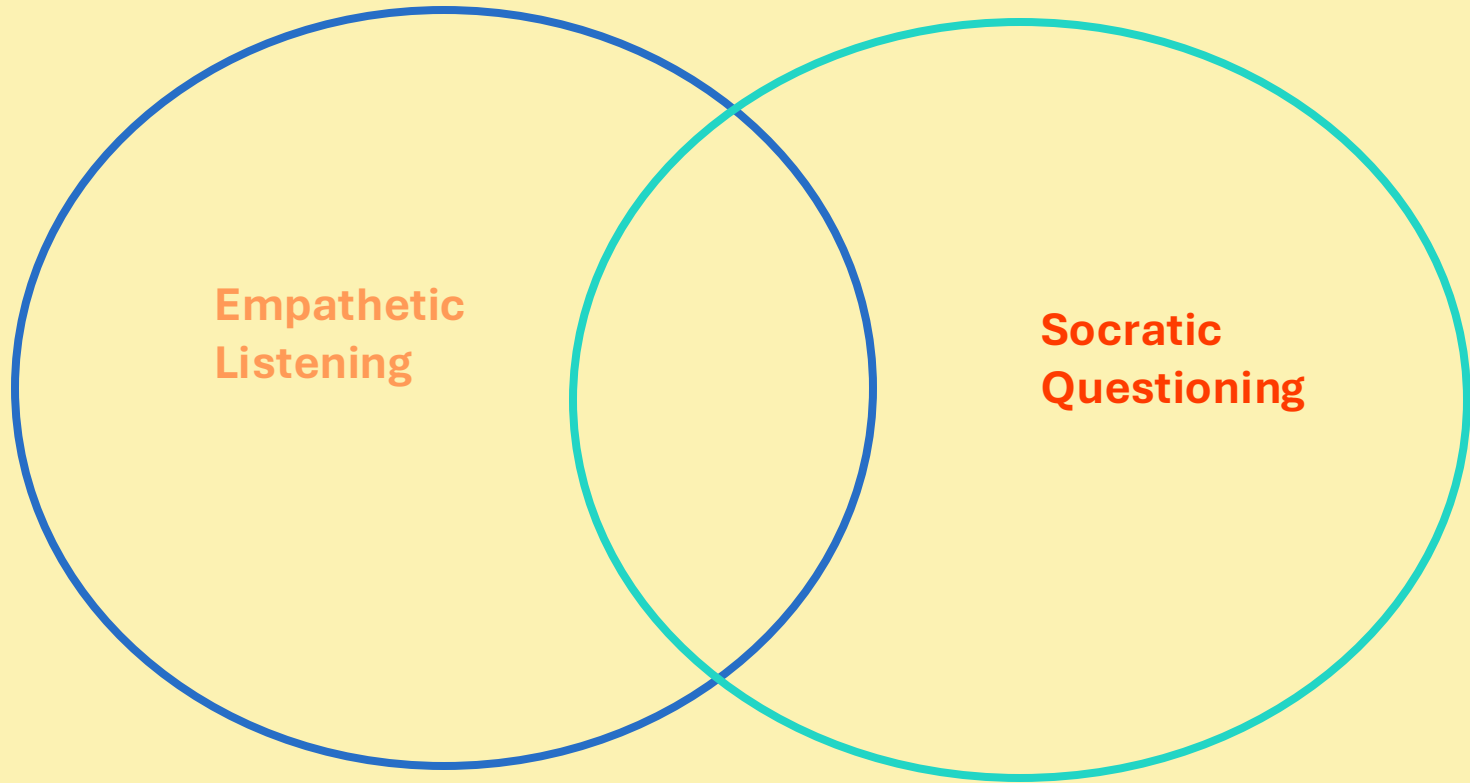




What about myth busting?



Changing the dynamic



That's interesting..

Non-judgement

Nodding, maintaining eye contact, open body language

Full attention

Empathetic Reacting

Encouragement

I'm listening

This must be difficult to share

Clarifying, summarising

Can you explain that a bit more..

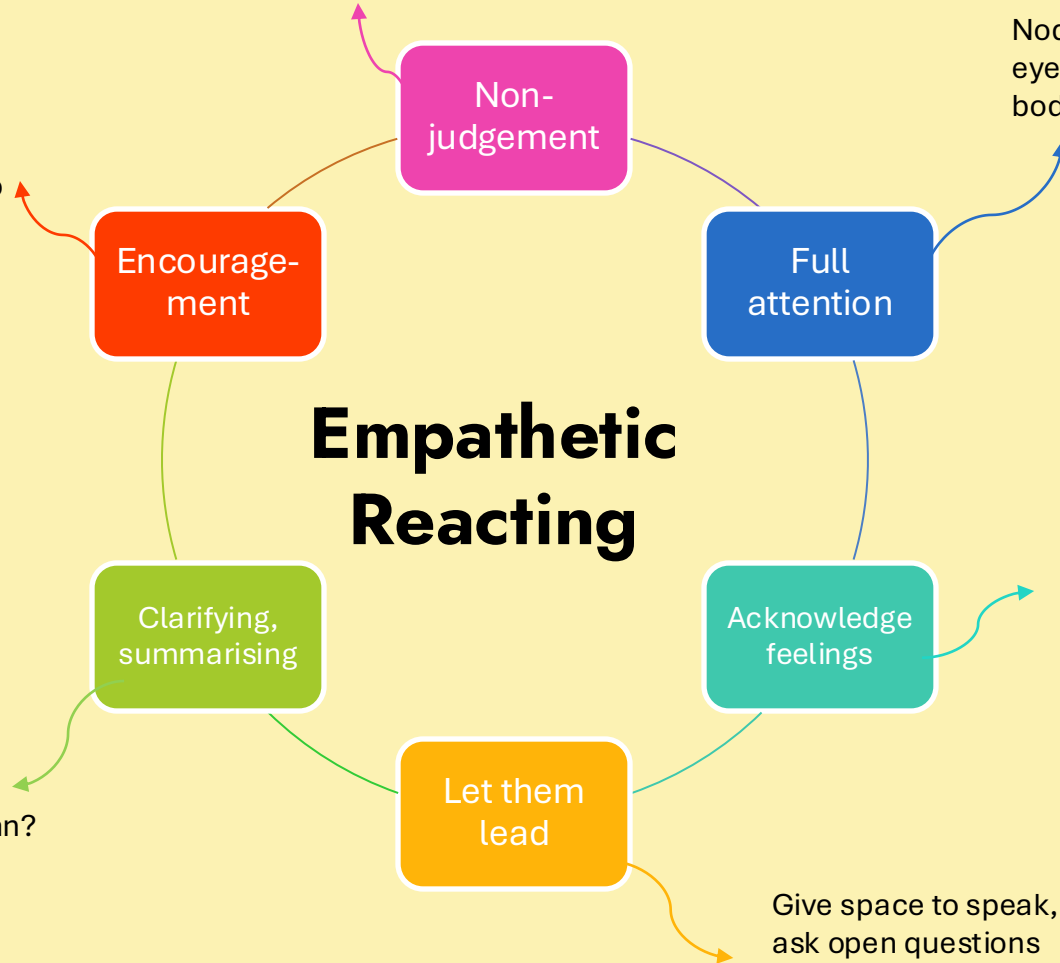
By X, do you mean?

Acknowledge feelings

I can tell this means a lot to you

Let them lead

Give space to speak, ask open questions



Socratic questioning

Clarifying Questions

Why do you say that?
What does that mean?

Probing Assumptions

Please explain why/
how?

Probing evidence & rationale

Why do you think this is happening?
Can you give me an example?

Questioning perspectives or viewpoints

Maybe we're coming at this from different angles. Can we try and look at this from both perspectives?

Questioning the question

Why do you ask that?

Investigating consequences and implications

What would be the outcome if that happened?

What do you think of this response?

2) *“They’re [migrants are] just coming in and taking our resources. I’ve got to wait until I’m 67 instead of retiring at 60 now to get my pension...so where is my, after working all my life, my little bit of life?”* - **Grimsby**

Actually, asylum seekers barely get any help from the government (£47.39 per family member) and probably deserve more. They have really difficult lives and struggle to keep themselves and their families safe, which is all they want to do.

Also, research from the Office for Budget Responsibility suggests that higher net migration will reduce pressure on government debt, which is better for the economy.

What about this response?

2) *“They’re [migrants are] just coming in and taking our resources. I’ve got to wait until I’m 67 instead of retiring at 60 now to get my pension...so where is my, after working all my life, my little bit of life?” - Grimsby*

I’m really sorry to hear this, and I can see that the increase in pension age would be really frustrating and difficult.

Of course you’re right, all people deserve a good life and support when they need it.

Is there anything more that could be done by the council /government /workplace to support you?

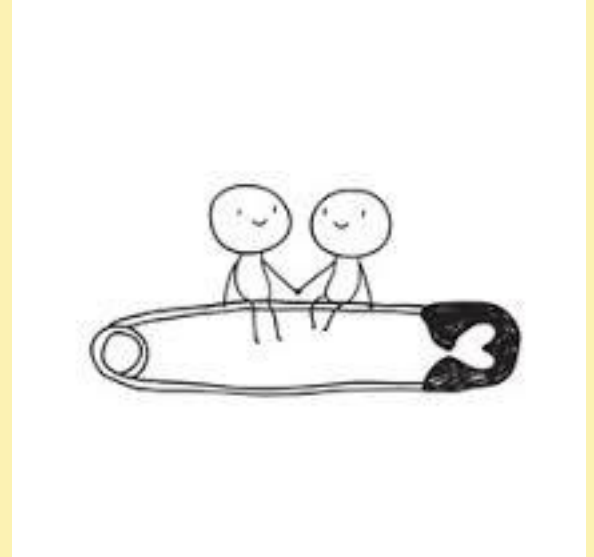
When opening up the conversation might not be the right thing to do...



- Personal boundaries crossed
- Some things aren't up for debate
- Group setting - who else might be impacted?
- Timebound
- On social media

Keeping safe

- Consider your audience
- Dynamic risk assessment
 - Who am I speaking to?
 - Do I feel safe?
 - Where am I having the conversation?
 - How much personal information am I giving away?



Some concluding points...

1. You should spend most of the conversation listening, questioning and probing.
2. Feel confident and clear about your values - how can you represent them in an approachable way?
3. It's not only what you say, but how you say it.
4. Bear in mind that you may be the first person taking time to listen to them about this.