

What is the name of your organisation?

Food Not Bombs Glasgow

We're the Glasgow chapter of an international movement.

We provide free vegan and halal food at our street stalls with no qualifying conditions or questions asked. Anyone is welcome and our members also eat at the stall - this is a community meal and there should be no stigma about joining us.

Most of our food comes from donations including food that would otherwise go to waste, and we try to demonstrate our political message by example: how scarcity, including food scarcity, is not inevitable - it's an enforced by-product of a capitalist system that prioritises profits over people.

We are organised without hierarchy and make decisions by consensus, in line with the anarchist views of our members. We work as a team and nobody's in charge.

Each Food Not Bombs group is wholly autonomous. We're not a charity, we're just a group of people with ladles who want to make the world a better place.

Our main aims are to reduce food waste, to have great conversations with pals new and old, to build friendships, alliances and self-reliance in our community, and most importantly to make good soup. You can find us every Sunday afternoon in Govanhill, at the corner of Dixon Avenue and Victoria Road.

What is a recent project which has contributed to your aims?

It's difficult for us to highlight specifics because we don't really do "projects" as such. We're just a slightly chaotic bunch of people with food! But we've recently been reaching out to other organisations in the area to provide children's clothing and nappies for the families that come to our stall. People in Glasgow are suffering so much from poverty, isolation and despair and although we focus on the food element, the links between all the different parts of the puzzle are so apparent to us.

Our dream is to build the new world in the shell of the old, so we want to do anything we can to support that. We've been inspired to do more of this kind of collaboration in the future, so watch this space!



Is there any way in which you're currently looking for support from people in Glasgow?

We always welcome new members! There are tons of ways you can help, whether it's drivers, sourcing ingredients, cooks, design, communications, or helping out at the stall. If any people or organisations in Glasgow can connect us with regular sources of food we could use in our meals, we'd be delighted to hear about them.

We would also strongly encourage people to just come down and chat to us. Food Not Bombs is absolutely not a "soup kitchen" for "poor people", it's a way for all of us to unite, enjoy ourselves and forge bonds. Our weekly gatherings thrive when we're having great chats about community, solidarity, hope, justice and revolution.

And lastly, why not start another Food Not Bombs? We'd be so excited if there were other FNBs in other parts of Glasgow and we'd support you in any way we can. Anyone can do it and you don't need anyone's permission. You just get out there with a trestle table and some scran.

What is the background of your organisation?

Food Not Bombs as a whole started in 1980. Our group came together when Covid first hit in 2020 because a lot of us were stuck at home and could see the need for mutual aid that pushed back against the inevitable isolation everyone was experiencing, including our own.

We focused on food because it's such a fundamental part of life. It allows us to have conversations about everything that's important to us - fairness, equity, togetherness, kindness. So at that time, we offered hygienically pre-portioned meals in Queen's Park and distributed them in a Covid-safe manner - the park was ideal because it was one of the few spaces people could all go to.

As the restrictions have eased we've been at a new busy on-street location. We're also now able to take big pots and trays of steaming hot food and dish it out to our friends and neighbours, which is great because we don't have to spend ages portioning it out into wasteful plastic trays.

Although Covid is less present, isolation and inequality haven't gone anywhere for so many people, so the need to come together to share soup and shenanigans is as keen as ever.

What is a wish you have for the future of Glasgow's food system?

We wish every community had a non-profit food co-op where people could get fresh, healthy food in their neighbourhood. As a community asset, it'd be directly democratic and run by local people for the good of all. Community meals would become a regular feature of life, using up any food surplus, providing the ideal platform for bringing friends, families and neighbours together both physically and politically. This would inevitably plant seeds way beyond mere food, providing a model for building true community power, autonomy, empathy and resilience.

The revolution will not be served with a supermarket ready meal!