

## **Covid Secure / Hybrid, Workshop Script**

### **Introduction: Nico**

Good morning and welcome to this online workshop on the topics of making physical meetings safe, and setting up hybrid meetings.

My name is Nico and I am an alcoholic.

Let's have a moment's silence to remember the people for whom we are doing this?

This workshop is being hosted by London Region North, but the views you hear today are those of the individual speakers only.

Before we move on to our speakers, let's see who else we have here. You may wish to look at the participants list to see who is responding.

- Please raise your Zoom hand if you are visiting us from outside the UK.
- Please raise your Zoom hand if you are visiting us from outside London.
- Please raise your Zoom hand if you are visiting us from within London.
- Please raise your Zoom hand if you've been to one of our workshops before.

We are glad to have you here, and you are all welcome.

I will soon hand over to Rawiri, who will explain who we have speaking for you in the first session, which he will be chairing. After that, Vitor will introduce us to some groups who have set themselves up to run hybrid meetings. There will be time for questions and answers in each segment.

Please post questions in the chat bar to the segment chair, either Rawiri or Vitor, who will field these questions.

We have consulted with a number of individual members and groups in putting together this workshop, and visited a number of meetings online, drawing experience from around the country, including from the General Service Office. Thank you to those who have shared their experience with me and with our committee to shape the content.

We have pdfs of information, provided by our speakers and collated by our committee members, which can be downloaded, along with audio recordings of the speakers, as well as their contact details. Questions and answers will not be recorded. To access this link, please go to [AA-London.com](http://AA-London.com) which is the official website of London Region North; that's AA-London.com. If you would like to be emailed any updates, please send your email address to Ems, and she will collate it.

We are mindful of our Tenth Tradition, that “the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.” Equally, we acknowledge our Fourth Tradition, that “each group is autonomous,” while recognising that the potential for groups to “affect other groups and AA as a whole” is greater than usual.

We believe that no group wishes to bring AA into public controversy, nor to adversely affect other groups or AA as a whole. It is in this belief that we seek to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience in supporting groups' individual consciences to act responsibly.

Today we will look at the health and safety aspects of reopening meetings, and hear from more than one group on how they have done this. As is common in AA, our speakers bring to the task professional experience from outside AA, but they speak in their capacity as AA members, not professionals.

A reminder that AA GB covers not only England and Wales, but also Scotland, and continental Europe. Each jurisdiction has its own national rules. Please therefore look on your national government websites.

Guidance is changing regularly and indeed, the UK government guidance was updated yesterday. The latest guidance indicates that meetings should continue to meet digitally where possibly and meet in person if they “need” to. It is for group consciences to decide if meeting in person is “needed”. A question for your groups to ask might be: does our meeting “need” to meet in person, or do we only want to. I suspect our speakers will comment on that.

Moreover, I would like to draw your attention now to the 15 points that the General Service Office has posted on the AA website, and to which our speakers will refer. These form the basis of an effective risk assessment, which has been approved of by more than one AA insurer. They can easily be found on the AA GB website.

In case anyone is in doubt about the importance of taking these measures seriously, last week a meeting that reopened was shut down again, by its venue, because it wasn't deemed safe. With the best will in the world, if we don't think through carefully what could go wrong, we're liable to end up with meetings being closed, and the risk of the AA name being tarnished in our communities, which I'm sure no one wants.

We really want your feedback about this workshop, what worked, what you would like to have changed, what topics you'd like us to cover in future. Please email this to [workshops.LN@aamail.org](mailto:workshops.LN@aamail.org), or message Ems in the chat. We aim to finish the formal part at 11:30 but the meeting room will stay open for people to exchange numbers afterwards.

Thanks again for participating with us, and I now hand over to Rawiri.