

WHOLISTIC LAW UPDATE – EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE FOR RECOGNISING AND RESPECTING THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF NATURE

Since our inaugural workshop in May, 6 months have passed and our work has evolved. The May workshop “Evolving Earth Law – Co-creating a New Legal Paradigm” facilitated by Mumta Ito, Lisa Mead and Stephen Busby experimented with the use of systemic constellations and other tools in working with environmental legal issues and as a catalysing tool for social change - with remarkable effect. The workshop was well attended by both lawyers and environmental activists from as far afield as Africa and as close to home as the Falkirk anti-fracking campaign, who was our case study. Jamie McKenzie, the Falkirk campaign organiser presenting the issue, reported that he gained tremendous insight as a result of the work. At the time of the constellation the campaign needed new direction and the organisers were feeling despondent and burnt out. Through the process, (during which the representative for “energy” had to leave the room 3 times to be sick), Jamie became reconnected with the original impulse that drew him to the cause, which somehow he had lost sight of when he found himself locked into a battle with the energy company. As a result of the constellation he stated that he could see that the energy company was simply part of a wider systemic picture - and that what we are really up against - is ourselves. He said that through participating in the workshop his “consciousness had expanded” and he became aware of the need to work on multiple levels and dimensions. After the workshop, the campaign rebranded their website – from “Frack Off!” to “Concerned Communities of Falkirk Against Unconventional Gas” and moved from having only 40 citizens show up at the initial public hearing to presenting over 2500 signed objections to the council, winning them a landmark public enquiry at which the planning application will be decided

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/home-news/inquiry-into-coal-bed-gas-plan-after-2500-object.21762396>.

They are also actively involved in calling for a moratorium in Scotland on fracking, which they raised at a recent SNP conference.