



Social Cohesion

11 March 2020

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Session Aims

1. Introduction to social cohesion
2. Reflecting on the relevance of social cohesion in your work.



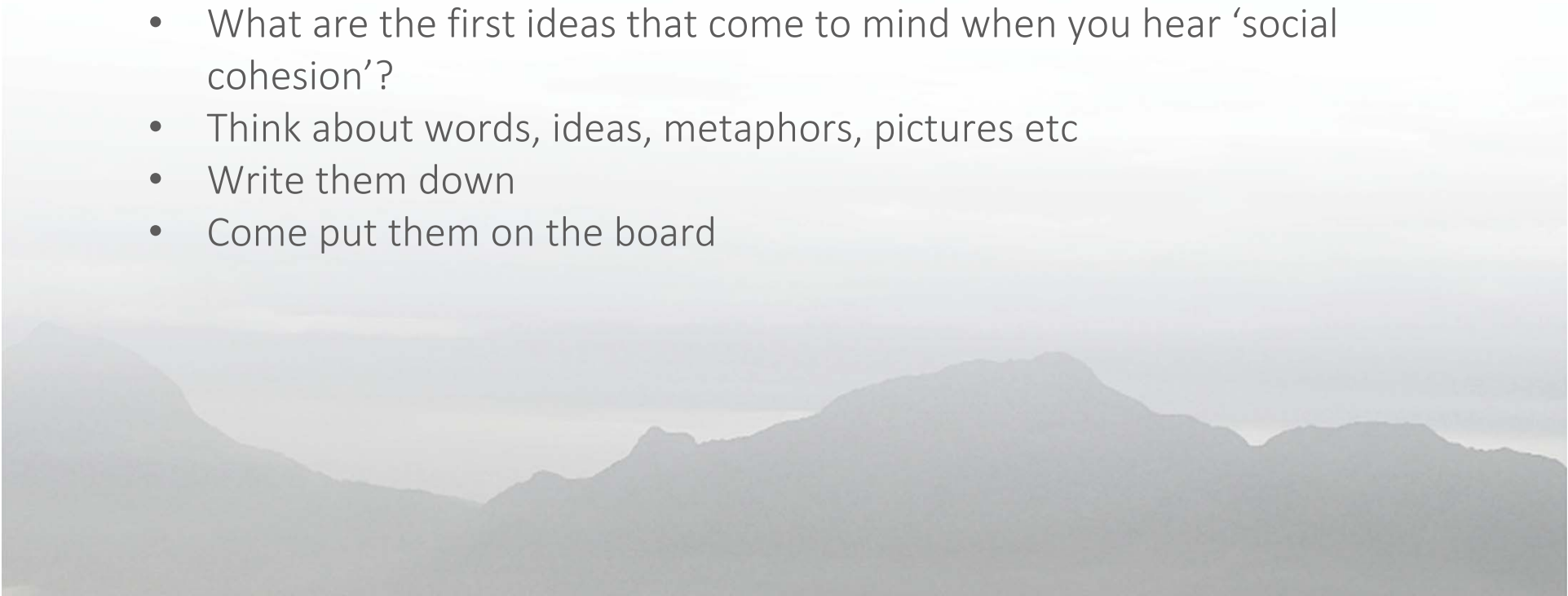


Ice Breaker



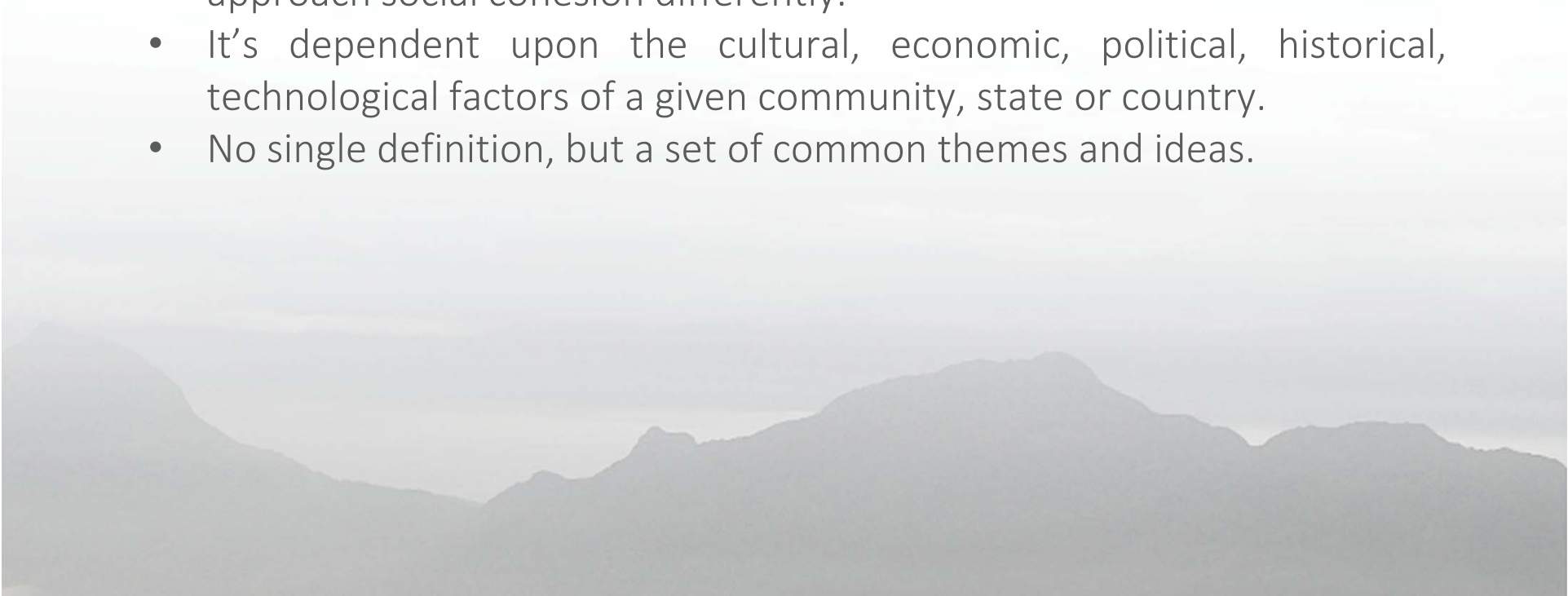


Exercise: When I hear 'social cohesion' I think of...

- What are the first ideas that come to mind when you hear 'social cohesion'?
 - Think about words, ideas, metaphors, pictures etc
 - Write them down
 - Come put them on the board
- 



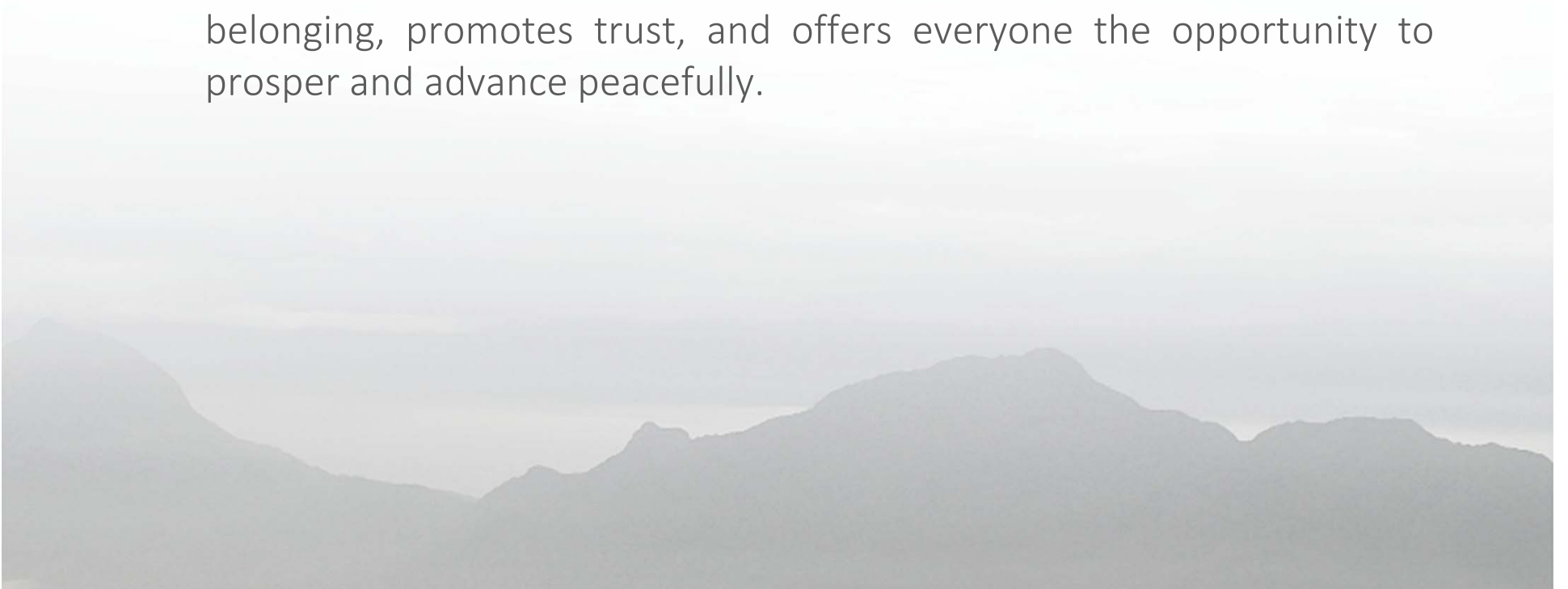
What is Social Cohesion?

- Based on their context, different societies understand and define and approach social cohesion differently.
 - It's dependent upon the cultural, economic, political, historical, technological factors of a given community, state or country.
 - No single definition, but a set of common themes and ideas.
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PSF

- One that works towards the wellbeing of all, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers everyone the opportunity to prosper and advance peacefully.





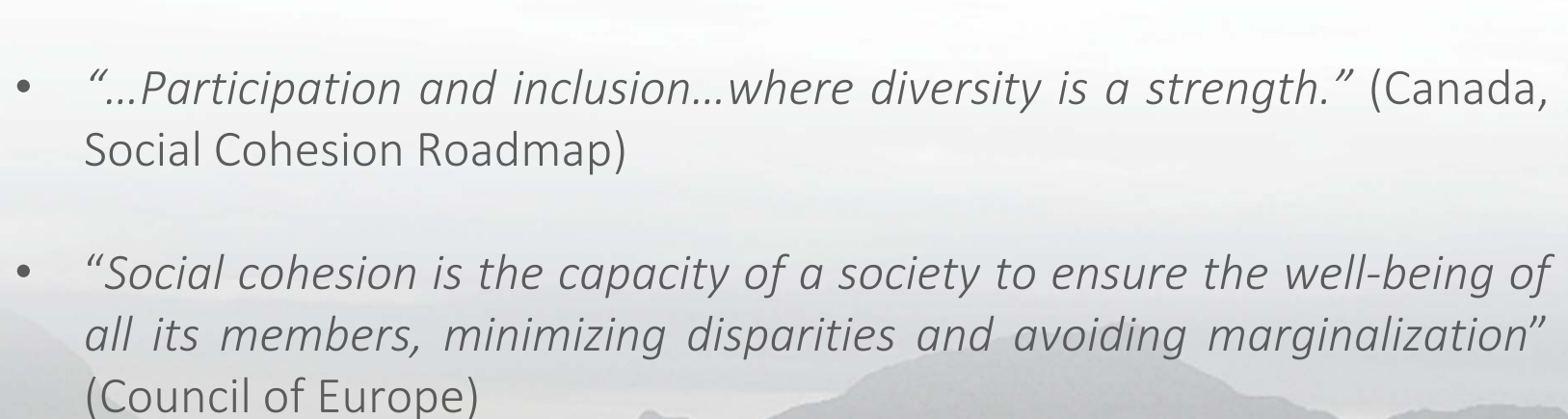
RAFT's approach supporting Multi-Donor Trust Funds

- Social Cohesion: The degree to which a community or society is characterized by strong bonds (interpersonal, communal and societal), and by values/attitudes that make it resilient to the push and pull factors that cause social tension, segregation/fragmentation and violent conflict.



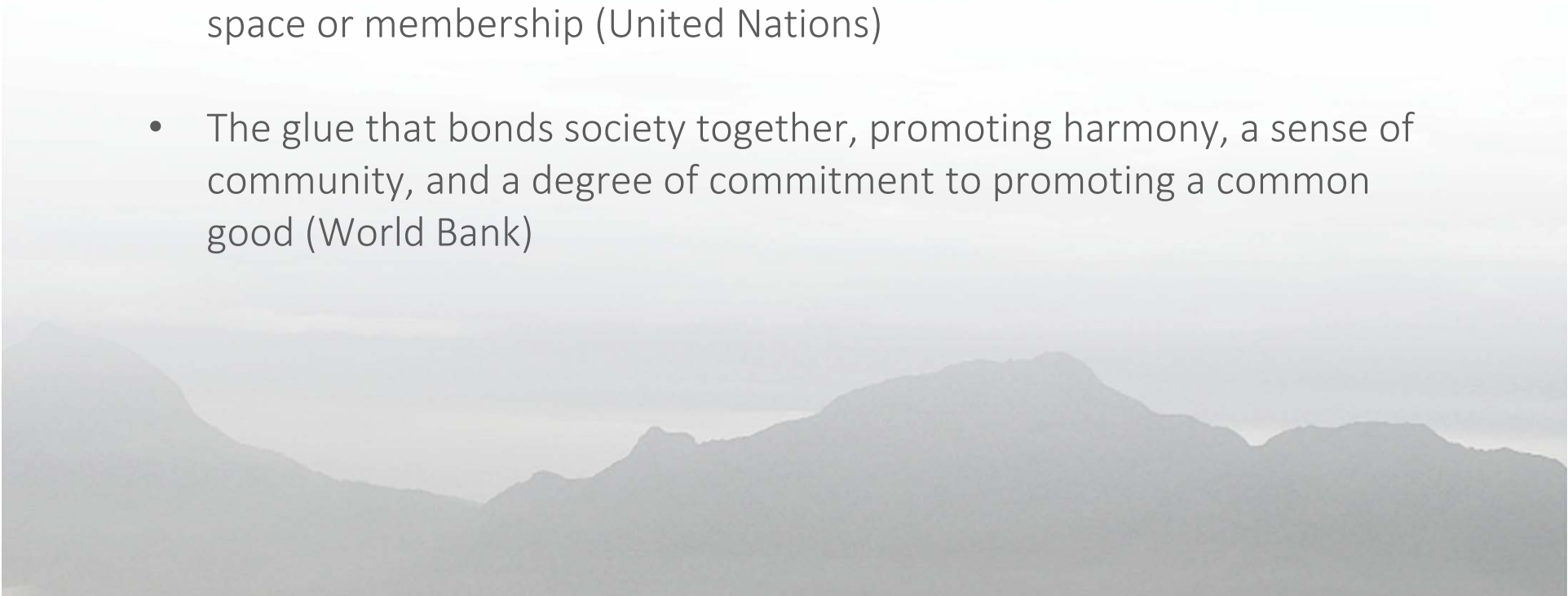


Sample Countries

- *We, the citizens of Singapore, pledge ourselves as one united people, regardless of race, language or religion, to build a democratic society, based on justice and equality, so as to achieve happiness, prosperity and progress for our nation.* (Singapore National Pledge)
 - *“...Participation and inclusion...where diversity is a strength.”* (Canada, Social Cohesion Roadmap)
 - *“Social cohesion is the capacity of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members, minimizing disparities and avoiding marginalization”* (Council of Europe)
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Organizations

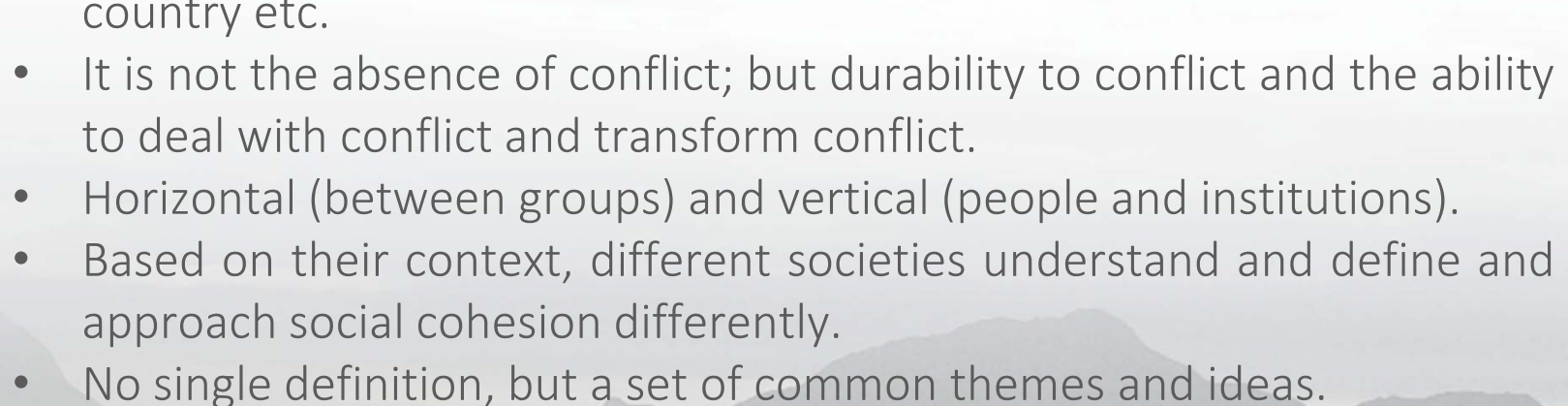
- The common bonds that unify different people that share common space or membership (United Nations)
 - The glue that bonds society together, promoting harmony, a sense of community, and a degree of commitment to promoting a common good (World Bank)
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Myanmar





Key Learning

- Social Cohesion is the measure of the ‘glue’ or ‘ingredients’ – mind-sets, attitudes, behaviours and actions, and policies, systems and processes - that prevents violence and builds peace.
 - At many levels: family, organization, sports team, village, state, country etc.
 - It is not the absence of conflict; but durability to conflict and the ability to deal with conflict and transform conflict.
 - Horizontal (between groups) and vertical (people and institutions).
 - Based on their context, different societies understand and define and approach social cohesion differently.
 - No single definition, but a set of common themes and ideas.
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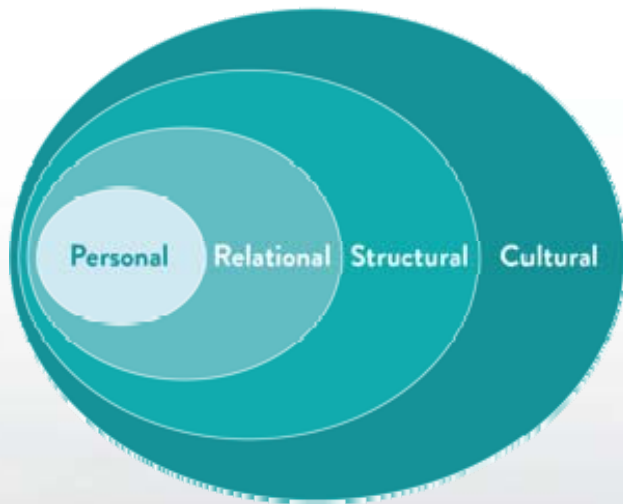
Conflict and Violence

“A disagreement through which the parties involved perceives a threat to their needs, interests or concerns.”
(Mayer 1990)

“If channeled improperly, conflict has the potential to intensify and erupt into violence.” (UN 2003)



Dimensions of Social Change



1. Personal: mental and emotional aspects of human experience.
2. Relational: relationship between people, groups, institutions etc.
3. Structural: the ways people build and organize social, economic and institutional relationships and decision-making.
4. Cultural: patterns of group life/social norms and values.

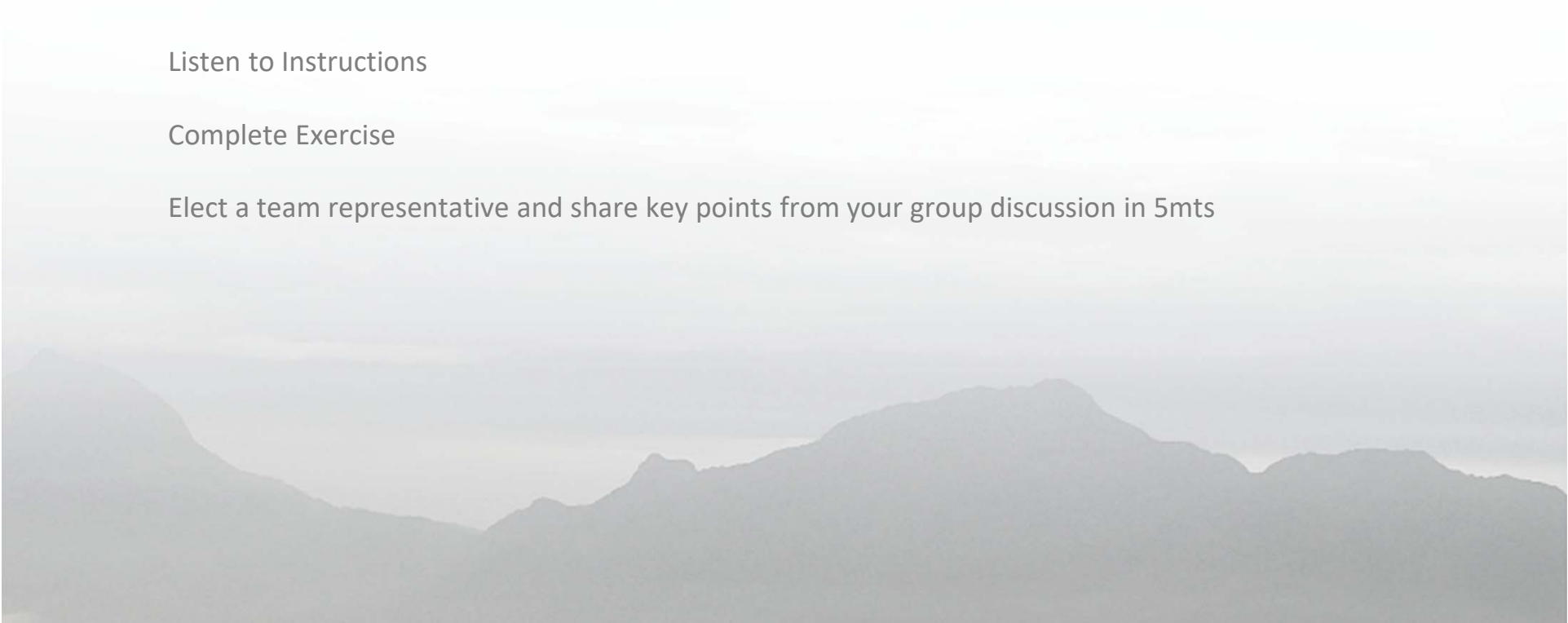


Group Work: Thinking Hats

Listen to Instructions

Complete Exercise

Elect a team representative and share key points from your group discussion in 5mts



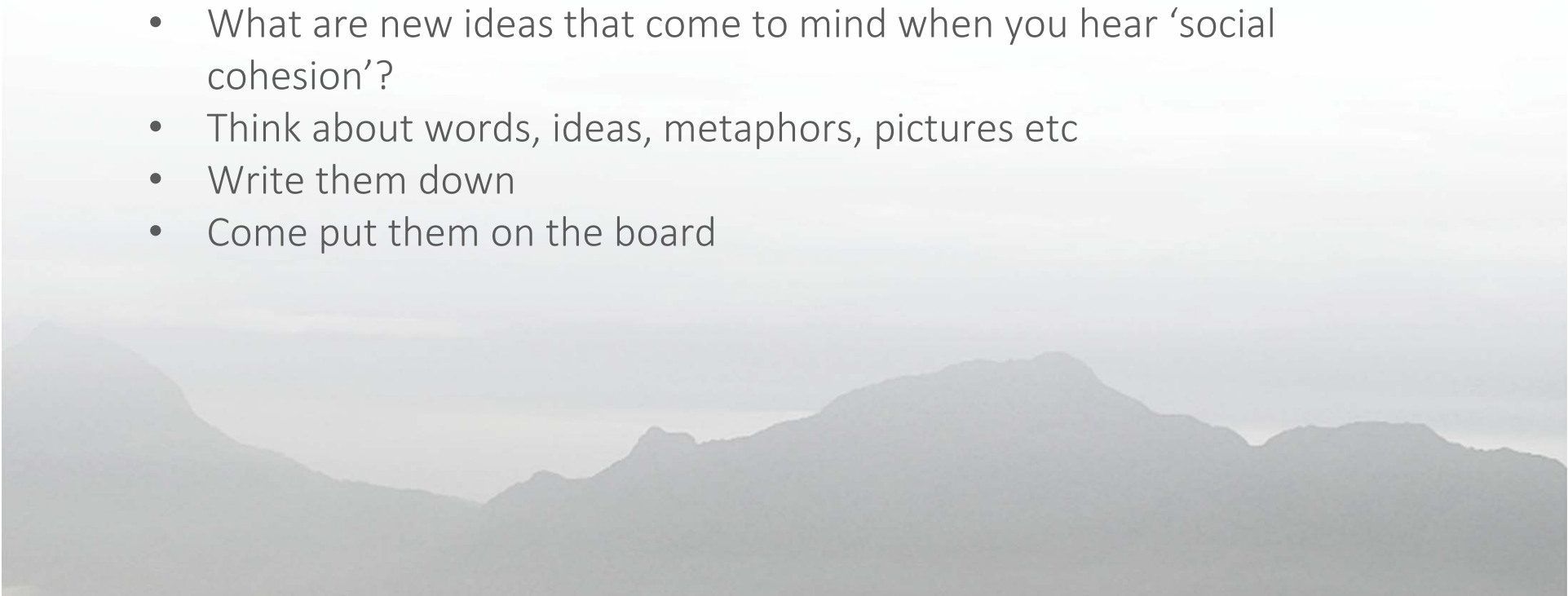


What is Social Cohesion 'Mainstreaming'?

- Assessing the situation using a social cohesion lens (descriptive)
 - Promoting/strengthening social cohesion through our actions/work (prescriptive)
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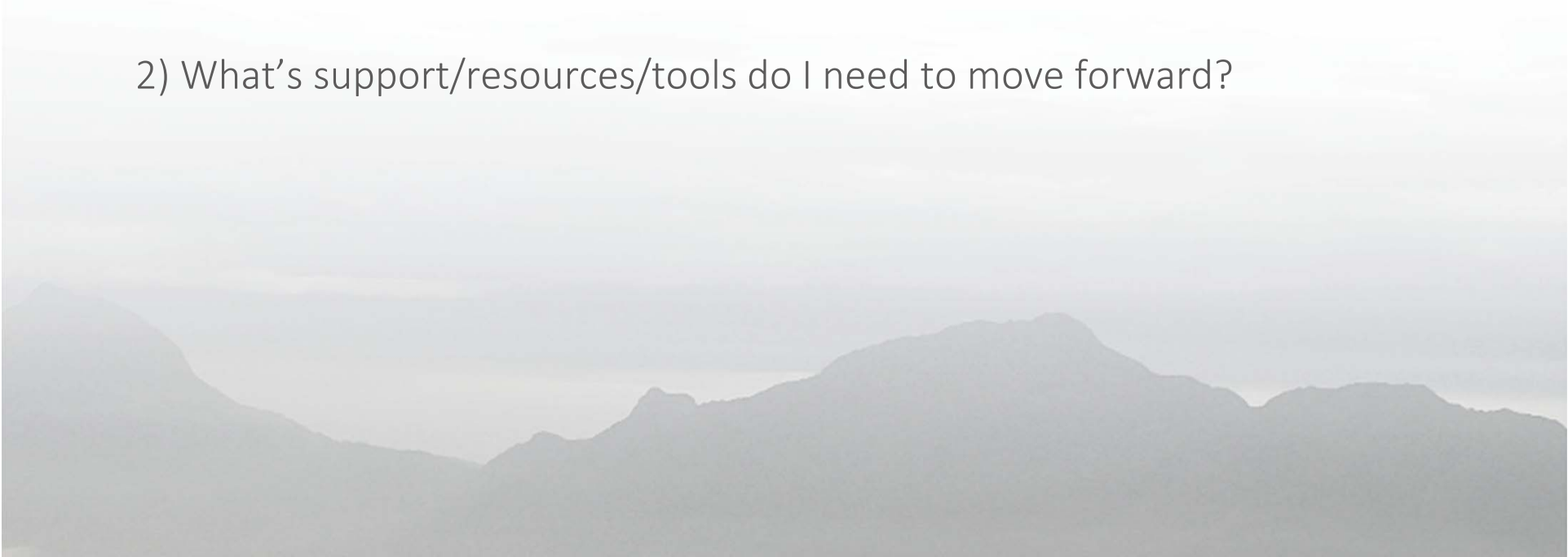


Exercise: When I hear 'social cohesion' I think of...

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Closing Reflection

- 1) What is the one thing I learned, which if I start doing now, can make a big difference to my work/output/contribution?
 - 2) What's support/resources/tools do I need to move forward?
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Thank You Everyone.

