



House of Lords COVID-19 Committee: Life beyond COVID

About this discussion pack

We've designed this discussion pack to give organisations, communities and groups that meet regularly an easy way to share their views on the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on their lives and on society.

If you work with under-18s, we've designed a separate pack available on our website.

The Committee is interested to hear your views on the future of life after COVID-19: both your daily life, at work and at home, and for society (social cohesion, (in)equality, the environment or arts and culture. We are specifically asking people not to tell us about the 'here and now', but about how they think things will be (or could be) 2-5 years from now...

What you share with us will help inform the Committee's thinking on these issues and help the Committee decide their next steps.

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What is the House of Lords COVID-19 Committee?

A House of Lords Select Committee is made up of 12 members, who each have different political ideas, life experiences and knowledge. Committees in the House of Lords hold inquiries into current issues and specialist subject areas.

During an inquiry, the Committee will ask a range of individuals and organisations to share their views and experiences on the chosen subject. At the end of the inquiry, the Committee might publish its conclusions and make recommendations for the Government. Their findings are made public and usually require a response from the Government.

The [COVID-19 Committee](#) was set up in June 2020 to consider the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic and social wellbeing of the United Kingdom.

The Life Beyond COVID Inquiry



For its first inquiry, the COVID-19 Committee wants to look to the future and think about those things that, several years from now, will be (or should be) different than they would have been if the pandemic had not happened.

That could be because of rules in place that mean we have to do things differently, or it could be because experiencing the pandemic has changed how we think or feel, or because the immediate impact that has been experienced is so strong that it has consequences for the long term.

Information shared with the Committee will help build a picture of what people think the long-term implications of the pandemic might be.

[Watch the Chair of the Committee, Baroness Martha Lane-Fox, introduce the inquiry and explain how you can get involved](#)

Key information: How to participate in the inquiry

1. Hold your discussions during July, August or early September (questions and prompts are below)
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- Complete our [online form](#) and submit the results of your discussions by **Friday 18 September 2020**
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- If your group is on social media, share that you've participated. Tweet us [@HLCOVID19Com](#) and use the hashtag [#LifeBeyondCOVID](#)

Key information: What you'll need to deliver the discussion group

- A virtual meeting of your group using a video-conferencing platform. Depending on the number in your group you may want to have several discussions. We recommend **4-10 people per discussion**.

- At least 30 minutes to discuss the questions below.

- A way to take notes on the key points of the discussion.

- Structure the discussion in a way that works best for your group.

- We've included an optional icebreaker and prompts in case you need them.

- Share the questions with your group before you meet.

- Please be mindful that within your group individuals may have very different experiences of the pandemic. While some people have been able to use their change in circumstances to create positive long-term changes in the way they live or work, others may have experienced increased anxiety, loss of income, had to juggle work with home schooling or been directly affected by COVID-19.

Discussion Plan

1. Icebreaker (optional, 5 minutes)

- Give everyone a couple of minutes to think about COVID-19 and the pandemic.
- Ask participants to share their thoughts with the group if they wish. You may want to ask people to share their thoughts in the chatbox if they would prefer not to share them verbally.

2. Whole group discussion (at least 10-15 minutes per question; you might need more time depending on the size of your group)

To help stimulate discussions we have provided some ideas to serve as prompts.

Following the discussions, ask the group to decide what they think are the key points to be shared with the Committee. Use the [online form](#) to share the results of the discussions.

Question	Prompts
1. Do you think the pandemic has changed our priorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has it changed the way you and your friends think about life?• Has it changed the way you think about society?• What do you care more about?• What do you care less about?
2. It's 2022: what is your life like? Is anything different because of the COVID-19 pandemic?	It's 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does your home life look like?• What does your work life look like?• What does society look like?• What's changed?• What's stayed the same?
3. What do you most hope changes for the better (over the next two to five years)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you hope changes for the better in your home life?• What do you hope changes for your work life?• What do you hope changes for society?
4. It's 2025: has anything really changed since the pandemic? Or has everything gone back to how it was before?	It's 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What has changed for the better?• What has changed for the worse?• What's gone back to how it was before?

Other ways to share your views

If your group, or members of your group, enjoy creative activities, you could summarise the key points raised in the discussion above in a poem, photo, drawing, song, or any other form you like. The best way to share this with the Committee is via Twitter: tweet the Committee ([@HLCOVID19Com](https://twitter.com/HLCOVID19Com)) a picture or recording of what you make using the hashtag #LifeBeyondCOVID.