

Chris Hawke

Kitchen Table Sharing and Dinner Diplomacy.

The existing influence of people sharing around the dinner table can be focused and strengthened to create a global network for the collection, analysis and sharing of information and ideas for change to create a more peaceful world. This global network of people around their kitchen tables would provide a significant alternative over time to the secrecy and control of many existing media outlets that are heavily influenced by powerful short-term, often global, vested interests.

Now, billions of people around our world are highly dependent on what existing media share or do not share with them. Many countries are dominated by specific special interest groups who intentionally control the information sharing systems to reflect their preferred world view or to create the desired response from their populations. Eg 'Buy this'... 'Vote for me'... 'Do this or...'

Huge advances into media and information technology mean that those who control the technology have enormous power to influence over their user populations. Many people across our world are denied any meaningful access to information about their existing military and security situation within their own country and around our world. Many institutions in many countries also stay silent or 'go soft' or 'toe the party line' on sensitive security topics. They rely on the support or finances of the powerful to continue to provide their service, product or charism. Many people and institutions rely on substantial government funding or big business support to survive. So, they often avoid 'biting the hand that feeds them'. Many churches and religious institutions are reluctant to challenge powerful vested interests on whom they rely for support or endorsement or income. Schools often reflect the dominant values within their culture. Clear truthful facts are often hard to find.

Kitchen Table Sharing (KTS) has the potential to share information, analysis and ideas more freely than other often larger gatherings. Truth telling is often easier, especially in longer term relationships. With family and close friends ('family') it is often easier to be more honest and explore concerns more extensively.

This is also how people in many controlling cultures survive and create change. Information and significant change flows through and is reinforced by kitchen or dinner table relationships. Discussions within family are harder for controlling institutions to track or control.

We can even leave our phones at home to prevent powerful and highly technological vested interests from illegally listening in or legally paying for the information that is widely collected now about almost every person on this planet.

In controlling cultures, truth is often only shared quietly with trusted others. We choose who to share with face to face. This is often called 'the underground'. For example the 'French underground' worked to collect information and take action to undermine the Nazi invasion during WW2.

Kitchen Table Sharing and Dinner Diplomacy has the potential to share more truth of what is really happening with others by word of mouth, often one on one, between trusted people. Knowledge is power. Extra information, with the skills to fact check then analyse it in the light of your preferred values, can then be shared.

How Kitchen Table Sharing already works and could be strengthened?

It happens already everyday around eating preparing and cleaning up wherever we are.

More considered discussions usually occur after the meal before people move on.

Any person who yearns for a more peaceful world for themselves or their children or grandchildren can invite others to share their concerns about what is happening and what they could do to make things better within their own lives. They would meet over a meal of their choice. Then after some

pleasant time together could together explore their concerns and proposed steps to create a more peaceful future for us all. Then those who wish to could be invited to continue to meet, eat and enjoy time together, before sharing, analysing and exploring next steps together.

Each kitchen table group would seek out the knowledge and skills to be more effective. Training would be offered in areas needed to move forward including:

- o Choosing your own personal and group focus to reflect your interests, knowledge and skills
- o Fact checking skills
- o Learning to spot manipulation by fear ('Fearnipulation')
- o Recognising and exposing psychological operations (PsyOps) being used on us, friends and others
- o Using Non-Violence principles that build an ANVIL of Active Non-Violent Inclusive Love.
- o How to make effective decisions that support people to be the change they wish to see.
- o How to connect with and create decisions of mutual benefit with those who disagree with you
- o How to collect, analyse and share information and action ideas
- o How to support each other emotionally and motivationally.
- o How to creatively resolve conflict
- o Building common purpose and motivation to create the future you yearn for.
- o Using creativity and imagination to build relationships to build change
- o Building your own analysis and developing a shared analysis with others
- o How to enjoy life with family while creating the life you all yearn for.
- oand whatever knowledge or skill is needed to create change.

This Kitchen Table Sharing already happens informally with family (friends and family) in the kitchen and around the home. This is developing and strengthening this reality.

While most Kitchen Table Meetings (and Dinner Diplomacy) would happen in the home after a meal, we need to encourage more spaces for this connection to occur,

- o Around the kitchen or dining room table or breakfast bar
- o In the lounge
- o around the Bar B Q,
- o on the verandah after work
- o While driving in the car on outings
- o While walking or sporting for exercise
- o Over a drink after work or on Friday afternoons at the end of the work week
- o Around the lunch room table at work
- o While on holidays or visiting relatives and friends locally and around the world
- o In local community or church hall

Each Kitchen Table Sharing Group would operate as a small information sharing and support group. They would link up around common ideas and actions as needed. They would decide who is involved and how to move forward. This reflects the common variations on small group practice.

Each kitchen table group would operate as their own autonomous group. If they get too large or there is too much division that is preventing effective action, then they could split into smaller groups or dissolve and find new people to work with. It is a key priority that each group member is supported to be the change they yearn to see for their world.

Modern open plan house design makes it a little more challenging to find a safe social space where we can build sufficient trust to go deeper into difficult topics away from children and other adults who are not able to deal with the intensity and complexity of these sensitive concerns at this time. Another consideration is how to deal with the interference of television, phones and social media within this global culture that is dominated by them. Do we redesign our homes and life spaces so we can talk in more depth with each other?

Kitchen Table Groups could choose to meet without phones and recording devices or written record if they value privacy from intrusive technologies often controlled by powerful vested interest groups.

They may choose not to take notes or have any record of meetings... just talk, then do. This often works well for small groups of 5-8 people.

For me the Dinner Diplomacy better describes the next step after Kitchen Table Sharing. We now use the knowledge and skills to create a commonly desired future with others. The key is to take action after careful collection of information, analysis and consideration of your values into strategies and goals to create the change. Diplomacy includes the skill of the negotiation 'dance' to find the best solution possible to each situation. Useful diplomacy assumes engagement in action after serious preparation. Diplomacy is moving us beyond the gathering of information, which often paralyses many people when shared without a future focus in action.

Kitchen Table Sharing Dinner Diplomacy could keep families and our world together. While all adults would be encouraged to have some general non-violence training, some would become quite highly skilled. Some may be skilled at fact checking. Others at 'calling out' brainwashing and mind control. Everyone could enjoy playing 'Fearnipulation Spotto' - when we 'spot' when politicians or vested interest groups are frightening us into accepting solutions that are not in our best interest or we do not really want to embrace.

KTSD is building our own strong local and global personal relationship networks with knowledge and skills to be widely shared, especially with people who visit or connect with family, business, social and other people from different groups with their own community, region, nation and across our world. People choose to become part of what I propose as Global Kitchen Table Media Networks (GKTMN) to collect and share information, analysis and action ideas from all over the world. This becomes alternative information, analysis and action media that offsets the current national and global media networks that are often overly influenced by small self interest groups that often have a lot of money. While KTM may use many similar information, analysis and action processes like US and Australian defence and foreign affairs personnel, they also focus on other ways like sharing with word of mouth and at the dinner table. KTM has the long-term power of building face to face relationship networks rather than relying on the current global influence of screens.

The preventive, creative, solution focus of groups using non-violence principles can stimulate new ways of thinking. Kitchen table sharing, media and diplomacy could assist in prevention of war by collecting, analysing and sharing information and action within our 'family' (friends and family) networks locally, across Australia and around our world. People represent their families and communities when visiting each other around the world. They create and maintain their own info and action networks. They become democracy in action.

Another creative KTM focus is inviting 'families' to share the hopes and dreams for themselves and their grandchildren. 'Families' that dream together often play together and stay together.

RECOMMENDATION: Encourage the creation and strengthen Kitchen Table Sharing, Media and Dinner Diplomacy Teams across the world to collect, analysis and share information and action for change as an alternative to current global media network control.