

There is utility in referring to Organizational Groups by a different name than Direct Action Groups. The structure and naming above was used by the anti-nuke movement on the West Coast in the 80's.

Variations on this theme occur from OWS Occupation site to site. The differences being that sometimes organizational groups refer to themselves as affinity groups at some Occupy sites. So bear this in mind when talking to travelling Occupiers from other places.

The point in using the terminology above is that when identifying oneself as a member of an Affinity group, a person knows immediately that your intent is Direct Action of some sort. This helps in large Occupations keep misunderstandings for newcomers as well as staff to a minimum. In other words if one says one wants to join a working group, collective or committee, a person knows immediately that you want to help with organization. Which leads to a set of questions that follow which are different than if you say "I want to join an affinity group," which leads to a whole different set of questions involving non-violence training, type of action etc.

Note that these are just names, and that Organizational Groups can operate in the same manner as an Affinity Group, they just do not call themselves that for purposes of clarity. The reason for this becomes clear once you have many different actions taking place simultaneously, and many Working goups. The distinction helps.