

Thinking collectively about a collective problem

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The activity “Thinking collectively about a collective problem”

Introduction

Facilitator: Welcome!

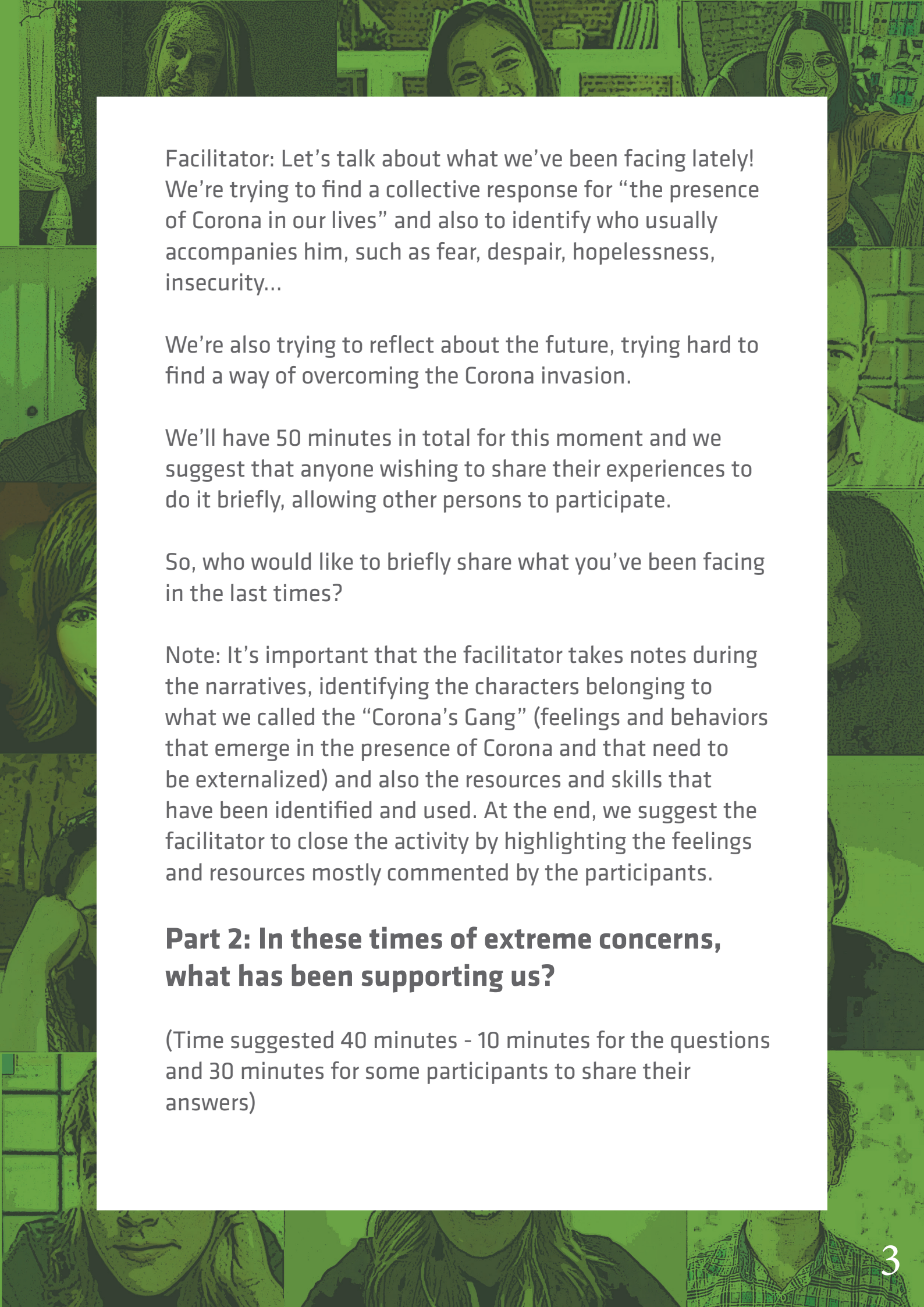
We’re happy to have the opportunity to talk to you about this difficult moment we’re going through that has been deeply concerning all of us.

Some rules are important to be listed before we start sharing our thoughts and experiences. Many of us might be facing or have faced hard moments during this pandemic, so it’s important to be careful and alert to speak manly and only about our personal experiences and to care for all the stories that are to be shared here.

Our conversation will last around 2 hours and during this time we’ll experience four different moments. In the course of the whole activity, we’d like to ask all the participants to keep microphones off, turning them on only when wishing to speak. At any time, if someone would like to talk, just raise the hand.

Part 1: Let’s talk about what we’ve been facing lately!

(Time suggested: 40 minutes for some participants to share their experiences)



Facilitator: Let's talk about what we've been facing lately! We're trying to find a collective response for "the presence of Corona in our lives" and also to identify who usually accompanies him, such as fear, despair, hopelessness, insecurity...

We're also trying to reflect about the future, trying hard to find a way of overcoming the Corona invasion.

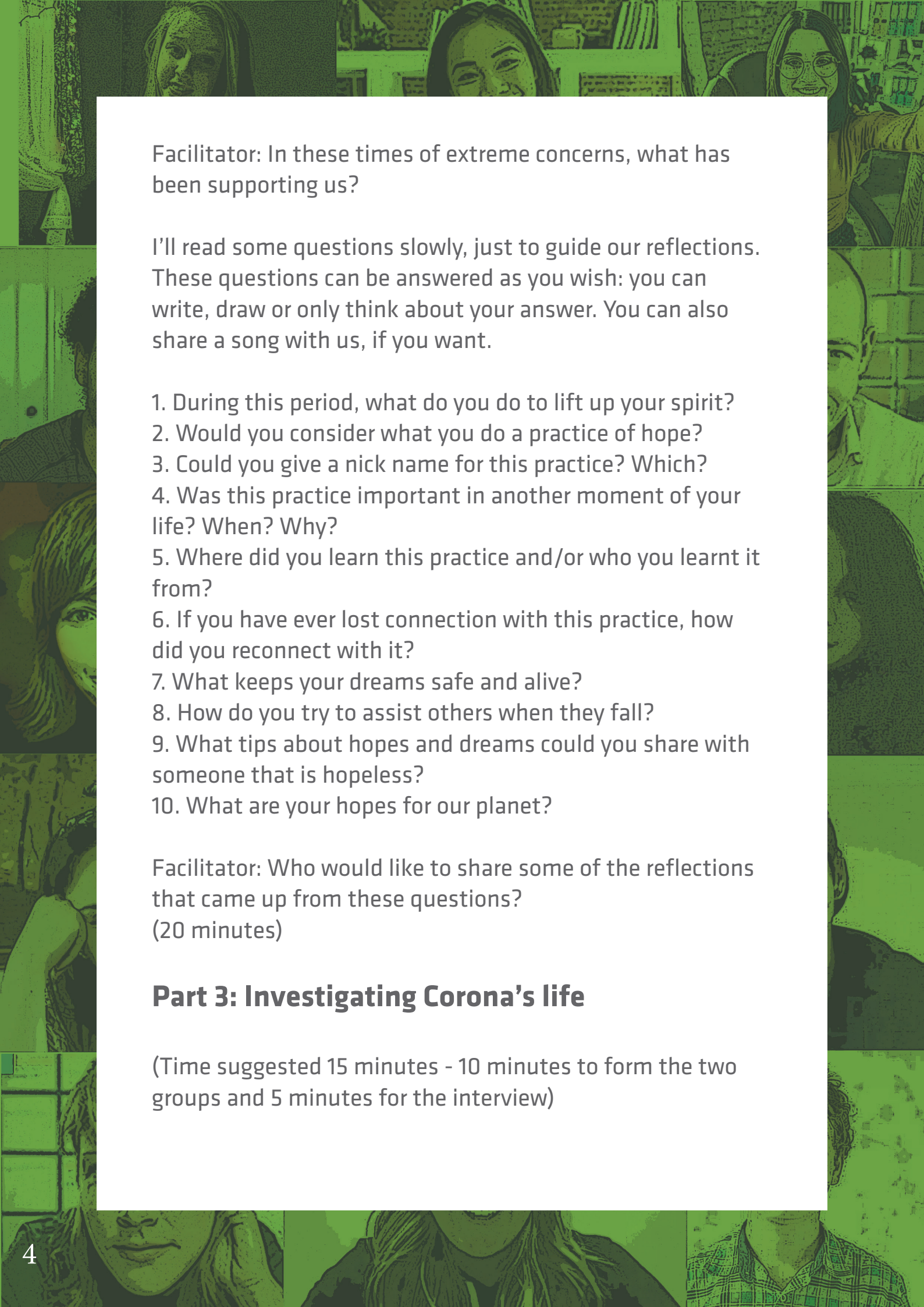
We'll have 50 minutes in total for this moment and we suggest that anyone wishing to share their experiences to do it briefly, allowing other persons to participate.

So, who would like to briefly share what you've been facing in the last times?

Note: It's important that the facilitator takes notes during the narratives, identifying the characters belonging to what we called the "Corona's Gang" (feelings and behaviors that emerge in the presence of Corona and that need to be externalized) and also the resources and skills that have been identified and used. At the end, we suggest the facilitator to close the activity by highlighting the feelings and resources mostly commented by the participants.

Part 2: In these times of extreme concerns, what has been supporting us?

(Time suggested 40 minutes - 10 minutes for the questions and 30 minutes for some participants to share their answers)



Facilitator: In these times of extreme concerns, what has been supporting us?

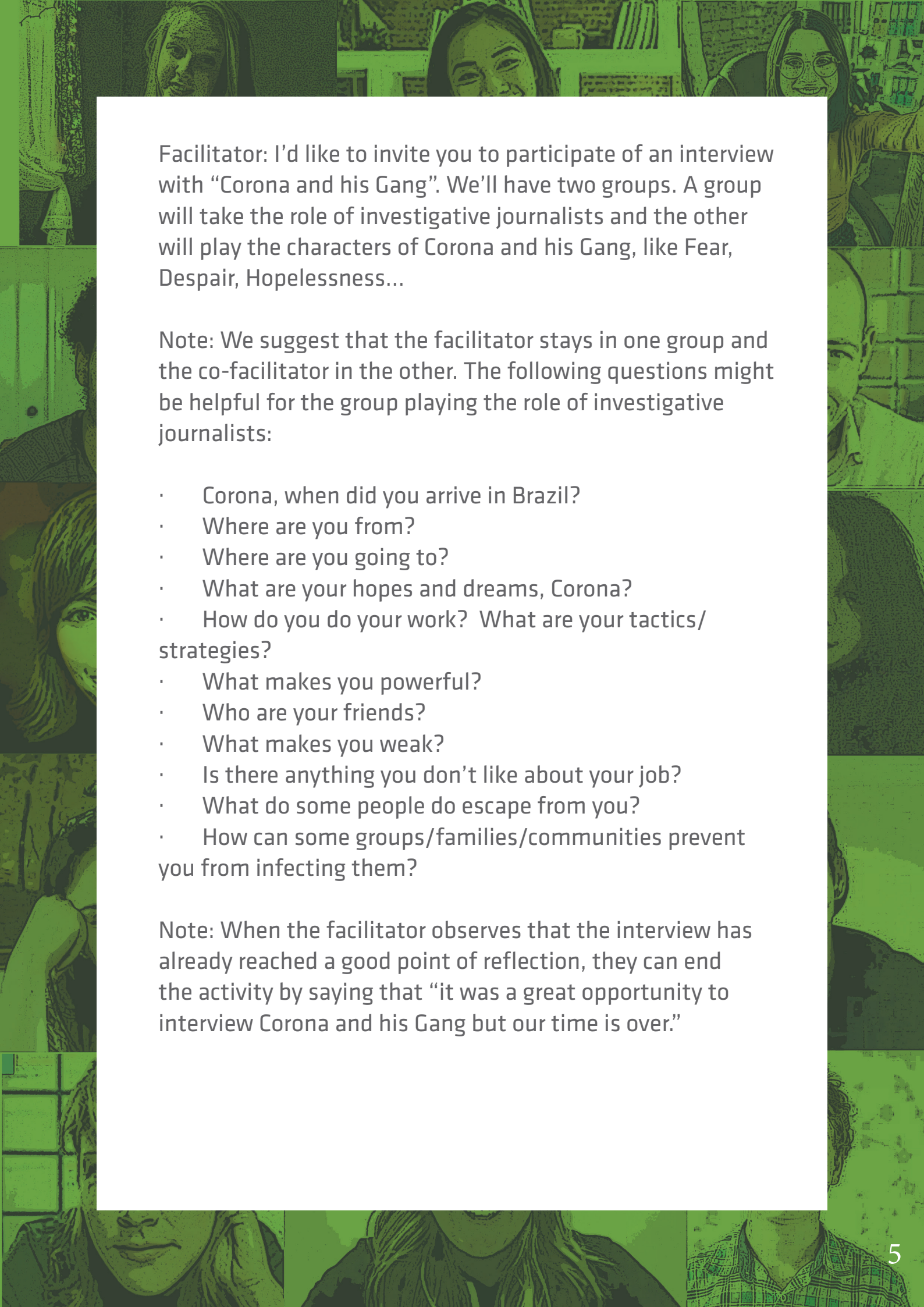
I'll read some questions slowly, just to guide our reflections. These questions can be answered as you wish: you can write, draw or only think about your answer. You can also share a song with us, if you want.

1. During this period, what do you do to lift up your spirit?
2. Would you consider what you do a practice of hope?
3. Could you give a nick name for this practice? Which?
4. Was this practice important in another moment of your life? When? Why?
5. Where did you learn this practice and/or who you learnt it from?
6. If you have ever lost connection with this practice, how did you reconnect with it?
7. What keeps your dreams safe and alive?
8. How do you try to assist others when they fall?
9. What tips about hopes and dreams could you share with someone that is hopeless?
10. What are your hopes for our planet?

Facilitator: Who would like to share some of the reflections that came up from these questions?
(20 minutes)

Part 3: Investigating Corona's life

(Time suggested 15 minutes - 10 minutes to form the two groups and 5 minutes for the interview)



Facilitator: I'd like to invite you to participate of an interview with "Corona and his Gang". We'll have two groups. A group will take the role of investigative journalists and the other will play the characters of Corona and his Gang, like Fear, Despair, Hopelessness...

Note: We suggest that the facilitator stays in one group and the co-facilitator in the other. The following questions might be helpful for the group playing the role of investigative journalists:

- Corona, when did you arrive in Brazil?
- Where are you from?
- Where are you going to?
- What are your hopes and dreams, Corona?
- How do you do your work? What are your tactics/ strategies?
- What makes you powerful?
- Who are your friends?
- What makes you weak?
- Is there anything you don't like about your job?
- What do some people do escape from you?
- How can some groups/families/communities prevent you from infecting them?

Note: When the facilitator observes that the interview has already reached a good point of reflection, they can end the activity by saying that "it was a great opportunity to interview Corona and his Gang but our time is over."



Part 4: Writing a letter to Corona and/or his Gang

(Time suggested 15 minutes to write the letter)

Facilitator: Now that we got to know Corona and his Gang, how about writing a letter to them, to Corona or to one of the members of his Gang? You can tell me what you'd like to put on the letter and I'll write it down. How can we start this letter?

Note: We suggest that this activity can be developed with the participants speaking and the facilitator writing down and reading what they said. The letter does not have to be long.

The following questions might be helpful for the facilitator to guide this task:

- What have you come to understand about Corona?
- What do you think about Corona and his Gang?
- What is your attitude towards them?
- Anything else you would like to say to Corona and his Gang?
- What plans do you have for the future, as soon as this period ends?

Note: At the end, it's important to read the letter aloud to everyone and agree how the group will have access to the letter.



Final Considerations

(Time suggested 10 minutes - people are invited to send a message to other people who are facing the same adversity)

Facilitator: Of all that we talked about, what messages would you like to send to other people who are facing the same adversity? After our meeting, what actions do you feel encouraged to take in your family and your community?

For anyone who might need to speak with us after this meeting, we're making available our WhatsApp number and email.

Note for the facilitator: It's important to thank the participants for the opportunity of talking with them and to highlight and honor the lessons learned from the stories shared by the group.