

# ADVOCACY

Promoting Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



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*Charity goes beyond justice*, because to love is to give, to offer what is “mine” to the other; but it never lacks justice, which prompts us to give the other what is “his”, what is due to him by reason of his being or his acting. I cannot “give” what is mine to the other, without first giving him what pertains to him in justice. If we love others with charity, then first of all we are just towards them. Not only is justice not extraneous to charity, not only is it not an alternative or parallel path to charity: justice is inseparable from charity, and intrinsic to it. Justice is the primary way of charity or, in Paul VI's words, “the minimum measure” of it, an integral part of the love “in deed and in truth” (1 Jn 3:18), to which Saint John exhorts us.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 6

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 139

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. We are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. Compassion sees that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., *Jericho Road*

## HANDBOOK OBJECTIVES

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## WHAT IS ADVOCACY?



Advocacy is about working on behalf of others to ensure that they are able to:

- Have their voices heard on issues that are important to them;
- Defend and safeguard their rights;
- Have their views genuinely considered, and their rights guaranteed, when decisions are being made about their lives.

Advocacy uses methods such as education, public campaigns and consultation processes in order to influence decision-makers to lead to action from the government, organisations or individuals.

Intended outcomes include better public-policy decisions and resource allocation that directly affect people's lives.

Organisations engage in advocacy on behalf of the interests they represent. Their hope is to influence public policy or the decisions of any institutional elite to benefit those interests. Advocacy is therefore political.

## ADVOCACY FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Advocacy aims to bring forward the voices of people who are usually left out of decision-making, and whose issues are not considered:

Serving communities experiencing poverty, inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion;

Working for and with people whose views are often not reflected in policy.

Social Justice Advocacy is about speaking up for those **without** power: “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (*Laudato Si’* 49)

When we speak, we are always speaking to somebody: advocacy is about speaking to those **with** power.

Like the Biblical Prophets, we speak to those with power to remind them of their duty, and to remind them of the rights of those without power. Advocacy then is about speaking truth to power.

Advocacy consists of organised efforts and actions:

Based on the reality of what is

To highlight critical issues that have been ignored

To influence public attitudes

To enact and implement laws and public policies

To shape what **should be** – A JUST AND DECENT SOCIETY.

Advocacy is not simply about criticizing injustices...

Advocacy is about making real effort to effect real change that impacts positively on people’s lives.

## ADVOCACY IS FOCUSED ON RESULTS



***Do Results Matter? ...YES!***

Advocacy is a long term process that requires patience and perseverance.

Effective advocacy requires credible, evidence based arguments.

Advocacy involves persuading policy-makers and opinion-formers to:

Listen to you;

Take you seriously;

Talk with you about what changes are needed and how they can be achieved and implemented.

Advocacy is focused on transformative results:

To enable social justice advocates to gain access and voice in the decision making of relevant institutions;

To change the power relationships between these institutions and the people affected by their decisions, thereby changing the institutions themselves;

To result in a clear improvement in people's lives.

## LEVELS OF ADVOCACY

There are multiple levels of advocacy, from the personal right up to the global.

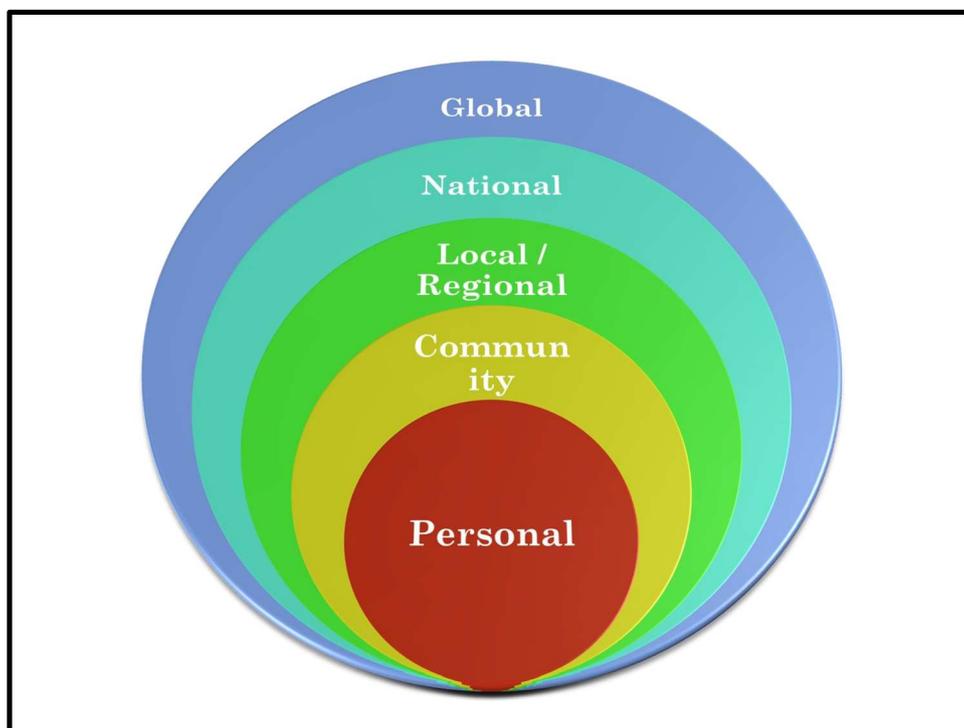
It is important to know at what level you are advocating, and how your issue fits into a bigger issue at a higher level:

You may be advocating against plans to extract “fracked” gas in your local community because it will damage your local environment.

This is part of a bigger issue: the damage done by fracked gas extraction in other communities around the world.

This then is part of a bigger issue again: the damage done by fracked gas to the global environment, and the even bigger problem of fossil fuel extraction and global warming.

Greater awareness about how your local issue fits into the bigger picture allows you to better understand your own issue, and to network with other groups facing the same issue: Thinking Globally and Acting Locally!



# HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## HUMAN RIGHTS

A Rights-Based Approach is at the heart of Social Justice Advocacy.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

The UDHR includes 30 fundamental rights agreed to by all UN Members States.

Human Rights depend on only one thing: being human. They are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.

The 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Right outline the following 30 fundamental rights:

- 1 We are all born free and equal
- 2 Freedom from Discrimination
- 3 Right to Life
- 4 Freedom from Slavery
- 5 Freedom from Torture
- 6 Right to Recognition before the Law
- 7 Right to Equality before the Law
- 8 Right to Remedy
- 9 Freedom from Arbitrary Detention
- 10 Right to a Fair Trial
- 11 Presumption of Innocence and International Crimes
- 12 Right to Privacy
- 13 Freedom of Movement
- 14 Right to Asylum
- 15 Right to Nationality
- 16 Right to Marry and to Found a Family
- 17 Right to Own Property
- 18 Freedom of Religion or Belief
- 19 Freedom of Opinion and Expression

- 20 Freedom of Assembly and Association
- 21 Freedom of Democracy
- 22 Right to Social Security
- 23 Right to Work
- 24 Right to Rest and Leisure
- 25 Right to Adequate Standard of Living
- 26 Right to Education
- 27 Right to Cultural, Artistic and Scientific Life
- 28 Right to a Free and Fair World
- 29 Duty to Your Community
- 30 Rights are Inalienable



Eleanor Roosevelt: Chairperson of the drafting committee of the UDHR

In addition to the UDHR, further rights have been recognised by the UN:

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

United Nations Convention against Torture

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons

When a State signs up to the UDHR or to one of the Human Rights Conventions listed above, that country is making a pledge to uphold those rights for all people living in that country.

This pledge turns people into Rights-Holders and the Government becomes the Duty-Bearer.

As such, we as advocates can remind the Government of their pledge, of the rights of people, and the Government's obligation as Duty-Bearer to take whatever action is required to make those rights a reality.

## THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

However, Human Rights mean little without laws, policies and resources to make them a reality.

How we organise our State, Laws, Services, and Economy so that ALL people can exercise their Rights is central to making Human Rights effective.

In order to achieve this and make Rights a reality, the United Nations have agreed a framework of goals and targets: The Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a list of 17 interlinked goals for sustainable development for all countries in order to make Human Rights a reality for everybody and to protect the earth itself, our common home.

The SDGs were set in 2015 by the UN General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

They are defined in a UN Resolution known as Agenda 2030.



## USING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SDGS IN ADVOCACY

The SDGs provide a path towards making Human Rights a reality and securing the wellbeing of the environment.

As such we are able to use the SDG targets, along with Human Rights, as an anchor for our advocacy:

We can use Human Rights as an objective standard against which to judge Government action or inaction.

We can use the SDGs as an agreed international target to measure Government policy and resource allocation in meeting the needs of people and making progress promoting their rights.

We can refer to Human Rights and SDGs when reminding Government of their obligations, and in order to draw attention to areas where progress is needed.

We can use SDGs and Human Rights as our starting point when making alternative policy proposals.

We can educate communities, media and politicians about SDGs and Human Rights to help them better understand what is needed to build a better society.

This has the advantage of making our advocacy objective rather than subjective, and placing it the context of Rights and Duties, rather than simply a matter of policy preference.

## STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY

Advocacy involves working cleverly, in a variety of ways and levels, to promote or resist legislative or policy change in order to protect people's rights.

This involves working with a broad range of stakeholders including policy makers, civil and public servants, social partners, broader public opinion and other relevant actors.

Advocacy includes a broad range of strategies:

Raising public awareness about an issue – big or small, broad or specific;

Networking and building coalitions;

Campaigning to achieve specific policy changes;

Lobbying policy-makers and influencers;

Mobilising the media (old and new) to promote your message.

### CATEGORIES OF ADVOCACY

There are four major categories of advocacy and it is important to explore how to use each of them. Most effective advocacy campaign strategies involve elements of all these:

#### IDEOLOGICAL

Advocacy campaigns built on our convictions, and that persuade others that our convictions are the right convictions i.e. promote belief in the fundamental dignity of every person, or the integral ecology of all creation etc.

#### MASS ADVOCACY

Advocacy campaigns centred on mass mobilisation of the people involving large scale public action, protest, voting etc.

## INTEREST GROUP ADVOCACY

Advocacy campaigns led by groups who organise around a specific issue and put pressure on the system at all points.

## BUREAUCRATIC ADVOCACY

Advocacy campaigns that try to influence the bureaucratic processes, often relying on reports, statistics and evidence from researchers and think tanks etc.

## INSIDER – OUTSIDER STRATEGIES

A fine line runs between advocacy and activism and both are important in the pursuit of social and environmental justice.

This has been important throughout history: in the Civil Rights Campaigns in Ireland and America in the 1960s, or the Anti-Apartheid Campaign in South Africa, or the recent school protests calling for Climate Action.

Within the four categories of advocacy there are opportunities to engage in both “outsider strategies” and “insider strategies”.

This distinction between formal advocacy and activism is important and must be carefully judged and balanced.

‘Insider’ approaches: Advocacy within official policy-making spaces e.g. writing submissions to government, participating in policy consultation processes, sitting on government committees etc.

‘Outsider’ approaches: Activism in marches, street protests, occupying spaces etc.

For those advocating in formal policy spaces (using insider strategies), it is important to weigh the risks of participating in activism (outsider strategies) against the potential gains.

## ADVOCACY ARGUMENTS

There are several types of argument that can be used in advocacy to persuade your listener:

Education/information;

Intellectual/academic;

Emotional/moral;

Economic;

Political.

An effective advocacy campaign will use a combination of argument types as appropriate to the issue AND as appropriate to the listener.

Therefore it is important to consider what sort of argument will persuade a specific listener before addressing them. This is called **framing**.

## PUBLIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

When pursuing improved social and environmental outcomes for a specific issue, it is important to consider where the issue currently sits on the public policy agenda.

Based on how an issue is regarded and addressed in public policy, it is possible to make a judgement about the specific policy objective of an advocacy campaign.

### POSSIBLE POLICY OBJECTIVES:

Policy Agenda Placement: Persuade policy-makers to put the issue on the policy agenda or even give it greater priority;

Policy Development: Create a new policy proposal or policy guidelines;

Policy Adoption: A ballot, legislation, legal agreement etc.;

Policy Blocking: Successful opposition to a negative policy proposal;

Policy Implementation: Proper implementation along with the funding, resources, or quality assurance;

Policy Monitoring and Evaluation: Ensure policy is implemented properly and achieves its intended impacts;

Policy Maintenance: Preventing cuts or other negative changes to a policy.

## LOBBYING

Lobbying is a technique of advocacy that involves:

Efforts by individuals and organisations to directly influence government legislation or public policy;

Targeting politicians and public servants.

It is important to be aware of restrictions and regulations of lobbying activity in your country.

## WORKING WITH POLICY-MAKERS

Social Justice Advocacy aims to achieve better public policy that directly improves people's lives.

At each level of advocacy, you are trying to influence and cooperate with policy-makers to achieve positive outcomes. At some levels this is indirect, while at other levels it is direct.

Therefore, it is important to understand policy-making and try to work productively with policy-makers where possible.

### WHAT POLICY-MAKERS SAY ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES

#### Positive Attitudes:

- Good source of evidence and expertise from grassroots;
- Have a role to play in policy making;
- Can be allies to help create change at higher levels;
- Note a tension between advocacy and service delivery roles;
- Recognise huge diversity.

#### Negative Attitude:

- Reactive at decision making stage and lack of engagement by communities at planning stage;
- Can come with anger and problems instead of solutions;
- Can seek utopian solutions without being willing to take incremental change;
- May have a lack of understanding of budgetary constraint and wider policy context;
- Question how deeply connected are they with people directly affected by decisions who are "hard to reach" and reluctant to participate.

## WHAT COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS SAY:

Frustration with real lack of involvement in decisions – consultation fatigue;

Feeling unappreciated – working in isolation – struggling on diminishing resources;

Some perceive threats to funding / charitable status;

Lack of information;

Policy-makers are not open to suggestions;

Process is not transparent.

## CHALLENGES TO POLICY CHANGE

### Administrative Concerns / Resistance

We've always done it this way

We don't have the staff / skills / resources

Potential domino effect on other policies

Time constraints: we need it NOW

Urgency of decision-making

### Ideology

Our belief system says... so that's what we do.

### Vested Interests

Formal – lobbying by interest groups

Informal – Golden Circles and corruption

# **ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES FOR ADVOCACY**

## **CLEAR STRATEGY AND VISION**

Understand and be able to explain the current reality of your issue

Incorporate intermediate goals, review and evaluation

Develop pragmatic responses: progress not perfection!

## **SOUND EVIDENCE-BASED PROPOSALS**

Have clear and accurate analysis of the situation

Be systematic in collecting information

Commission credible research where required

## **ADVOCACY MUST BE PEOPLE-CENTRED**

Make the people affected visible and enable their voices to be heard

Stay connected to the people whose lives you aim to improve

Stories are powerful for both listener and narrator

Be creative and let people be active in creating the solutions

Be careful not to open vulnerable people to exploitation

## **NETWORK WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Link with local, national and international organisations.

Link with organisations focused on human rights / basic common justice

Effective advocacy comes through diverse teams of storytellers, organisers and “experts” alike.

Diversity is an asset, but the message must be consistent!

## **MUST ENGAGE IN PUBLIC ARGUMENT AND BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT**

Community and general public

Like minded organisations and coalitions

Opposing / indifferent organisations and individuals

Civil Society and Governance Institutions

## **CLEAR COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL**

Use a variety of tools to make connections – personal contact, mainstream media like newspapers and broadcasters, online and social media etc.

Keep people / media interested with changing stories with the same message

Keep the message simple and consistent

Be creative!

## **ENGAGE IN CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH DECISION-MAKERS**

Have real alternatives and realistic proposals

Engage Policy Making Systems

Be willing to compromise and accept stages along the way

Be prepared to fit your campaign to current affairs

Involve decision-makers in your events.

Develop positive relationships with a wide variety of decision-makers

Persist – This can be a very slow process!

## **BUILD ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY**

Effective leadership is critical

Resource the advocacy work appropriately – don't expect success without investment!

Develop people's skill sets

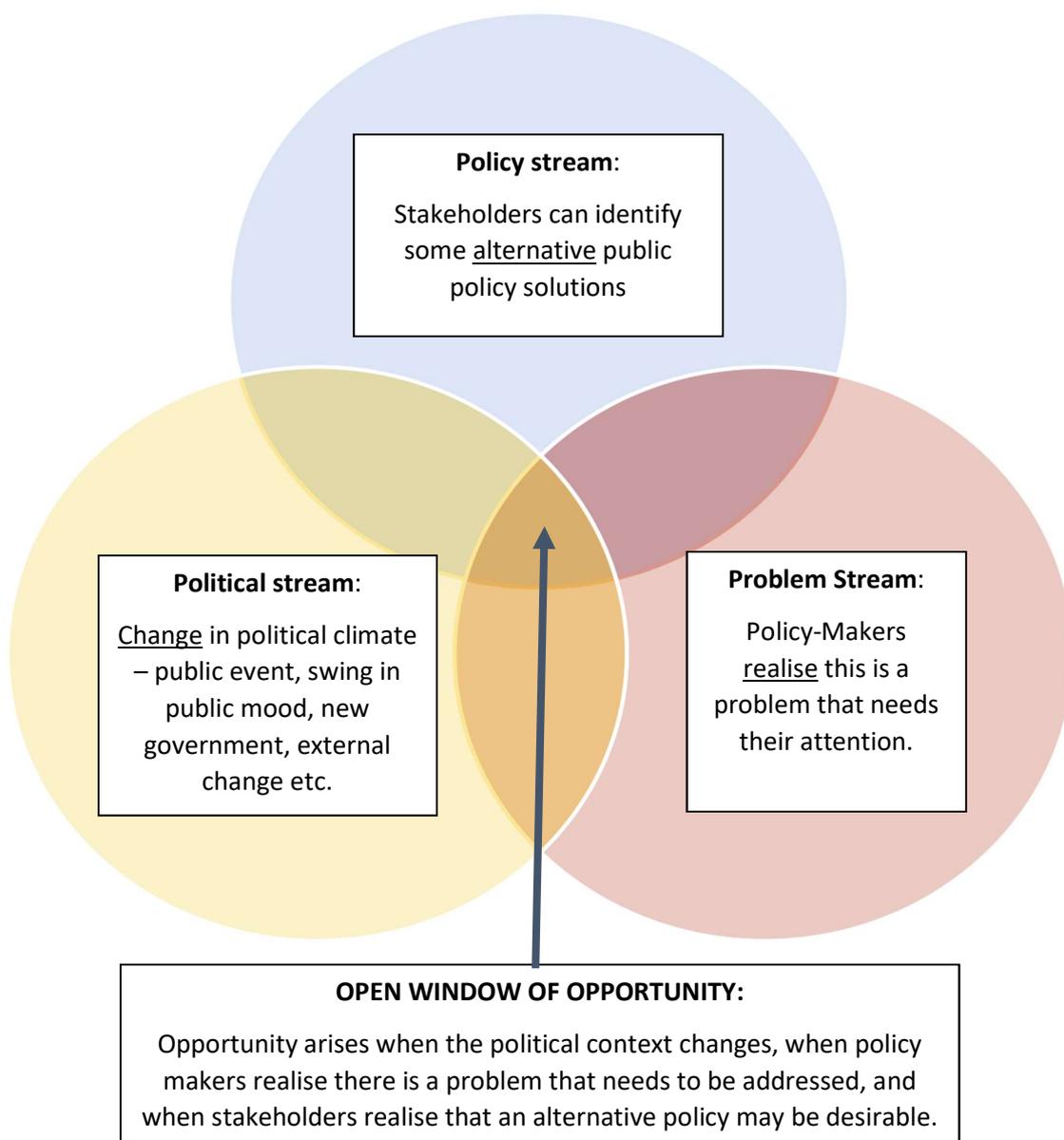
Be aware of how this work will change your organisation

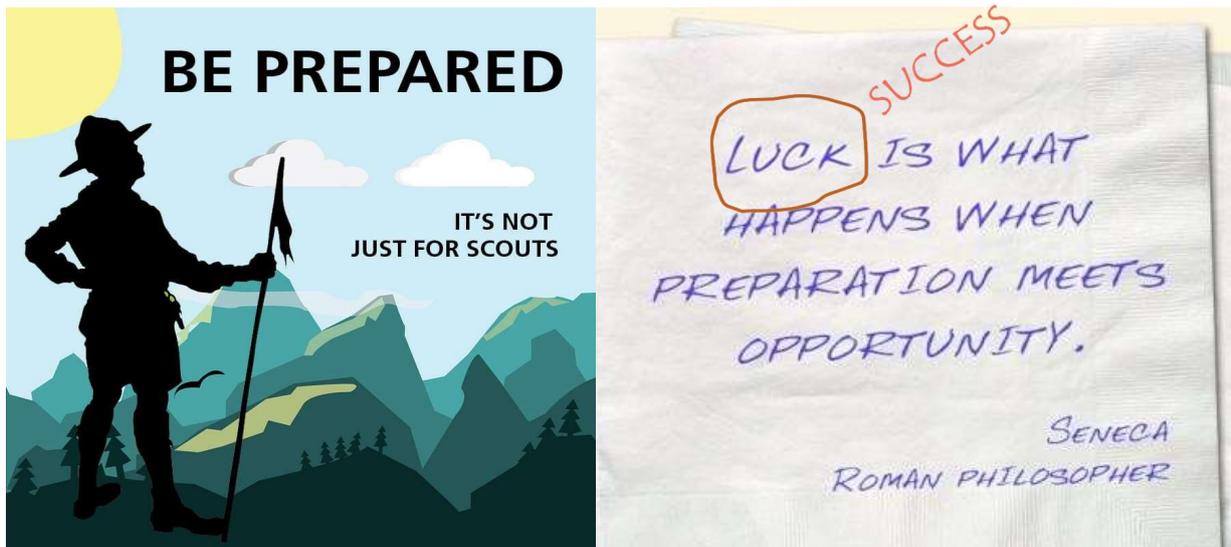
Assess the risks and be prepared to face them, personally and collectively

See your organisation as an agent of change, rather than a side-line critic!

## SEIZE OPPORTUNITY

Policy and political conditions can change and create opportunities. It is important to keep your eyes open for opportunities to influence policy.





## WHAT NOT TO DO!

Do not be all action or all talk

Do not over-promise and/or under-deliver

Do not use your grassroots community and then drop them

Do not lose track of the objective and get lost in the politics of power or let ego get in the way of improving the lives of the people you serve

Do not alienate the policy-makers

Do not undermine efforts at open and honest debate

Do not refuse to compromise or dismiss incremental change

Do not lecture from the moral high ground

NEVER LIE!

# SPEAKING TO POWER: KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

## KEY QUESTIONS

Who are the Target Communities?

Who are the key stakeholders for your issue?

Who benefits / loses from change?

Who needs to be part of your campaign?

Who needs to be convinced?

Who are the Decision makers?

Who are the Pressure makers?

Who has the power to make it happen?

Who is “on the fence” with the inertia to slow progress?

Who has the power to stop it happening?

## DECISION MAKERS

Who has the power and authority to make or block change?

(These are often politicians and senior public servants)

What level of authority do they have?

Who are they accountable to?

What are their issues / constraints in the area?

Previous policy initiatives

Resource constraints

Knowledge and understanding

## PRESSURE MAKERS

Who influences the decision makers?

Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies

Private sector

Lobbyists

Other stakeholders

Formal and informal policy structures e.g. advisory groups, local networks, policy committees, think tanks etc.

Who influences public opinion? (**N.B. Media**)

How do they do it?

## POSSIBLE INTEREST GROUPS

Community Members – community of interest as well as geographic:  
Business / Farming / Fishing /Tourism etc.

Unions

Frontline staff in the area

Elected Officials / local representatives

Electoral candidates

Voters

Media

Environmental Interests

Community and Voluntary groups (including NGOs)

Courts / Police / Health Service etc.

## PRIORITISE YOUR TARGET AUDIENCES

The following chart is a useful tool for prioritising your target audiences:

	Decision Makers	Pressure Makers	Interest Groups
Very Important			
Somewhat Important			
Not Important			

# FRAMING THE ISSUE: GETTING THE MESSAGE RIGHT

## FRAMING

Framing involves targeting your message to different audiences.

Framing requires you to focus or Re-focus the issue, the discussion, and understanding of that issue.

The focus you choose to place on different aspects of an issue changes depending on:

Who your audience is;

How you want them to understand the issue;

What you want to achieve.

REMEMBER: Your core objectives and message stay the same.

## EXAMPLE: HOMELESSNESS

People are homeless when they do not have a safe, stable and guaranteed place to call their own. This could be rented accommodation, or a house or apartment they or their family own.

A person who is homeless may be sleeping on the street, or staying in short term emergency accommodation provided by the Church, Charity or Government.

How we view homelessness and how we judge the circumstances of homelessness, is important if we want to advocate for new policy to address homelessness.

In order to build public support for new policies it would be important to change attitudes about homelessness by changing the areas of focus, to reveal aspects that were previously unknown or unconsidered.

In this example we want to change the public perception of homelessness:

From:

People sleeping on the streets, often with addiction issues and chaotic lives who have opted out of society

To:

Families who have lost their homes or been priced out of the rental market, who are doing their best to keep things going for their children, who now find themselves living in emergency accommodation.

Our decision to focus on families who cannot pay their rent instead of people with addiction problems is a framing choice that reveals reasons for homelessness perhaps previously unconsidered.

Our decision to focus on people who are “doing their best for their children” rather than “people with chaotic lives” is a framing choice that changes our audience’s idea of homeless people from negative to positive.

Our decision to focus on people in emergency accommodation instead of people sleeping on the street is a framing choice that reveals an aspect of homelessness that is usually unseen.

## FRAMING AN ISSUE – PREPARATION

### Audience Research

What do they know about the issue?

What do they feel?

How much do they care?

## Alternative Views

Who else is targeting this audience on this topic?

What is their message?

What is their frame?

Do you need to counter their message?

## APPROACHES TO FRAMING

### Common Ground

What do you and your audience have in common. Can you build from there?

Can lead to a collaborative approach

E.g. “A broken society is bad for business”

### Single Angle

What is the key piece of the argument that fits this specific audience

E.g. Human Rights Perspective / Economic viability

### Episodic

Individual stories

Resonates with people

Emotional connection

Seen as individual responsibility

## **Thematic**

Systems approach

Statistics / Evidence based

Promotes understanding of System responsibility

## **Language matters**

“Drug addicts” versus “People struggling with addiction”

“The Disabled” versus “People with disabilities”

## **Myths matter**

Human Trafficking is a third world problem (false)

Ireland is a high tax country (false)

## **Values Matter**

People are personally responsible for their own fate – for good or ill.

Human Dignity and universal rights – we are all our brothers’ keepers.

## **FRAMING EXERCISE**

Think of an issue in your country which is framed a specific way in public debate:

1. Does this frame actually represents the reality of the issue?
2. Can this issue be framed in a new way to highlight the reality and honour the dignity of the human person?
3. What steps would you take to reframe it this way?

# UN MECHANISMS FOR ADVOCACY

## UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Council is the key United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. It reports directly to the General Assembly.

The Council is made up of 47 State representatives and is tasked with strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe by addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them, including responding to human rights emergencies.

## THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The most innovative feature of the Human Rights Council is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a unique process that:

- Reviews the human rights records of ALL UN Member States.

- Gives all States an opportunity to demonstrate actions taken to improve the human rights situation.

- Gives the UN a chance to address human rights violations, and to help States deal with human right challenges.

- Reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect all human rights.

Every UN Member States is reviewed once every four and a half years.

The reviews are conducted by the 47 elected members of the Human Rights Council who form the 'Working Group'. These members are elected by the General Assembly.

The other UN Member States participate in the discussion as Observer States.

The council meets three times a year in Geneva.

## HOW THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKS

- STEP 1:** Three reports are prepared and submitted to the Human Rights Council. Civil Society groups have an opportunity to inform all three reports.
- A.** A twenty page National Report from the Government of the State under Review (SuR). This report allows the Government to describe the human rights situation in their country in their words and outline what they have done to respond to the recommendations from the previous UPR. Civil Society groups can inform this report by submitting reports and well documented information.
  - B.** A ten page OHCHR Report summarising input from UN experts prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Civil Society groups can inform this report by submitting reports and well documented information to the Special Rapporteurs and International NGOs. These submissions can provide information about the human rights situation in the country, as well as the level of progress made by the Government implementing recommendations since the previous UPR.
  - C.** A ten page Other Relevant Stakeholders Report summarising input from NGOs and Civil Society prepared by the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and informed by input from the National Human Rights institute. Civil society groups, or coalitions of civil society groups, can submit reports and well documented information to the National Human Rights institute, or directly to the OHCHR. These submissions can provide information about the human rights situation in the country, as well as the level of progress made by the Government implementing recommendations since the previous UPR.

**STEP 2:** The State under Review (SuR) appears before the UPR Working Group (Human Rights Council in Geneva) for a three and a half hour review session. Civil Society groups have an opportunity to advocate for specific human rights issues through lobbying of Member States of the Human Rights Council.

This review session includes an Interactive Dialogue in which any Member State of the Council can comment on the three reports, ask questions, and make recommendations as to how the SuR can respond positively.

Civil society groups can lobby States to bring specific issues to their attention and request that such issues be addressed during the Dialogue in the form of questions and/or recommendations. To do so NGOs need to focus on specific issues and suggest no more than 3 or 4 questions/recommendations.

**STEP 3:** The UPR Report is published by the Working Group. It includes a summary of the review and includes conclusions and recommendations for the State under Review (SuR).

The SuR then provides a written response to the report, indicating which recommendations it accepts and which it “notes” (rejects).

**STEP 4:** There are then four and a half years of implementation by the State. This is an important period for Government to take action on the recommendations and pledges.

Civil Society groups have an opportunity to inform stakeholders and the media of progress in implementation of the recommendations, as well as inform the mid-term reports. The recommendations and reports associated with the UPR are also useful reference points to use in advocacy.

It is important for Civil Society Organisations to raise awareness of recommendations and Government pledges among the public and relevant stakeholders, to monitor progress of implementation, engage in dialogue with the Government and support

implementation, and to report to the Human Rights Council about progress made on recommendations.

A mid-term review will be undertaken after two years by the National Human Rights institute. Civil society groups, or coalitions of civil society groups, can submit reports and well documented information.

### **LINES OF APPROACH FOR A MAKING A SUBMISSION TO THE UPR**

Outline UPR recommendations related to your issue of focus that were proposed to the State under Review in the previous cycle;

Link the relevant Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, the relevant Treaty Body protocols ([see p. 10](#)), and the UPR recommendations that have been proposed to the State under Review;

Outline progress to date made by the State in implementing accepted recommendations and any relevant context;

Propose S.M.A.R.T. recommendations to be adopted by the State.

Identify UN Human Rights Council Member States who are most interested in your issue of focus and draw their attention to your recommendations and broader context in advance of the Review session.

#### **For more info on the UPR see:**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx>

<https://www.upr-info.org/en>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYCY7DDmrLk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj96hoRm0uo>