

BREAKING THE RULES

TOOLKIT

from domination to liberation with legislative theatre



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Sering

Ontwikkelaar van participatieve kunstactiviteiten

Co-funded by the
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TOGETHER WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE

This toolkit is a living document and a joint effort of all the communities connected to Sering-Belgium, Formaat-the Netherlands, Katy Rubin – United Kingdom and Umtapo – South Africa. We thank all of them of never accepting nonsense as common sense. Let us continue the fight for human rights.

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CHANGING THE RULES

LT is used to challenge existing unfair laws, regulations, rules and implicit social norms. Do you feel that something needs to be changed at either (inter) national or community level? Then this is the toolkit for you!



**LET'S
ACT
NOW**

IN THIS TOOLKIT

We invite you to embark on this empowering journey, as you harness your creativity, critical thinking, and passion for social justice. Together, let us challenge the status quo, amplify the voices of the youth, and shape a future where active citizenship and positive change go hand in hand.

●REC

CRITICAL PEDAGOGY - FREIRE

A black and white photograph of two men standing outdoors. On the left is a younger man with a beard and mustache, wearing a light-colored shirt, smiling. On the right is an older man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark jacket, looking towards the camera. They are standing in front of a stone wall and some foliage.

Whoever **teaches learns** in the act of **teaching**,
and whoever **learns teaches** in the act of **learning**.

—— *Paulo Freire* ——

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

●REC

ARUN NAICKER
UMTAPO
SOUTH AFRICA

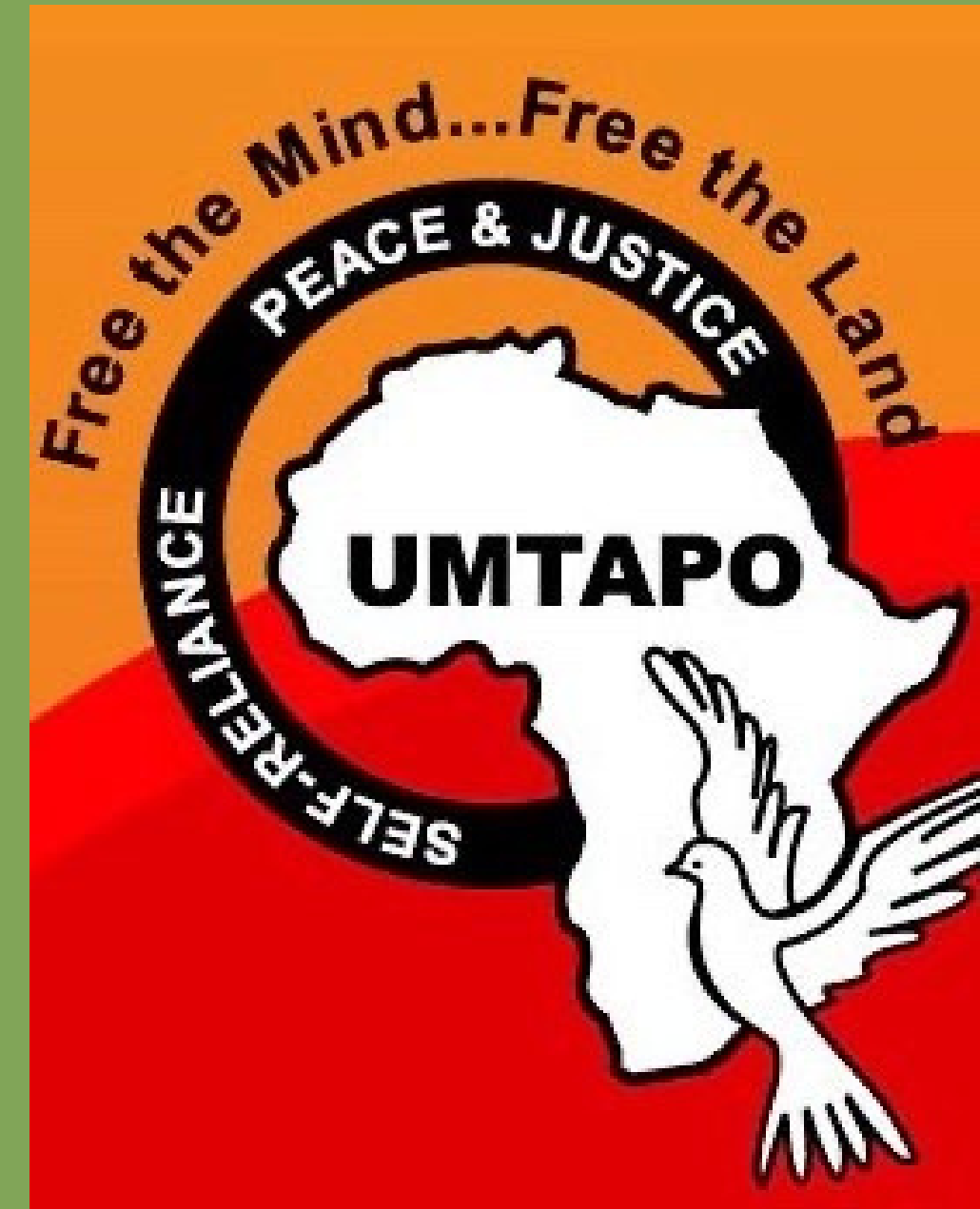


Listen to human rights activist Arun Naicker and hear more about critical pedagogy and how to rise up together against injustice

PRACTISING FREIRE

●REC

ARUN NAICKER
UMTAPO
SOUTH AFRICA



Arun Naicker explains how to create a learning space.



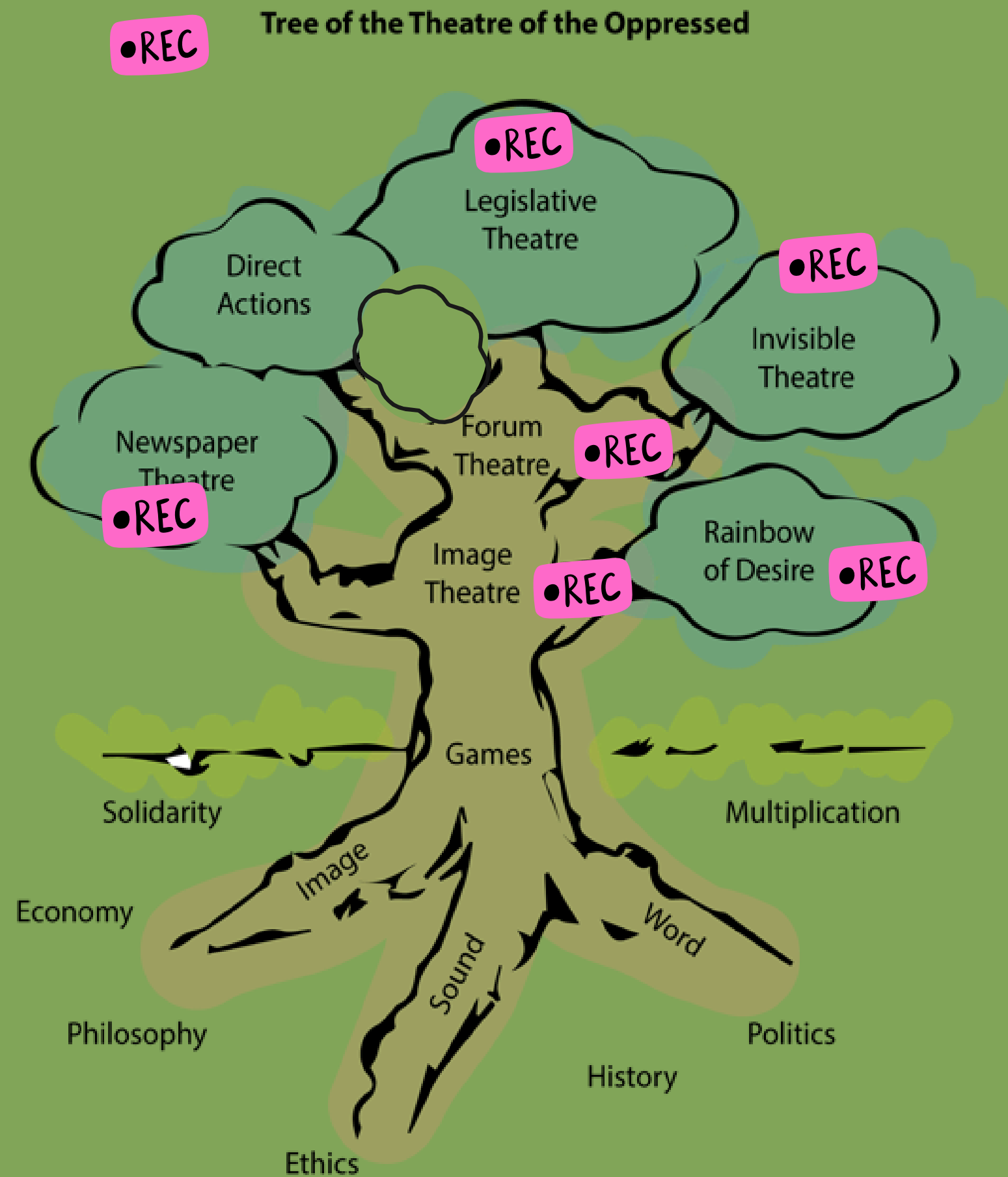
THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Theatre of the oppressed was created by Brazilian activist Boal. It is a participatory methodology where communities who are facing social injustice are invited to explore and transform the reality they live in



BOAL IN ACTION

Listen to the founder of the methodology, Augusto Boal, and see how he works in this video. He explains how crucial a good facilitator is, which in T0 is called the joker. The joker is a difficultator: a facilitator who asks critical questions and guides the group



BOAL'S TREE

Listen to theatermakers across
then world who have been using
this method to engage
communities, challenge
oppressive systems, and
influence legislative
processes

LEGISLATIVE THEATER

Legislative theatre is a unique form of theater where both the audience and policymakers come together to watch a play inspired by real-life experiences of communities dealing with **unfair or ineffective policies**. After the play, the **audience actively participates on stage**, rehearsing different ways to confront the problems presented and testing new policies in real time. Actors and audience members collaborate to **propose ideas for new laws, rules, and policies** aimed at addressing the issue, with the help of advocates, activists, and council representatives. Finally, the audience votes on these new rules, and **policymakers commit to taking immediate action** based on the audience's decisions.

●REC

KATY RUBIN



Listen to Katy Rubin, artist and civic change practitioner who uses Legislative Theatre to bring together constituents, policymakers, and advocates to impact policies, practices and place-making, for unique and effective solutions to complex challenges

STEPS

1

**make
your
issue
into a
play**

2

**perform for a
mixed
audience of
people facing
the issue and
the ones in
charge**

3

**make
proposals for
possible
solutions and
try them on
stage**

4

**vote on the
best
proposals
and agree
to put them
in action**

A PARTICIPATORY PROCES

A participatory group process means we bring the tools, but we don't bring the stories. We build together from scratch what needs to be heard or seen

WORK IN A CIRCLE

dissolves the hierarchy and contains the energy

AUTONOMY IS KEY

nobody is forced yet everybody is invited

HAVE AGENCY

everyone shares responsibility for safety and process

LIBERATING GAMES

Games are essential. They allow us to make mistakes, take risks, discover new strategies and, most import, research complex real-life dilemmas. It is through games that we break out of cognitive patterns



FREEDOM TO PLAY



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CHEN ALON
ISRAEL/PALESTINA

Listen to theatermaker and combatant for peace, Chen Alon, who will show you the use of games and theatre to engage the people in the liberation

GAMES ARE KEY

●REC

HOUSES

●REC

CARS

●REC

REVOLUTION

The youth collective 2D0 (Rotterdam) will tell you about the games they like to do

A COLLECTIVE STORY

Individual experiences are never individual. They represent what is happening in society. How to move from the individual to the collective story is explained by Luc Opdebeeck in this short clip

•REC


LUC OPDEBEECK
FORMAAT



JUNE 26, SUNDAY, 2022
FROM 1 TO 3 PM
WESTZEEDIJK 513, ROTTERDAM

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A CLOSER LOOK



**RESEARCH
THE ISSUE**

IN DEPTH

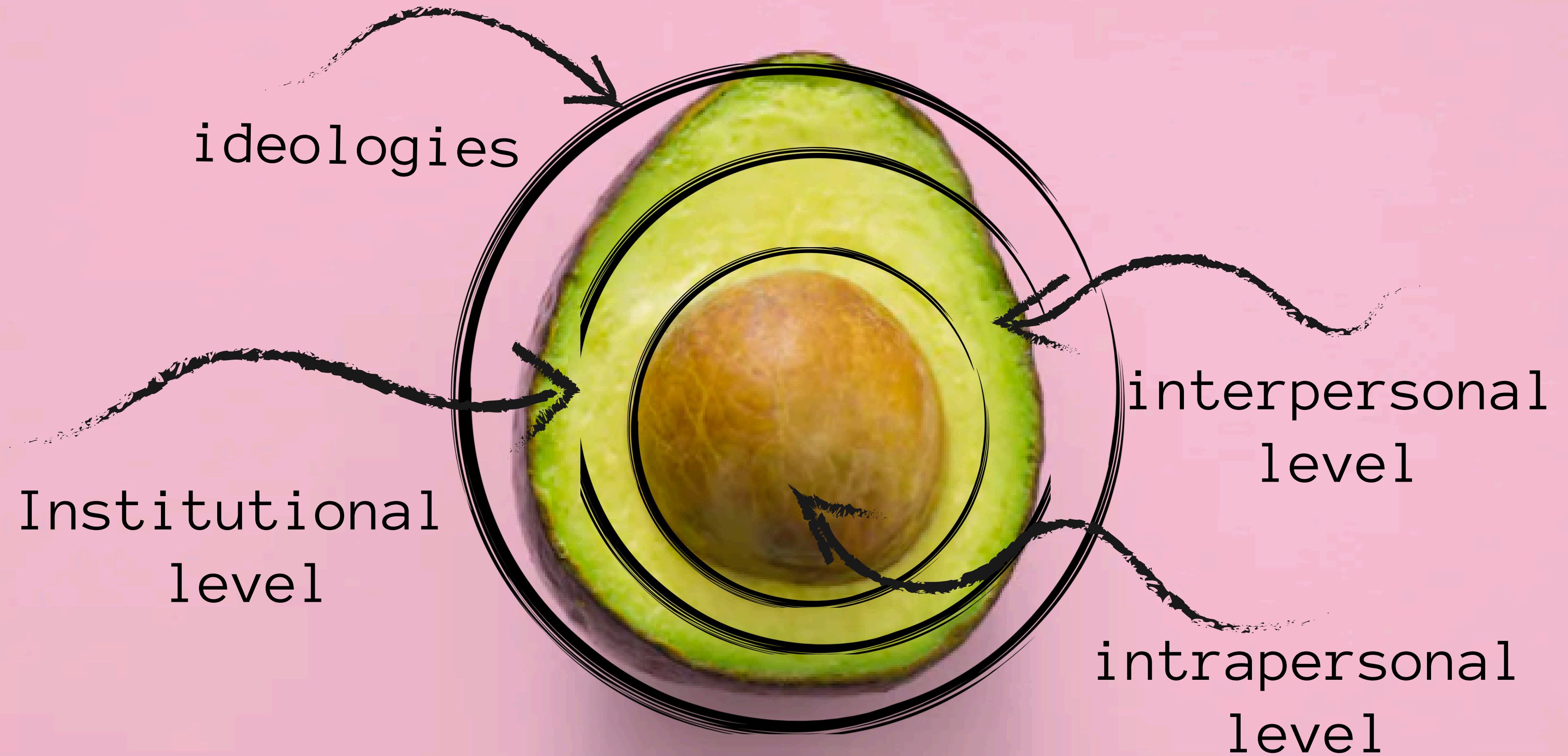
**MAP ALL
THOSE
INVOLVED**

WITH THE LENSES
OF OPPRESSION
EXERCISE

**BUILD
ALLIANCES**

WITH ACTIVISTS +
PEOPLE WITH THE
POWER TO
CHANGE + PEOPLE
WITH A LEGAL
BACKGROUND

^R LENSES OF OPPRESSION



INTERSECTIONALITY



ANDREIA BESSA
CAAT PROJECTS

Listen to a human rights trainer who explains about the intersecting axes of oppression. It is the concept that all oppression is linked. Anything that can marginalise people – gender, race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability, and so on – is interacting with their relative power position in society.

BACK TO THE FLOOR

IMAGE
THEATRE



JULIE VAN TEESELING
SILA NUR ASLAN
2D0

●REC

Julie and Sila from 2D0 tell you about image theatre techniques and how to get the audience involved while using images of social conflicts

FIND YOUR POLICY RANGERS

LOOK FOR ALLIES
THAT ARE
EXPERIENCED IN
THE LAW AND
REGULATION
MAKING PROCES

•REC

ANDREIA BESSA
CAAT PROJECTS



THE PERFORMANCE

A man with a beard, wearing a blue hoodie and a red shirt, is shown in profile, looking towards a woman. The woman has blonde hair in pigtails and is wearing a black shirt; she has a shocked or surprised expression with her hands near her face. The background is dark with blue and purple text that reads "LEGISLATIVE THEATRE" and "KATY".

The performance that is shown is based on real life stories of the young people and their allies

AUDIENCE IN ACTION



During the performance we actively engage the public to bring forward suggestions for changes. They write proposals together and try them on stage.

VOTING THE PROPOSALS



In this round the public votes on the different proposals that were shown on stage and make collective commitments to action


AN EXAMPLE

young learners with learning difficulties made a play about their reality

they took their play to the Dutch parliament

demanding good education and skilled teachers like other learners have and to be seen as more than their label






**face to face
with the ones
that make
decisions about
your reality**

**listening to the
young voices
that are effected
by your laws
and regulations**



**this empowered
and inspired
both the young
learners and the
policymakers
and showed
another way to
inclusive decision
making**

A SEAT AT THE TABLE



NOTHING
FOR A
GROUP
WITHOUT
THE GROUP



CHANGING THE
NARRATIVE
BY
SPEAKING
OUT

READ MORE

find more information on Legislative Theater on
www.katyrubin.com

TEAMWORK

We thank everybody for sharing the knowledge, expertise and information for this toolkit and the work they are doing in humanizing humanity.

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