

# BREAKING THE RULES

## TOOLKIT

from domination to liberation with legislative theatre



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**Sering**

Ontwikkelaar van participatieve kunstactiviteiten

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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



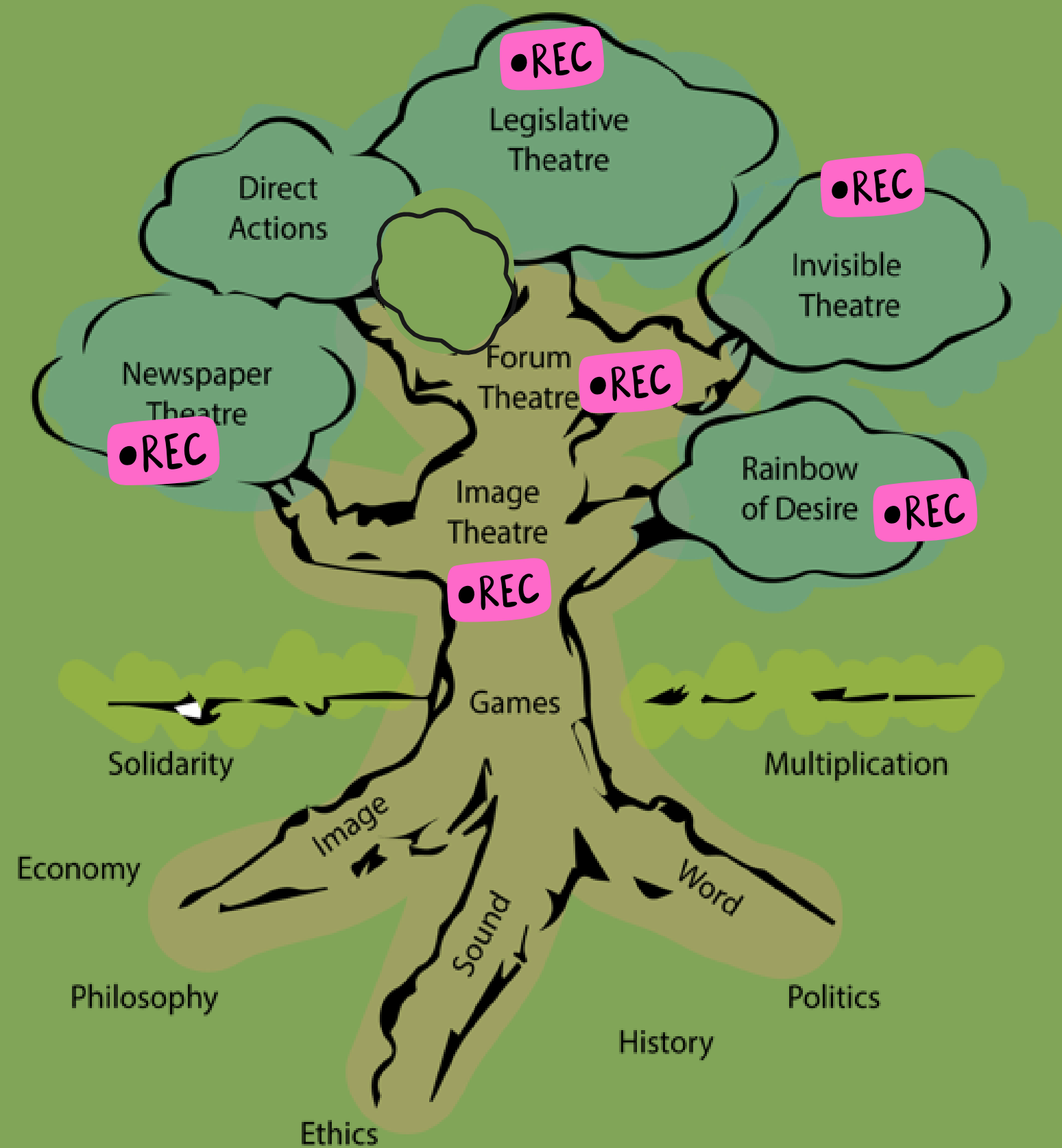
An abstract artwork featuring a stylized face in profile, composed of layered paper in shades of orange, yellow, pink, and white. The face is partially obscured by dark, branching lines resembling roots or veins. The background is a solid olive green.

# 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



## Tree of the Theatre of the Oppressed



# 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.



# 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 over a light shirt, 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





# 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



●REC

# KATY RUBIN



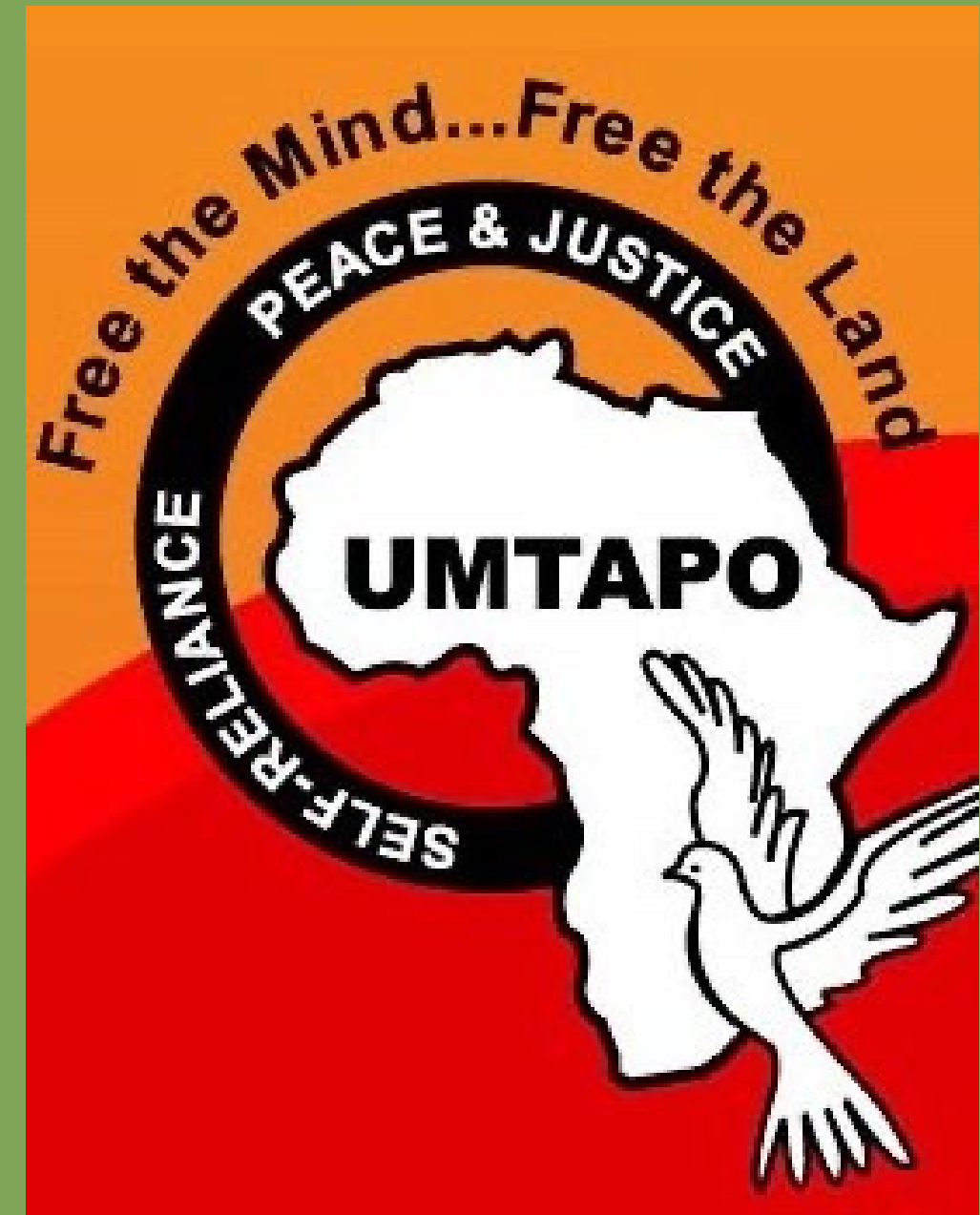
Listen to Katy Rubin, artist and civic change practitioner who uses Legislative Theatre to bring together constituents, policymakers, and advocates to impact policies, practices and place-making, for unique and effective solutions to complex challenges



# TRUE POWER

●REC

ARUN NAICKER  
UMTAPO  
SOUTH AFRICA



Arun Naicker explains about true power and being aware of how to really invite a learner into the room

# 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 important, research complex real-life dilemmas. It is through games that we break out of cognitive patterns





# FREEDOM TO PLAY



•REC

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



# KEY GAMES

## 2DO ROTTERDAM

●REC

HOUSES

●REC

CARS

●REC

REVOLUTION

Listen to a social work educator and two social work students who are part of the youth collective 2DO and will tell you more about keygames to do with your groups

# 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

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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

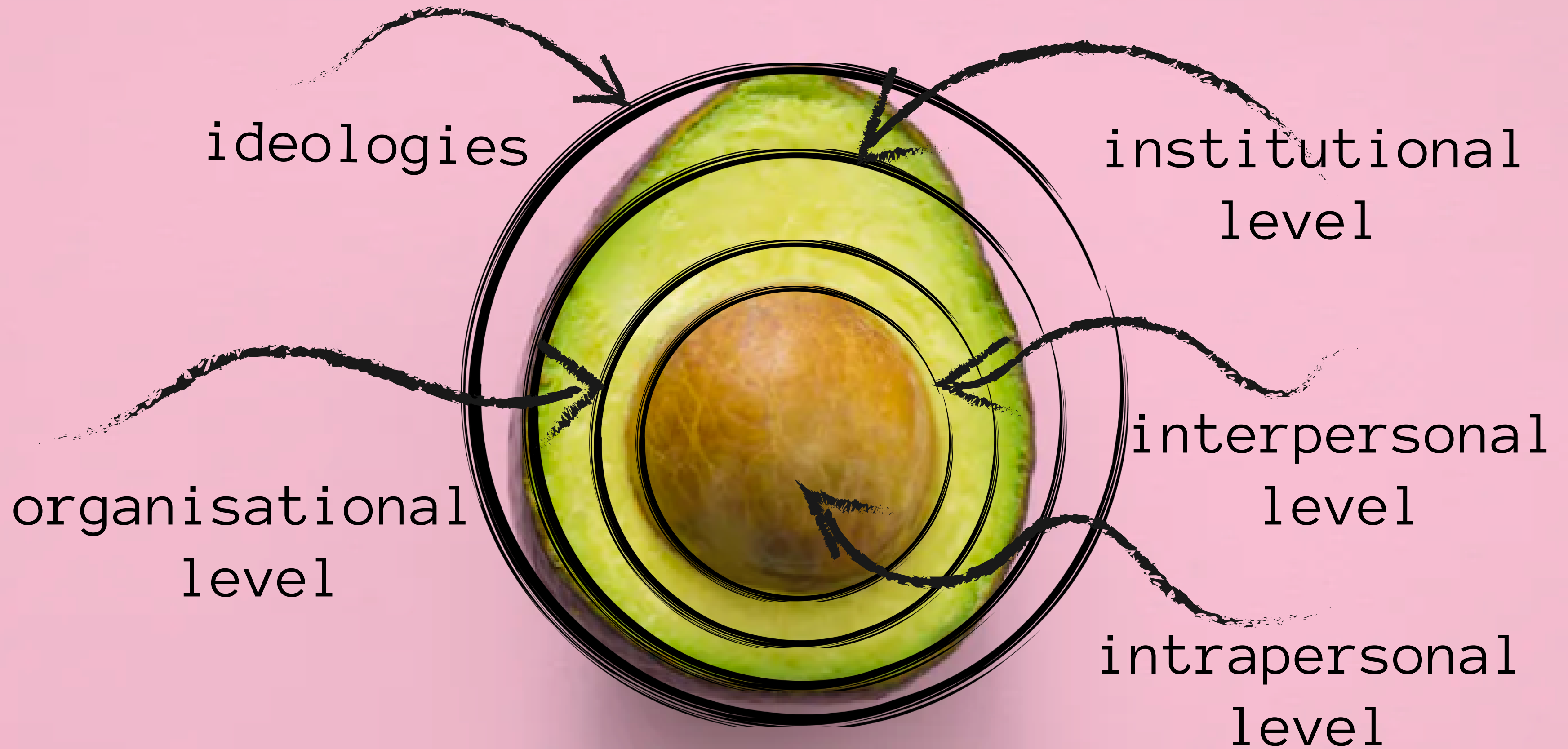
**MAP ALL  
THOSE  
INVOLVED**

WITH THE LENSES  
OF OPPRESSION  
EXERCISE

**BUILD  
ALLIANCES**

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

# <sup>R</sup> 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, is wearing a black shirt, and has a shocked or surprised expression with her hands near her face. The background is dark with blue and purple graffiti that includes the words 'LEGISLATIVE' and 'THEATRE'. The man's blue hoodie has three white lightning bolt symbols on the sleeve.

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](http://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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