

ACTIVITY 8:

Triangle analysis

This optional activity is most useful for those seeking to engage with visible power/ formal decision-making structures through advocacy and lobbying around a clearly defined agenda and problem. It benefits from an earlier power analysis, pinpointing how visible power shapes the problem being addressed and can also contribute to its solution, including identifying key actors and decisionmakers.

Materials: Previous power analyses of issues people are working on and examples of visible power. Handout: *The triangle framework*.

Plenary: Briefly review the meanings of visible, hidden, invisible and systemic power. Focus in particular on visible power – the formal rules and decision-making structures of any institution and space, such as governments, civil society organisations, churches, mosques, corporations, the stock market, and the internet. Every organised place and space has its written rules and ‘deciders’ and its hidden and invisible power dynamics as well. Remind people how ‘culture’ or invisible power affects the implementation or passage of laws and policies that deal with inequality, violence, and rights.

Recall or brainstorm the kinds of strategies needed to engage visible power. Examples discussed earlier in this Guide include:

- Elections and appointments
- Lawsuits
- Law and policy reform
- Shadow reports
- Educating judges and police
- Budget advocacy
- Documenting and denouncing violations of rights

Introduce and discuss the handout and address any questions.

Small groups: Each group creates a grid with three columns on flipchart paper. Use this to explore the issue or case study.

Cluster responses to the questions in the grid, with reference to the triangle. Since visible power dynamics and forces play out at local, national, regional and global levels, identify the levels in your case and use different colours or stickies to illustrate each.

Plenary: Groups report back and everyone takes a 'gallery walk' to examine each others' grids.

Discuss key takeaways about strategies to engage, reform, and exercise visible power. To deepen discussion, ask:

- What are some of the key strategies and opportunities for engaging and using visible power?
- What are some of the ingredients that make 'engage and reform' strategies work?

Draw on, share, and add to the handout: *When and how to engage visible power.*