



Diverse people, same rights

BACKGROUND

Imagine being a girl. Not just a girl, but a girl with a visual impairment, who was born and raised as a member of the Krio tribe in Sierra Leone.

Many people face exclusion. Exclusion is the act of not allowing someone to take part in an everyday activity like going to school. Some people face exclusion on multiple levels. The girl described above can face multiple discrimination based on diverse factors such as her age, gender, (dis)ability and/or her ethnicity. When facing discrimination for different reasons simultaneously we talk about intersectionality.

Intersectionality emphasizes that people are often disadvantaged by multiple sources of oppression based on their race, class, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, religion etcetera. Intersectionality recognizes that these identity markers exist simultaneously within a person, creating an opportunity for multifaceted exclusion/oppression.

If we want to change such a situation, we need to address the complex forms of social exclusion. This can be done by developing advocacy strategies with an intersectional lens, addressing multiple sources of exclusion at the same time. If identities are associated with interrelated forms of discrimination, for example being a girl and having visual impairment, it makes sense for advocates to join forces and strengthen their case.

Therefore, the Liliane Foundation and the Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development aim to bring together organisations from Africa and Asia through

peer-to-peer exchanges to look at advocacy from an intersectional perspective. This is the '**Voices for Inclusion**' project.

The 'Voices for Inclusion' project is funded by Voice. The African Studies Centre Leiden and The International Institute of Social Studies The Hague are actively involved in the project in an advisory role.

SET UP OF THE PROJECT

The 'Voices for Inclusion' project focuses on learning between marginalised groups in five countries (Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Nigeria, Indonesia and The Philippines). We want to discover if collaboration between these groups can lead towards more effective influencing on policy and practices. The learning questions for the project are:

1. What lessons can different marginalised groups learn from each other in terms of advocacy strategies?
2. What are good and innovative advocacy practices currently implemented by the marginalised groups?
3. How can advocacy strategies best take into account the diverse identities and experiences of different marginalised groups?
4. What are the opportunities and constraints for marginalised groups for new and innovative alliances with other groups?



NATIONAL LEARNING EVENTS

In June and July 2019, three selected organisations in each country will visit one another to understand each other's approach on influencing policy and practices. These peer learning visits will be guided by a national consultant. The insights from these visits will be collected and further discussed during a learning event in a central place in the country. Organisations will submit their proposals to run for the awards.

INTERNATIONAL LEARNING EVENT

In November 2019, the representatives of the fifteen participating organisations are gathering for a three-day international learning event in The Netherlands. During the first two days, participants will share their good practices on advocacy and learn about the importance of intersectionality for effective advocacy. The third day they will participate in a public event.

AWARDS

During the international learning event, several awards will be handed out. There is an award of € 5.000,- per country for the most exemplary influencing practice, which has already been, or is currently being, implemented. It is up to the winning organisation to use the prize for further advocacy.

Additionally, there is one larger prize to win: 'The Voices for Inclusion' Award, for an innovative proposal. This is a grant of € 25.000 for a proposal focused on creating change using an intersectional lens. This innovative proposal should be a result from the learning process during the 'Voices for Inclusion' Project.

The winners will be selected by an independent jury and the participating organisations.

Timeline

