

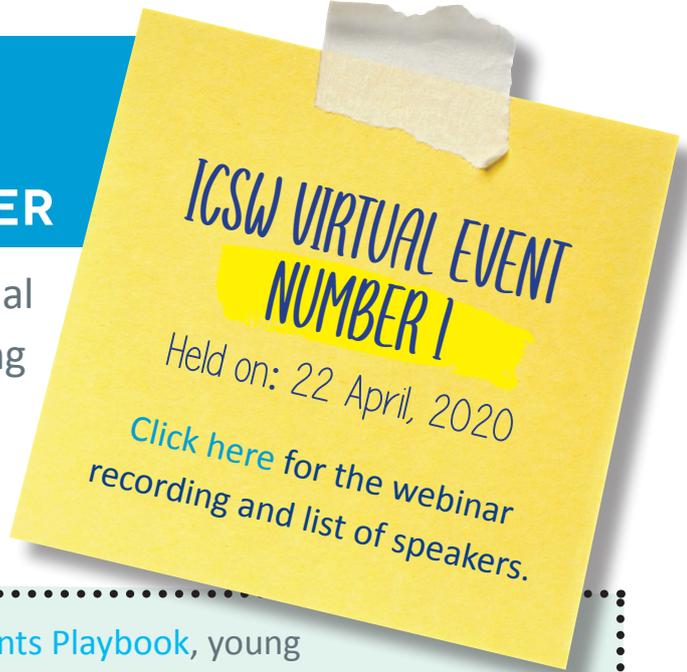


ICSW | PEOPLE POWER 2020/2021

SUPPORTING YOUTH-LED MOVEMENTS AND GROUPS AS KEY DRIVERS OF PEOPLE POWER

Youth engagement in civic spaces fosters social change, so empowering and supporting young changemakers is a must!

MORE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT + MORE #PEOPLEPOWER = BETTER WORLD



In the Resourcing [Youth-led Groups and Movements Playbook](#), young changemakers shared anecdotes, key lessons, challenges and advice about their experiences with donors and mobilising resources for their cause. They made evident that while youth activism is critical, youth-led movements and groups have limited access to resources because getting them often requires having more formal structures, concession-making and burdensome procedures. Relationships with donors and allies who have and provide the resources are also seen as a challenge.



RELATIONSHIP STATUS: (SELECT FROM GREAT, BAD, WORKING ON IT, IT IS COMPLICATED!)



RELATIONSHIP STATUS

IT IS COMPLICATED!

How young changemakers feel when relationships with donors are complicated:

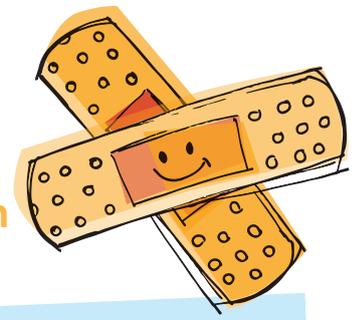
Mobilising resources is a struggle

We are equals and need each other!
#cooperation

They may have the funds, but impact requires us both!

We know the local context, are contributing to solutions, have the skills, are passionate and committed, but it does not seem enough :(

Human-to-human dialogue is missing, and we need space to showcase our amazing work!
#thebasics



RELATIONSHIP STATUS

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

This happens when funders and allies:

Care more about metrics than about our communities and impact on the ground

Micromanage our projects and don't trust that we are capable of taking charge

Push their agendas, policies and protocols, disregarding our own

Have rigid rules and are not willing to budge

RELATIONSHIP STATUS

GREAT!

Funders and allies with a genuine interest in capacity-building, knowledge transfer and impact sustainability do exist! We appreciate when they:



Recognise our lived realities and the environment we operate in

Are willing to fund project pilots and subsequent upgrades

Give us room to make and learn from our mistakes

Allow for flexibility, periodic work plan review and adjustments

Care about and provide funding for mental health!

Some advice to #ShiftThePower



- Resources follow the good work, so showcase your work!
- Join larger networks or organisations that can connect you with resources.
- Stay true to your principles. Know and defend your non-negotiables!
- Communicate your needs and values clearly and find a suitable compromise.
- Develop key capacities to tell your story.
- Do not try to follow a formula. Find your optimal way to use your energy, time and funds and the most appropriate donor(s) and/or alternative sources of income for you.
- Things change all the time, so anticipate, re-evaluate and re-strategise from time to time!
- It is ok to say no! #thanksbutnothanks
- Resources out there are shrinking. Take agency, break donor dependency, raise your own funds: do sporadic consulting, introduce a business model, go social enterprise!
- If you learn from it, it is never a mistake!
- Self-care and mental health are a must!



If you want to create beautiful relationships with funders and allies, check out the a-ma-zing [Playbook on Resourcing Youth-led Groups and Movements](#) by CIVICUS and Recrear!