



Embracing
Intersectionality
for Health Equity
& Justice

THE INTERSECTIONALITY-BASED POLICY ANALYSIS TOOL

A guide to inclusive policy advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Policies and laws shape our societies and influence our daily life. However, the people who develop them are influenced by societal norms, biases and power dynamics. This can lead to (unintended) discrimination. The Make Way Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis tool is a framework to examine policies related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through an intersectional lens. Designed for advocates, civil society organisations and policymakers, it helps you to uncover power imbalances and inequity in policymaking and supports advocacy for equitable and inclusive systems. This tool can accelerate the vision of "leaving no one behind" from aspiration to actionable reality.

The tool consists of 36 guiding questions divided into eight categories. These questions explore various aspects of policy analysis, including the content and development of the policy, the underlying perspectives it reflects and the mechanisms for accountability. Additionally, the tool examines which groups of people the policy affects and identifies those involved in creating or reviewing the policy. The tool helps uncover biases in policymaking, identify stakeholders and develop practical strategies for advancing equity and justice. Anyone can use the tool, but using it for a collaborative analysis where diverse perspectives contribute to nuanced insights lets you see its full potential.

Understanding the tool

When you begin to use the Make Way Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis tool, you set your objectives (what you want to achieve by using the tool) and you engage the stakeholders who can give you important background information regarding the policy you have chosen to analyse. Then you should review the tool's 36 guiding questions and prioritize those most relevant to your objectives. Next, you should start the collaborative analysis. It is important throughout the process to identify issues like knowledge gaps as you go along and develop strategies to address them. Finally, you should consolidate the findings into actionable recommendations that can inform your advocacy and stakeholder engagement.



Impact: case study from the Make Way programme

In the Make Way programme, we used the Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis tool to examine recommendations from the [Global Financing Facility's](#) Alignment Working Group. By applying the tool, we discovered some important insights. For example, we found that some voices were missing from the conversation – particularly those of local community organizations and government officials who work directly with people in need of healthcare. Through discussions, the Make Way team realized that civil society organizations – the groups that often represent ordinary citizens – weren't sufficiently involved in making these important decisions. They also saw that they needed to better understand the political landscape and why different donors might have competing interests when it comes to aligning their support.

This analysis led to real changes. For instance, we succeeded in getting a representative from a civil society organization included in the Global Financing Facility's working group responsible for developing the framework. We also identified specific areas where we could advocate for better representation in decision-making and addressing disconnects between national policies and local needs. By using the Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis tool, the Make Way team became better equipped to push for health financing reforms that truly consider everyone's needs, especially those whose needs are often overlooked. This approach helped address deep-rooted issues in how global health decisions are made and funded.

Potential for wide-scale application

The Make Way Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis tool's flexible design allows for application at local, national, regional and global levels and by anyone, including those of us who do not consider ourselves experts in SRHR, intersectionality or in policy review more generally. That flexibility makes the tool relevant across diverse contexts. Scaling its use can foster collaboration among coalitions, build capacity for intersectional thinking among a broader range of stakeholders and set standards for better policy making.

More information

You can find the [Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis](#) tool, along with [the IBPA infographic](#) and many other tools from the Intersectional SRHR Toolkit, on the Make Way website: make-way.org/toolkit.



FAWE Forum for African Women Educationalists
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