

Impacting on Substance Abuse Policy at the National, Regional and Global levels: The Role of Civil Society

by

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Fundamental Desire of CSO's

- ▶ Better Substance Use/Control environment/regime
- ▶ Societal Advancement

What impacts attainment of organizational goals?

▶ Legislations and Policies:

- * Local,
- * National
- * Regional or
- * Global

▶ Above is irrespective of individual CSO capacities, motivation et al.

If we want to succeed:

- ▶ CSO's should be aware and understand the Policies and Legislations in their chosen field.
- ▶ CSO's should seek to impact on Policies and Legislations in our chosen field.

What are the legislations/Policy documents?

▶ International/Global -

- * the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,
- * the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and
- * the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
- * Other instruments down to the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Documents.

▶ Regional, National and Local:

- * Regional and National Legislations/Policy positions on Substance abuse
- * Local edicts on drug abuse (where applicable).

Impacting on Legislations and Policy

- ▶ Realize that you are the expert in the field.
- ▶ Legislators have diverse allegiances and constituencies they pander to
- ▶ Rely more on domestic examples and generate domestic data

Steps on impacting on Legislations/Policies

▶ 1. Identify issue(s) for advocacy

- Specificity is key

▶ 2. Clear Objectives and Goals

*SMART - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound

▶ 3. Coalesce - Form Coalitions to achieve the Goal/Objective.

* Likeminded organization

* Complimentary roles/expertise

Steps on impacting on Legislations/Policies...contd.

▶ 4. Define target audience

- * Specific Persons
- * Specific Committees/Agencies

▶ 5. Evidence gathering/data collection

- * Low-cost, High-impact
- * Locally generated

Steps on impacting on Legislations/Policies....contd. 2

▶ 6. Message development

- * Concise
- * Expertly

▶ 7. Networking

- * Shows relevance and timeliness
- * Popular ownership

Steps on impacting on Legislations/Policies...contd. 3

▶ 8. Channels of communication

- * Targeted letters
- * Street rallies
- * Testimonials
- * Public hearings

▶ 9. Be Courteous and maintain contacts.

- * Remember to say “Thank You” and maintain contacts.

Examples of areas of CSO's interventions on Substance Use Legislations/Policies - Uganda

▶ Standing Committees

- Committee on HIV/AIDS and Related Matters
- Committee on Human Rights

▶ Sectorial Committees

- Committee on Education and Sports
- Committee on Health
- Committee on Gender, Labor and Social Development

Examples of areas of CSO's interventions on Substance Use Legislations/Policies - Kenya

▶ (Senate)

- * Education
- * Health
- * Justice Legal Affairs and Human Rights

▶ Parliament (Lower House)

- Sports, Culture and Tourism
- Health
- Justice and Legal Affairs Committee

Examples of areas of CSO's interventions on Substance Use Legislations/Policies - Tanzania

- ▶ Social Services and Community Development Committee
- ▶ HIV and AIDS Committee

Examples of CSO's interventions on Substance Use Legislations/Policies - East Africa Community

- ▶ Secretariat of the East African Community
 - Director, Social Sector Directorate.
- ▶ East Africa Health and Research Commission (EAHRC)
- ▶ East Africa Legislative Assembly



Thank you.

Asante!

