



- CIRW 2024 -

# Weaving knowledge for collective learning

Continuous Learning and Adaptation of ISP-led  
Networks in the HIV Response Globally

PRACTICAL  
RESOURCE

## DECRIMINALIZATION LADDER: STEPPING STONES TO POLICY CHANGE

A stepwise approach

ROBERT  
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# DECRIMINALIZATION LADDER: STEPPING STONES TO POLICY CHANGE

## A stepwise approach

This decriminalization tool was developed following the 2024 (Online) Collective Learning Reflection Workshop. It builds on the experiences that RCF partners shared during the workshop, including both their successes and the challenges they have faced in their journeys advocating for decriminalization. The tool is intended for partners to help guide and support them as they continue their advocacy efforts for decriminalization.

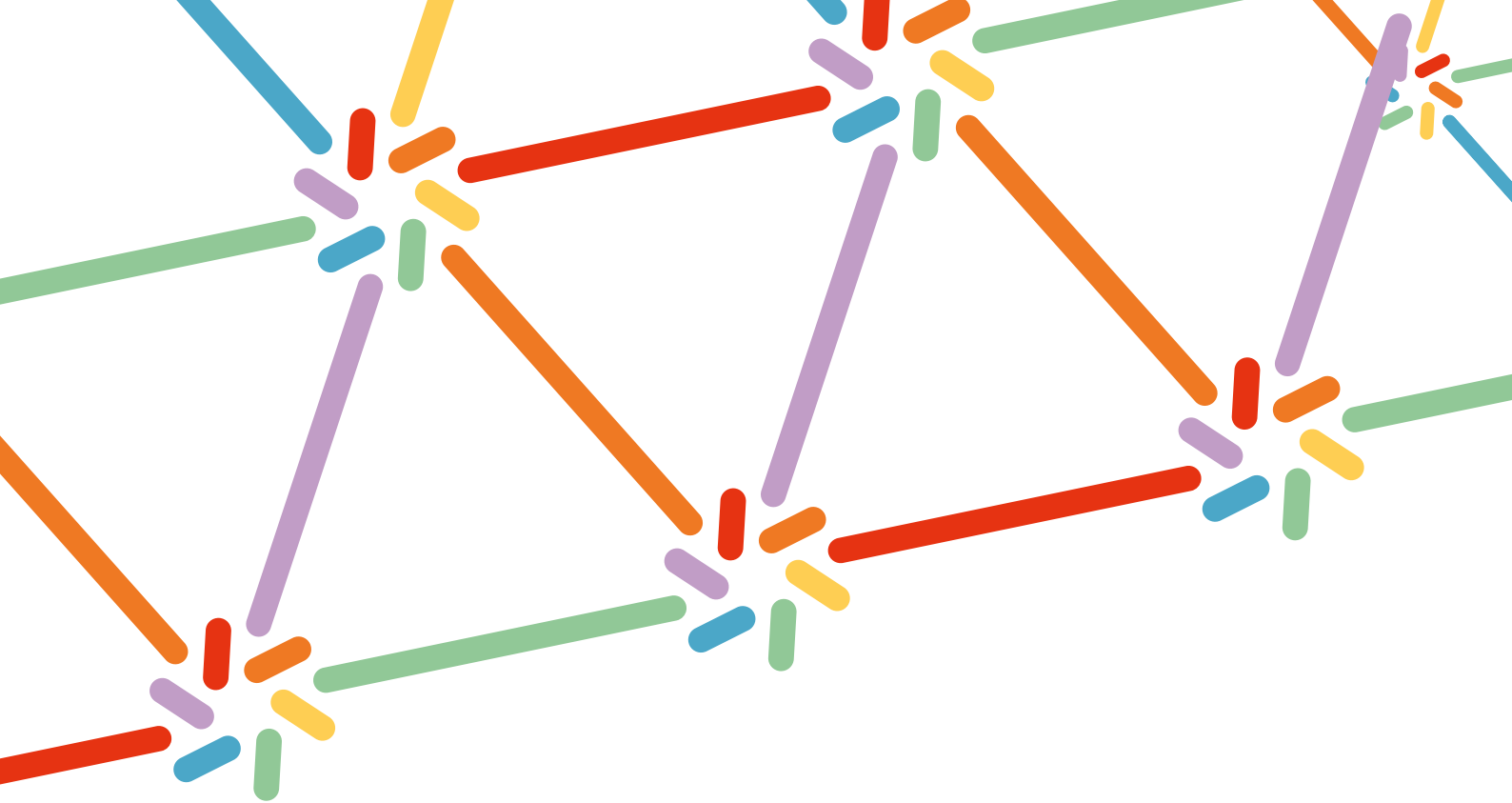




Step	Prompts
Identify Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the main policy areas that impact the ISP community with which you work?</li> </ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List the main challenges your ISP community faces.</li> <li>Identify specific policies, laws or regulations that are causing these challenges.</li> <li>Describe how these laws, policies or regulations impact your ISP community.</li> </ol>
Strengthen Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are your network's main capacity strengths in advocacy and what are the gaps related to laws and policies?</li> </ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List your network's strengths in relation to law, policy and advocacy.</li> <li>Identify your network's capacity gaps related to legal and policy advocacy.</li> <li>Make a plan for addressing the gaps</li> </ol>
Community-led research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will you plan to collect community-driven data and conduct community-led research to use for legal and policy related advocacy?</li> </ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What community-led research has your network conducted to date?</li> <li>What kind of community-led research (qualitative, quantitative etc.) do you think is important to conduct going forward?</li> <li>What resources (financial, human, skills) does your network need to carry out the kind of research you want to conduct?</li> </ol>
Find your niche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exactly which laws and/or policies will your network focus on changing?</li> </ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List the laws and policies that most impact your ISP community.</li> <li>List your network's strengths and the gaps your network is / has addressed.</li> <li>Identify specific laws and/or policies you want to change and you have the capacity to change, and exactly how you want them to change.</li> </ol>
Build alliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will you find allies?</li> </ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential allies such as other ISP networks, or stakeholders.</li> <li>Find common areas of concern.</li> <li>Cultivate alliances.</li> </ol>
Legal resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What legal resources do you need and how will you acquire them?</li> </ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What legal resources and knowledge does your network have (lawyers, legal literacy, paralegal support etc.)?</li> <li>What legal experience does your network have and what (if any) additional legal resources do you need?</li> <li>Develop a plan to strengthen or expand your legal competencies in order to address the laws and policies you hope to change.</li> </ol>



Step	Prompts
Get people to the table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How will you get a seat at the table?</li></ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Set you goal. Where do you want to be? Which meetings? With which organisations?</li><li>With which stakeholders do you, or your allies, already have connections? Make a list.</li><li>Research what you need to do to get to the table, and make a plan.</li></ol>
Engage decision-makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What will you do when you get “in the room?”</li></ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research the people with whom you will meet — their interests, likes, dislikes, professional histories etc.</li><li>Determine what you want to achieve, and identify synergies specific to the people with who you will be meeting.</li><li>Make a list of your asks / demands and practice articulating them. Anticipate questions and prepare your answers in advance.</li></ol>
Use global platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How will you engage with Global Platforms?</li></ul> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Which global platforms or meetings are important for you to participate in, in order to change the laws and policies you have identified?</li><li>How will you get there?</li><li>Make a plan and execute it.</li></ol>



# ROBERT CARR FUND

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