



**Paradigm Shift: Tools to Ensure Best Practice  
when engaging marginalized communities and youth.**



**2023 SDGs Learning, Training, and Practice**

Monday, July 10th, 2023 12 pm EDT  
Conference room 5



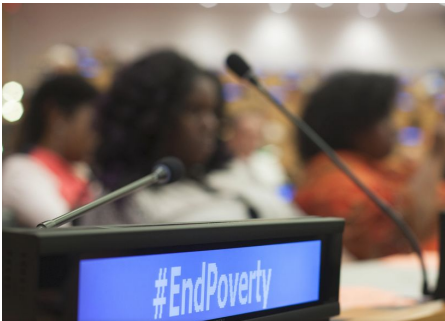
The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

**Who** is saying who is “poor”?  
**Who** is defining what poverty is?

**Policy based on partial knowledge can never be fully effective.**

"The people closest to the pain, should be the closest to the power, driving and informing the policymaking..."

- *United States Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley*





## Why participation?

- Participation is a right
- Participation changes the outcome

*“People with a lived experience of poverty must be part of the decision-making process in creating solutions - as legitimate, equal partners, whose voice and input carry as much weight as those traditionally looked to for solutions.”* -ATD Fourth World Activist

# Setting the conditions for meaningful participation

## Building trust and support

- years of systemic racism and subjugation
- overall skepticism in marginalized communities
- extracting information with no intention of ever coming back or following up

## Time

*“How do we share information and access, and make it clear that we have a lot to learn from them and are trying to take their lead?” -Practitioner*

*“I think it takes time to build trust and that demands we’ll be here for the long haul.” -Practitioner*



## Listening sessions, storytelling, and organizing: non-transactional ways of working that avoid harm and build power.



- **Supporting people in finding their own voices:**
  - Are they saying what *I* want them to say, or more importantly, what *they* want to say?!
  - Don't ask people to just tell their story, ask them to share what **they think** of/learn from their life journey. **What policy/practice could have changed it for the better?**
  - **Give them the power** back at each step of the process: Record. Transcribe. Share. Discuss. Suggest. Make sure they have the last word and the power to decide. Then do it again!

## Language as a barrier

- Accessible language
- Taking time to make sure that we understand the same thing behind the words

## Language as a label

“The poor” vs People experiencing poverty

“The homeless/homeless people” vs People experiencing homelessness

“Vulnerable” vs Marginalized

“Generational poverty” vs Persistent or systemic poverty





# Measuring the Impact of Participation:

## Questions to ask

- What is the process for meaningful participation to happen?
- What are the benefits for participants?
- What are the benefits of participation in our work?

# Multidimensional Aspects of Poverty

## Subjugation

The action of bringing someone or something under domination or control.  
"You are always under somebody's thumb."

Disadvantaged Areas

Unrecognized Voice and Exclusion from Participation

Lack of Adequate Health and Well-being

Work and Employment-Related Hardships

Stigma and Shame

Social Isolation

Resources

The Struggle





# Connect with ATD Fourth World

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Read the Multidimensional Aspects of Poverty report here: <https://atdfourthworld-usa.org/map>

