



## Exercise – Building a Common Vision

### Methodology:

This exercise will help guide the group in defining the vision they have for their advocacy work. The steps of the exercise allow for each individual member of the team to formulate his/her own ideas. The facilitator then aids the sharing and negotiation of those ideas in order that the group may arrive at a common vision that is accepted and shared by all members and that will play an integral part in the development of their strategy and tactics.

### Objectives:

- To help people understand that you need a vision in order to have a direction and purpose.
- To stretch people's imaginations in envisioning the goal they would like to create, going beyond vague values to specific features.
- To facilitate a group's development of a common vision and clarify the values its members share.
- To help people discover their own ideas and what commonalities (or contradictions) can be found in their respective visions.

### Getting Ready:

This exercise will take 45-60 minutes. You will need the following materials: blank or notebook paper; pens/pencils for each person in the group; flip chart paper; multi-colored marker pens.

### Facilitation Note:

Be sure to tell participants to keep in mind the PROBLEM that each group decided to work on during this workshop.

Here are some examples of VISION statements for identified problems that you can use as a model for the group:

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| <p>Problem: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: Forced early marriages of girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Respect for the right of girls to grow and develop safely and freely into womanhood and select the life partner of their choice.</b></li></ul> <p>Problem: CENSORSHIP: Lack of freedom of expression in newspapers and magazines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Democratic and secular constitution upholding laws that protect human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</b></li></ul> <p>Problem: DISCRIMINATION: Homophobia – laws against sexual activity outside of a heterosexual relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Equal and full human and legal rights of homosexuals fostering self-pride, public awareness and acceptance of diversity.</b></li></ul> <p>Problem: RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM: Legal prohibitions regarding types of dress for women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Fair and equal choice in all aspects of individual and public life upheld by the state regardless of religious or traditional beliefs.</b></li></ul> |
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### The Group Exercise Process:

1. (5 minutes) Instruct each participant to take a few minutes to think and then to write down their ideas about what their world would look like if this problem was resolved.

#### Possible Guide Questions:

- What change do you desire to see?
  - How would your community be different?
  - What would be different about the relationships between people?
  - What would you see or experience that tells you that things have changed?
  - How will you know when you have succeeded?
2. (10-15 minutes) Instruct the participants to share their ideas with their group members, and to assess their commonalities and differences.
    - What ideas do you have in common?
    - What differences do you see?
    - How might different visions complement each other?
    - What new ideas have been raised by your group?
  3. (30-40 minutes) Instruct each group to draw their ideas of their vision on flip chart paper. Tell them to be creative and have fun! Additionally, ask each group to think of and agree on a few words, phrases, or a “slogan” that describes their vision. These words should be added to the drawing.

### Reflection and Sharing:

Instruct each group to POST on the wall the following information to share with the large group:

- Their identified PROBLEM
- Their creative drawing of their VISION and PHRASE

**Source:** New Tactics adapted this “short version” from a resource that was also adapted by George Lakey from *Resource Manual for a Living Revolution*, by Virginia Coover, Ellen Deacon, Charles Esser, and Christopher Moore, published by New Society Publishers and now out of print. Additional resources can be found at Training for Change ([www.trainingforchange.org](http://www.trainingforchange.org)).

