

# The struggle for climate justice: Strategic lessons from rights-based approaches

- *The Treatment Action Campaign model*
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# The value of community mobilisation

“Much human rights activity is bureaucratized and sanitized, satisfying itself with **formal procedural outcomes** that might have **little direct real-world impact**. The roots of human rights and **the real driving force for progress** can only come from **community mobilization**.

Governments overwhelmingly stand for the status quo and are thus unlikely to take a strong lead when **radical change is needed**. Much of the human rights community retains strong grass-roots links and is well placed to encourage and facilitate community mobilization. Without it, the natural complacency of governmental elites and the vested interests of financial elites will lead them to continue **sleepwalking towards catastrophe**”.

– Phillip Alston

TAC engages in **monitoring, advocacy, and campaigning** within the healthcare system to ensure that all public healthcare users can access quality and dignified healthcare – and that all people with HIV and TB can access prevention, treatment, care, and support services.



# The TAC model

**Combination  
of:**

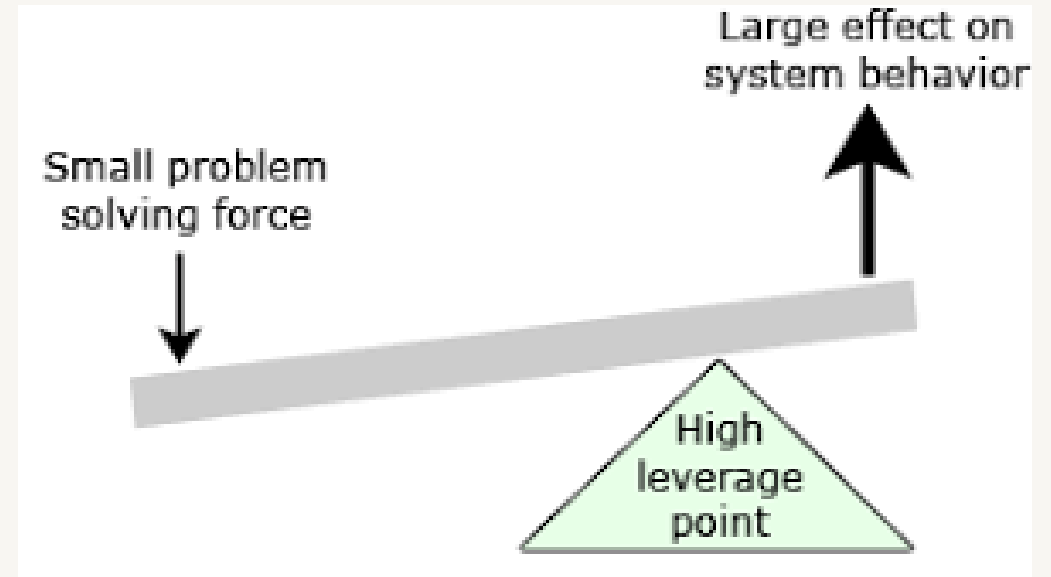
Social mobilisation

Public awareness with litigation and  
education

Constitutional advocacy


# Leverage points

“The places within a complex system, where a small shift of one thing can produce big changes in everything” - Donella Meadows



# 1<sup>st</sup> leverage point: Social mobilisation

Formed during a  
**context** of 600  
AIDS-related  
deaths a day



Focused on the  
**most vulnerable**  
and affected group



Established a  
**representative**  
**mass** movement



# 2<sup>ND</sup> LEVERAGE POINT: STRATEGIC LITIGATION



MINISTER OF HEALTH V THE  
TREATMENT ACTION  
CAMPAIGN  
THE NEVIRAPINE CASE



## 3<sup>rd</sup> leverage point: Political advocacy

- Using human rights framework of **rights and obligations**
- **Sustained campaigning** throughout
- Results can have **redistributive effects**



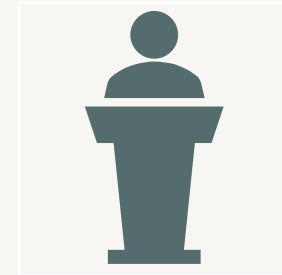
# TAC MODEL



Social mobilisation



Public awareness, with  
litigation and education



Constitutional/political  
advocacy



Thank you!