Policy Advocacy

Challenge the Status Quo

- Micro policy advocacy intervention when an individual is in danger
- Mezzo and macro policy advocacy intervention when organizational or federal policies negatively impact individuals
- Personal and societal beliefs determine whether social problems are addressed

Foundational Beliefs: basis of one’s approach to addressing social problems

- Personal Experiences: upbringing and socioeconomic status create awareness
- Culture: degree of stigma or sympathy determines perception of problem
- Religious Affiliation: religious doctrine and beliefs shape policy views (e.g. reproductive rights)
- Ideology: multiple political ideals influence the role of the government

Ideologies of Political Discourse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideology</th>
<th>Representation</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Preference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberalism</td>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
<td>Equality, liberty</td>
<td>Social programs, progressive taxation, increase of government support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservatism</td>
<td>Republican Party</td>
<td>Liberty, localism, individualism</td>
<td>Minimal tax, tax incentives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libertarianism</td>
<td>Republican congressman Ron Paul</td>
<td>Liberty, Individualism</td>
<td>Minimal tax, reduction of government functions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radicalism</td>
<td>Occupy Movement</td>
<td>Equality, social justice</td>
<td>Higher taxes, tighter regulations on banks</td>
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17 Vulnerable Populations: subject to discrimination, assaults, denial of opportunities, economic deprivation, health deficits, and/or opposition to well-being

African American, Latino/as, Asian American, Native Americans: subject to overt racism and policy discrimination

Women, elderly, people with disabilities: subject to assumptions of dependency, incapability, and inferiority; control of reproductive rights

Children: powerless and cannot advocate for themselves; reliant on society

People who are LGBTQ, criminal offenders, homeless, and juvenile delinquents: subject to discrimination and marginalization due to deviation from social norms

Jewish Americans, Asian Americans, white ethnic Americans: subject to assumptions of well-being; denied services and resources

Low-income group: lack of resources precludes options, such as housing

Veterans: subject to discrimination, health deficits, and economic deprivation

Need for Policy Advocacy

Ethical First-Order Principles: violation of ethical rights of an individual or a population warrant policy advocacy at micro, mezzo, and macro levels

Evidence-Based Research: policy advocacy must be guided by research findings that suggest that the well-being of an individual or a population will be improved

Pragmatic Considerations: ability to advocate depends on stakeholders, allies, and organizational context

Adapted from