Collaborating for advocacy: why do it?

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What’s advocacy?

- Advocating what?
- To whom? For whom?
- Why do it?
- Advocacy: seeking change
- Three levels of change – inter-related
- Change must happen at all three levels.

**Macro** / structures / laws, policies

**Meso** / intermediary institutions / procedures

**Micro** / individual experiences / cases
1. AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research):
   a. Advocacy organisation in Singapore
   b. Dedicated to gender equality
   c. Engages in evidence-based advocacy – i.e. research for advocacy
   d. Focus on advocacy to makers of laws and policies (macro level)
   e. Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council – access to intergovernmental meetings & human rights mechanisms

2. ILC (International Longevity Centre – Singapore):
   a. Enables “connecting of dots” between community, policy makers, academia, practitioners and private sector
   b. Research to inform policy, facilitate policy-action translation and promote effective practice in Singapore
   c. Inter-agency
   d. International: part of ILC-Global Alliance
Why AWARE & ILC collaborated

- **Feminisation of ageing**: women live longer yet have fewer resources for longer lives. Why? What to do about it?

- **Convergence of two bodies of experience & knowledge**:
  - Women and Ageing Research Roundtable 2015, co-organised by both organisations:
    - Identify vulnerabilities of women in the ageing process: what we know, don’t know, need to know
    - Sharing findings, discussing research framework, exploring research agenda on women and ageing
    - Presentations to multi-stakeholder audience:
      - Overview paper on ageing by ILC
      - Case studies from AWARE’s field research with 20 impoverished elderly women
  - Joint paper: “Addressing the adverse impact of long-term care on the financial security of older women and female caregivers”
    - Life course approach:
      - Factors impoverishing women aged 65+
      - Replication of factors for women aged 40-64
      - Recommendations
    - Draft presented for high-level discussion with senior policy makers
Measures to address the impoverishment of women by state, market, and society (including civil society)

- How can laws and policies be improved for women to prevent impoverishment?
- How can caregiving not be regarded as women’s unpaid duty?
- How can the private sector increase women’s economic empowerment?