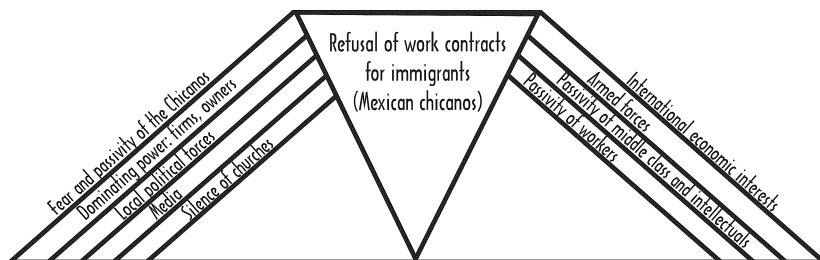


# THE PILLARS OF POWER



**Time:** Minimum 30 minutes

**Goal or purpose of the exercise:**

- To identify the pillars holding up the power structures we want to overcome.
- To analyse the pillars with the goal of developing strategies to weaken them.
- To identify the vulnerability of power structures.

**How it's done/facilitator's notes**

## ***Describe the Pillars***

1. Draw an upside down triangle with pillars holding it up. Write the name of the problem in the triangle. It can be an institution or an injustice (e.g., 'war').
2. Ask the group to identify the pillars that represent the institutions and factors that support the problem (e.g., the military, corporations, patriotic citizens). Be specific about elements of the support structures (e.g., the military includes the leadership, soldiers, veterans, military families). This will help as we analyse how to weaken the structure.
3. Identify the underlying principles that are the foundation of the pillars (e.g., sexism, greed, lies).

## ***Analyse a Pillar***

Choose a pillar that your group wants to knock down. Consider your group's mission as you make your decision. Draw another set of pillars, writing the name of the institution from your chosen pillar in the triangle. Now analyse what holds up that problem. This can become the basis for developing your strategy.

Explain to the group that while the problem seems hard to shake, the inverted triangle symbolises its weakness. Whole pillars do not need to be knocked down to weaken power; weakening the pillars can have a great effect.