THE ROUNDTABLES

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The Roundtables following the Policy Hackathon were a platform for Fellows to receive further detailed feedback about their Policy Hackathon outputs. The Roundtables were held on July 31st, August 6th and August 7th. There were three roundtables discussing the intersection of Covid-19 and three different themes: disability rights, domestic violence and older people's rights. Fellows were joined by the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness's (SCSC) external partners and network for a series of hour-long discussions on the policy output and the human rights issue in general. Overall, there were 52 participants across the three roundtable discussions.

THE OBJECTIVE

The goal was to hear feedback on the policy output from individuals who worked in that area or who were a part of the target community and embody the sense of "with, not for". Moreover, it was an opportunity for Fellows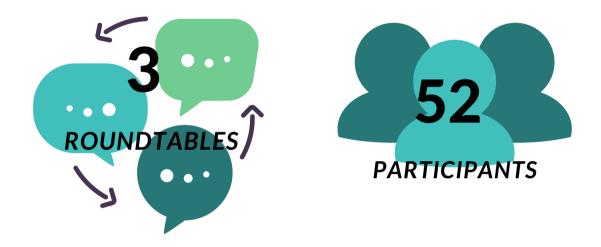 to hear about initiatives and programs that were ongoing and think about how their work could complement these supports.

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THE FORMAT

The roundtable format was particularly helpful in facilitating these discussions because it allowed for some back and forth between Fellows and the other participants. While the Fellows had already received some feedback at the end of the Policy Hackathon, there wasn't much time to receive extensive advice on how to actually implement some policy outputs. The Roundtable gave judges and other partners ample time to expand on and ask for more details from the Fellows (and vice versa).

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ROUNDTABLES

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PARTICIPANTS

THE IMPACT

The Roundtables benefitted the community by amplifying and integrating their voices into the policy output process. Additionally, the feedback from SCSC's partners helped Fellows hone the output to be a better suited for the needs and wants of the target community. Fellows were also able to network with partners, and some partners expressed interest in helping implement some of the policy outputs. The Roundtables also informed research on how community programs work and what factors improved the accessibility and efficacy of the projects.