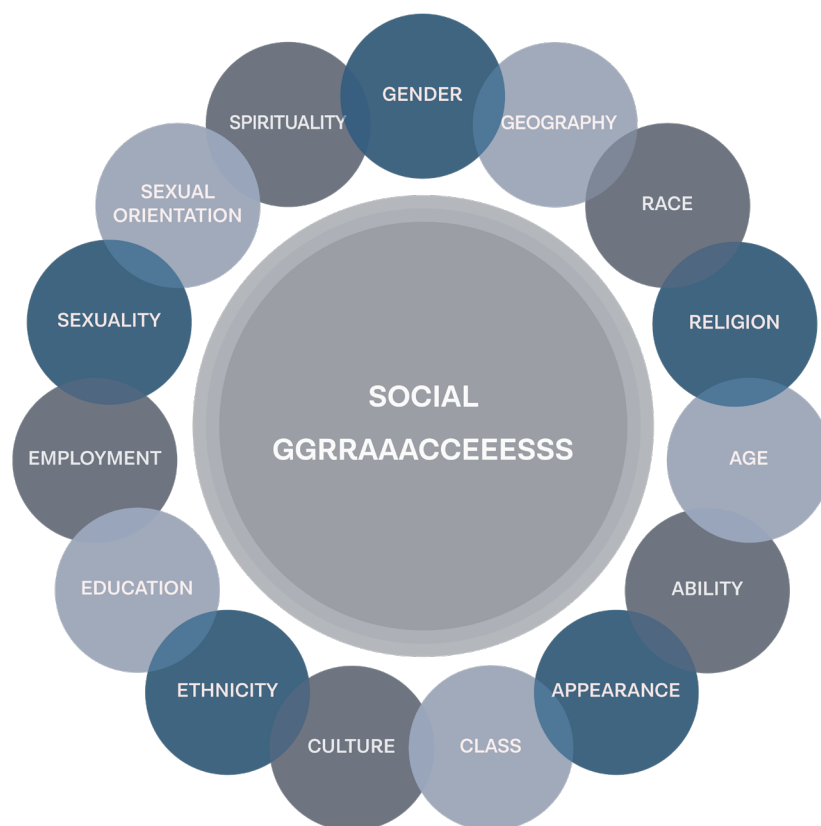


## Tool 5: Social Graces and the Intersectionality Wheel

This tool helps you to consider how layers of experience and social identities overlap and create someone's intersecting experience.

The **Social Graces** can be used to explore the socially constructed nature of identities.



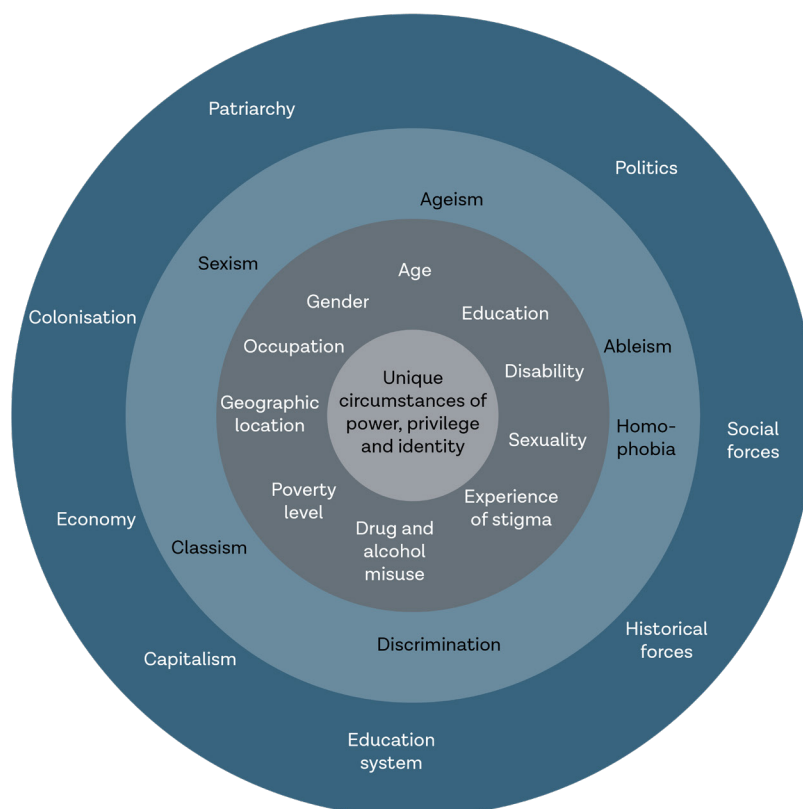
The Intersectionality Wheel (below) builds on the Social Graces. It gives us a way of naming and framing someone’s experience through their social context. It has four layers:

1. The innermost circle represents a person’s unique circumstances – the person’s life.
2. The second circle represents aspects of identity.

This strongly mirrors the Social Graces. However, there are two more circles:

3. The third circle represents different types of discrimination/isms/attitudes that impact on identity.
4. The outermost circle represents larger forces and structures that work together to reinforce exclusion.

Intersectionality names and frames. It doesn’t say ‘there might be a cultural difference or a stigma because of...’ it says ‘there is homophobia, there is racism, there is colonialism, there is patriarchy.’ This allows us to really locate what is happening.



### Reflective questions:

- > How does intersectionality help to make sense of the Social Graces?
- > Why is it important to have the two additional outer circles?
- > How are different aspects of identity in the social graces affected by the outer two circles?
- > How do the three outer circles impact on the unique circumstances of the person in the center?
- > What other aspects of social inequality, discrimination and oppression might you need to add to the wheel?

**You may find these comments from participants in the Change Project helpful:**

- > *'The wheel seems to build on social graces.'*
- > *'Social Graces don't show the contextual implications.'*
- > *'We are not schooled in making the connections, the interplay. This has got to be a huge solution, educating individuals and organisations, to understand those interplays and interconnectedness.'*
- > *'You can use intersectionality as a political alternative to work alongside social graces.'*