

Global Views, Local Voices

Outcomes of the seminars in Monaghan (22 March), Galway (28 March) and Kilkenny (1 April)

With thanks to the facilitators Margaret Clarke and Gareth Conlon (Monaghan), Son Gyoh (Galway) and Dorothy Maduewesi (Waterford)

What do you think of when you hear the words 'Global Justice'?

- World of injustice – making things 'right'
- Equal rights
- Equality and Fairness
- Big differences between parts of the world
- Helping one another
- A work in progress
- Stability and peace
- Inequalities and need for fairness
- Freedom (or lack) of speech
- Having a VOICE
- A big job to be done
- Aspirations and realities
- Empowerment
- Feeling angry and indignant
- Starts at home?
- Mutual respect for cultural diversity
- 80:20 ratio

The above demonstrated a broad understanding of the issues related to development education and what the overall context is when doing development education in a youth work setting.

What are the specific global justice issues that you are aware of?

- Human Rights
- Trade issues

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- Unrest in Middle East countries – in North Africa (civil unrest)
- Food/Hunger
- Health
- Access to good education
- Environment and Water
- Forced labour/child labour
- Corruption
- Gender and inequality
- Poverty
- Youth unemployment
- Safety/safe environment

Linking the local to the global – finding connections in issues

1. Gender inequality
In Irish contexts (with mixed groups)
International case studies/research
Make links with groups in that country or place... process continues
2. Health/Sexual health
“Squashy couch” programme
HIV/AIDS
Access to family planning
3. Litter
4. Fundraising for local orgs
5. Advocacy on issues including access to water, local racism
6. Drugs, Alcohol, anti-social behaviour
7. Sport
Access to cricket and soccer
Set up a cricket club
The power of sport to bring people of different
8. Cultural dress – image and identity are related to how people dress
9. Religion
Access to places of worship e.g for Muslims
People’s respect to different cultures and religions

Advantages and benefits of doing development education with young people (for young people, youth workers and organisations)

- **Very broad – can be linked to many issues**

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Make connections between local and global, between issues internationally and locally
Sense of responsibility, will bring about impact
Use interesting tools that young people enjoy, e.g. music, cookery, food, sport as a way of getting people to learn about the world

- **Building own organisational capacity and learning**

Interagency approaches and contacts
Long-term investment

- **Develop critical questioning of what's going on around us**

Awareness of global issues leading to informed decisions
Develop awareness
Importance of speaking out about unfair issues
More skills for young people and youth workers
More open-minded
Aim to bring about positive change

Help interaction and integration among young people

Young people will feel included
Understanding of different cultures
Challenging stereotypes and broadening perspectives of cultures and people
Taking people out of their 'comfort' zone
Learning about alternative ways of living

Powerful communication tool

Good opportunity to involve a 'real' voice, person with real experience of an issue

Challenges of doing development education with young people

- **Understanding what development education is**

'Where does it fit?' in youth work
Not for 'disadvantaged' young people?

- **Getting active participation**

Engaging young people and making it relevant
It shouldn't be 'like school' – provide interesting programmes

- **Resource – Funding, Volunteers, Supports**

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Inadequate involvement of the State – needs to be mainstreamed more in youth work and schools

Can be tokenistic

Language barriers

- **Community/Parental attitudes**

Not enough education for community to understand specific projects, such as resettlement of refugees in local area

How to keep **cultures and identities** alive – history etc

Mixed identity – people having different ideas about who they are, identity crisis

Stereotypes need to be challenged before doing development education

We might come across racism and discrimination

Are the above challenges that we find in most types of youth work?

How do we overcome challenges?

- Pre-empt challenges in your planning process
- Inter-agency cooperation
- Holistic approach within an organisation

Good practice in Intercultural Education

- Intercultural Education
- Peer-mentoring
- Mentoring programme for adults
- Respect and value the minority ethnic cultural identity (e.g. religion)
- Practical Experience
- Having clear goals at the start

Identity – what does identity mean to me, and to others?

- How I see myself
- Belonging to a certain group – group identity is also important
- Having to give up parts of identity e.g. get a job?
- Is it just a way of labelling others?
- Fear and reality of discrimination
- Physical identity – how I look

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- Stereotypes of particular groups
- Identity can change
- Or is it permanent?
- Self-esteem
- Diversity in one person's identity
- Beliefs and values may inform your identity
- Balance between home life and peers/school/work – one person can have different identities
- Depends on social context and balance of power

How do we promote the inclusion of minority groups in youth work? Specifically in the context of Development Education?

- Link with the 'key' person in a particular community – someone that other members trust, tap into networks
- Link schools with youth work
- 'Peer' model of youth work – youth led by youth
- Whole community/family approach
- Some minority young people will be more likely to prefer structured groups and organised activities, whereas young people from Irish backgrounds tend to prefer drop-in.
- Invite groups into your youth organisation's space
- Exchange contacts from events like today

Some examples of organisations/communities we can tap into when involving minority ethnic communities in youth work:

- Youth organisations such as Foróige, No Name Clubs, Scouting Ireland, Youth Work Ireland
- Islamic community groups (e.g. Dundalk Islamic community and Dawatul Haqq Islamic Cultural Group (Galway))
- Local VEC and VEC youth officer
- Integration centre (Séamus O'Leary in Carlow/Kilkenny, Tinu in Louth/Monaghan/Cavan and Kipe Kelly in Galway)
- African-Caribbean Forum (Cavan)
- Local sports clubs and teams
- Youthreach centres
- Communities connect (Dundalk)

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- Polish school
- Lithuanian community
- Traveller community (e.g. Navan Travellers Workshops and Western Traveller Intercultural Galway)

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