

Chains of Justice

12+

AIM

To highlight how products bought in the Global North have links to Injustice in the Global South.

Time

30 Minutes

Material

Photocopies of the labels, scissors

Method

Copy each link of the chain onto a sticky label or post it note. Break into groups of six. Stick the label onto the participants' forehead. Explain that they have one link of a chain of events. Their task is to line themselves up from the first link to the last. The chains show how people in Ireland can be connected to people in the Global South.

Ask if they found it easy to make the chain? Did any link stand out or surprise them when they were doing this? Was there anything unfair in the chains? What could people in Ireland do to try and change the situation?

Chain 1:

Mark eats muesli for breakfast every morning. The muesli contains nuts and figs.

The figs were grown on land which is occupied by Israeli people.

Israel has moved into Palestinian territories against international law. The EU continues to trade with Israel for many products including figs.

Palestinian people are forced off their land by the Israeli army.

Mohammed gets beaten and imprisoned for fighting back and throwing a stone at a soldier.

His education suffers because his prison does not provide any education for children.

Chain 2:

Emma likes having the latest phone, she gets a new one each year. Mobile phones need the mineral "coltan".

80% of the world's coltan is found in the Democratic Republic of Congo which has a trade deal with the EU.

The eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is in civil war, many armies are fighting for control of the area.

The armies use the profit from the coltan mines to fund their wars.

Philippe is 13 and works in the mines where over 1 in 3 of the coltan miners are children.

The coltan miners buy their food from local traders. Sometimes the traders sell animal meat which can include the lowland Gorilla, an endangered animal.

Chain 3:

Ciaran loves Chinese food. His favourite dish is Shrimp fried rice.

Over a quarter of all shrimp is now farmed so they can keep up with demand.

To support the demand in Europe, the EU negotiates for the cheapest shrimp from countries like Ecuador.

To sell more shrimp, businesses clear the trees along the coast to make more shrimp farms.

Emilia was born on this land, but now she has to move to make way for new farms.

The shrimp farm pollutes the sea and there's no fish for Emilia's community and now she must work in the shrimp farm to survive.

Action Idea

Visit the Oxfam website www.maketrade-fair.com and search for actions your group can do to get a fair deal for the world's people.