

Role-cards

Elena

I am 12 years old and come from Uganda. During the day I help out on my family farm doing things like collecting water and taking care of the cattle. Even though this is hard work I enjoy it. People in my village would like to set up a night school for children like me so that we could get an education and learn better ways of looking after the farm. But they don't have enough money to do this.

Source: Making a Difference, NYCI (2005)

Sagar

I am 14 years old and I live in Nepal where people are divided into different categories called "castes". I am a member of the Dalits which is the 'lowest' caste. We are not allowed to enter the same temple or to eat with people from the higher castes. I work on the farm of a rich family for very little money. Myself and other people from the Dalit caste are trying to fight for more rights.

Source: Making a Difference, NYCI (2005)

Ciara

I am 15 years old. I live with my mother, two sisters and two brothers in a housing estate in a rural town in Ireland. The nearest school is nearly two miles away. There's no public transport so I have to walk to school. At school, I get a hard time from other students as I can't afford new clothes or presents. My Mum struggles to provide us with food, let alone books, exam fees and school trips. I'd like to study further but there's no way we can afford it. As soon as I have my Leaving Cert, I'll get a job so I can help Mum.

Source: Chilled out not worn out, NYCI (2004)

Kevin

I am 17 years old and live in Cavan. I have cerebral palsy and I'm confined to a wheelchair. I'm sitting the Leaving Certificate this year and want to study Science. I'll have to move away to study, but I need a full time personal assistant (PA). My family applied to the local authority for a grant but we were turned down. My parents can't afford to pay for a PA themselves so I don't know what to do. There are very few employment opportunities around here for people with a disability.

Source: Chilled out not worn out, NYCI (2004)

Activity 2

Age: 10yrs +

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Paper, pens, flipchart,
copies of role-cards and copies of list
of Important Stuff

Needs and Wants

AIM: To encourage young people to reflect on the difference between needs and wants and to consider the link between basic needs and basic rights

What to do:

Ask the group to get into pairs and to make a list of the 12 things they feel they need most in their life. After ten minutes bring all the pairs together. On a flipchart write up all the items or things people listed. Explore with the group the reasons behind their choices, asking them if there are some things that are more important than others. How many items in the list are absolutely necessary and how many could be described as a luxury? Ask the group if they think they have a right to everything that they felt was necessary.

Get each pair to join with another pair to make groups of four and give each group a role-card and a copy of the list of important stuff - ask them to use the important stuff list to rank the things in order of importance for the person in their role-card.

Bring the group together and have them explain their choices. Ask them to highlight what was the same and what was different between their first list and this one? Why do they think they didn't think of some of the things the first time round? What needs emerged depending on where the person was from?

Source: Adapted from The Rights Stuff, DEFY, Amnesty, Trócaire (1998)



Clap Game Form a circle with everyone on their hands and knees. Everyone must place their hands flat out in front of them, and cross their right hand between the hands of the person on their right (everybody should have someone else's hand beside them now). The first person should clap their hand off the ground and the hand next to theirs should follow, and so on until the clap has gone around the circle once. Explain that you are going to do the same thing again, except this time if someone chooses to clap twice you change the direction of the clap. Each hand must respond quickly, if you delay or clap when you shouldn't you must remove that hand from the circle; you are out when both your hands are out. The winner is the person with the last hand left.

Important Stuff

Family

Designer clothing

A home that is warm and safe

A TV and a DVD player

School books

Somewhere to play or hang out

A mobile phone

Your own bedroom

Protection from abuse and neglect

Mars bar, Coca-Cola and crisps

The chance to express your opinion and be listened to

Healthy food

Clean air and water

Pocket money every week

Medical care when you need it

Internet access