



# THE WALL

## AIM

to explore how walls contribute to some people having power and others being powerless and to creatively use the image of the wall as a message of solidarity with young people in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and around the world.

## AGE

10 years and older

## TIME

90 minutes

## MATERIALS

Art materials, markers, materials for constructing a wall (e.g. cardboard boxes, an old sheet, ply wood, adhesive tape, wall paper, wallpaper paste)

## NOTE TO LEADER

If time is limited, prepare the wall in advance and get the groups to stick their A3 sheets or wallpaper strips on it.

Possible examples of walls for security or separation around the world are the Berlin Wall, the Great Wall of China and the Peace Walls in Northern Ireland.

## WHAT TO DO

Begin with a brainstorm on what different types of wall there are and what purposes they have. Which of the purposes are positive and which are negative? Ask for examples of walls used for security or separation around the world.

Explain that they are going to make a wall. Encourage everyone to get involved in creating the wall using the materials provided. Allow 30 minutes for this.

Break into small groups and give some groups the fact box on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (page 24), others the fact box on Northern Ireland (page 23) and ask the remainder to think about other types of barriers that affect young people (page 17). Ask the groups to discuss the facts with the following questions as a guide:

- What effect do the walls (or barriers) have on young people?
- How do you think they feel about it?
- Who is responsible for removing the walls?
- What message of solidarity would you share with young people who are affected by the walls or barriers?

Each group should draw/paint sections of wall on A3 sheets or wallpaper strips and illustrate them with colourful images and messages of solidarity based on their discussions. Allow 30 minutes for the discussion and preparation of the images/messages.

In the large group ask what was similar or different about the images and messages of solidarity. What images or messages jumped out? What else can we do to show our solidarity with young people in Ireland, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Northern Ireland?

## ACTION

If you have a focus on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, take a picture of your solidarity wall and send it for a petition which will be used for an Amnesty International Action on International Human Rights Day (10 December). Send your picture to: Amnesty International Irish Section, Sean MacBride House, 48 Fleet Street, Dublin 2. Or email it to the Youth and Student Team in Amnesty International at [youth@amnesty.ie](mailto:youth@amnesty.ie)

Create your solidarity wall on an old sheet. Cut the cloth in a 2 metre lengths and a width of 1.5 metres. Send or bring your piece of the wall into Amnesty International, Irish Section, 48 Fleet Street, Dublin 2 to become a part of a big wall petition which will be a part of an Amnesty Action on Human Rights Day (10 December). You can also take action by visiting the Amnesty International Online Action Centre at [www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live](http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live), then click on action, and action centre.

