

## Title: Choices

**Aim:** To explore the impact of financial pressures on young people and their families

**Age:** 12+

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** Copy of the chains, sticky labels/post it notes



### WHAT TO DO

Copy each link of the chain/story onto a sticky label or post it note. Break into groups of six. Stick one label onto each of the participants' foreheads. Explain that each person has one piece of the story. Their task is to line themselves up in order from the first sentence to the last sentence.

**DEBRIEF:** Ask each group to read out their chain. Does anything surprise them? Do the different stories have anything in common? Can the group relate to anything in it? Do any of these situations exist in the groups communities? What would help these people in the stories overcome their challenges? What can individuals, families, friends, communities, and governments do to help people who find themselves in financial difficulty?

#### Chain 1:

Marie is 26. She borrowed money to go to college thinking she would get a job

Since leaving college she is trying to cope with stress around unemployment and debt

Marie feels she should know where she's going in life, but things are uncertain

She was told, "You study hard and the reward is a job". Not anymore

The pressure to have everything figured out is overwhelming

Marie wonders if life is about the destination or the journey

*(Adapted from information on [www.headstrong.ie](http://www.headstrong.ie))*

#### Chain 2:

Espoir is 15 years old and lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

His name means 'Hope' in French. He used to be a child soldier

Espoir left his home to earn money for his family. He ended up in an armed group

Now he lives in a transit centre where he is learning to live normally again

They play games and sports to learn that losing is ok and that they don't need to get angry

When he is ready to leave, Espoir will live with his family again

*(Adapted from information on [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org))*

#### Chain 3:

Lam is originally from Thanh Hoa in Vietnam, but had to move to the capital Hanoi for work

Lam wanted to study and start a career but did not have the money

He tried many jobs until he enrolled in REACH, free vocational training for youths

He chose the IT web and graphic design course because Lam loves computers

Now he is working for a web agency. The salary is just enough to pay the rent and food

There are no web design jobs in his hometown now but Lam hopes there might be in future

*(Adapted from Plan*