

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 3

Age: 10 yrs +

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: Large pieces of paper (1 per group), markers, magazines, newspapers, copies of minority cards, copies of youth-friendly UDHR

On Our Island

AIM: To explore with young people what rights they think everyone should be entitled to and to introduce the fact that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights exists for all

What to do:

Form groups of approximately 4 people. Explain that there are a group of people from all over the world who have come to live on a new island, it has never been lived on before and it is up to them to come up with a set of rights that everyone on the island will be entitled to. They are only allowed 12 rights in total. Get the groups to brainstorm together and list their 12 selected rights. Distribute the large sheets of paper and tell them to draw the shape of their island and give it a name. Get them to write/draw the rights they selected and to pick images from the magazines/newspapers to show which rights they believe every person on the island should be equally entitled to.

Bring the groups together and have each group explain which rights they picked. Ask them to give reasons. Once all the groups have given feedback ask whether they notice any major difference between the groups. Ask them if they found it difficult to come up with their list of rights? Was there any conflict in the group?

Now give each group one minority card. With this minority card, the groups should discuss their proposed rights and explore if they need to add anything in or take anything out to ensure that the rights of these people are guaranteed. Get feedback from each group.

Debrief Questions:

- * Do you think it is possible to have one list of rights for everyone in the world?
- * Do you think some people need to be given extra care to ensure their rights are protected?
- * Can you think of anything that already exists which tells us what rights everyone is entitled to?

Action idea: As a large group, create one island on a large sheet of paper or cloth, include all of the rights that the groups established, name the island, write or draw the rights onto the island and display in a public place with a banner to highlight that this is their Island of Rights.

Note to Leader!
You could also expand the minority cards to include other groups in society, who are not considered minority groups, but who are still likely to experience discrimination and therefore need specific rights to address their needs, e.g. women and children.