

POWERFUL IF...

ACTIVITY

3

AIM

to explore how young people experience power differently within and between countries

AGE

10 years and older

TIME

25 minutes

MATERIALS

Copy of role cards

WHAT TO DO

Participants line up in a straight line at the end of the room. Make copies of the role cards if necessary so that everybody has one. Distribute role cards. Tell participants that as you read out a statement, if they think it applies to their character, they take a step forward. Otherwise they stay where they are. The first person to reach the end line is the winner. Before people leave their final spot, ask people at the back to introduce themselves and ask how they feel about the people who made it to the front. Now ask people at the front and in the middle. Ask if it is fair that some people have more power than others.

In the large group, ask who had the most power and who had the least power. How does it feel to have power? How can people with less power gain power?

STATEMENTS

I have the power to create change in my youth club or school

I have the power to create change in the world

I feel I have no influence in my community

People listen to me when I make suggestions

People make decisions on my behalf

Being young does not make people treat me differently

I have the same opportunities as other young people in my community

I have the same opportunities as other young people in the World

I get the respect I deserve

The media portrays me fairly

I have money so I have power

If I want something, I have the power to get it



POWERFUL IF...

DID YOU KNOW?

- 18 is the most common voting age, with a small minority of countries differing from this rule.
- Countries with a national minimum age of 17 include Timor Leste, Indonesia, North Korea, the Seychelles and Sudan.
- The minimum age is 16 in Austria, Brazil, Cuba and Nicaragua.

For more information visit www.equality.ie

Lifestories: Exploring Identity with Young People (NYCI, 2004)

All Different All Equal (NYCI, 2007)

ROLE CARDS

A young male Traveller attending a local school

A 9 year old boy from Sierra Leone who was taken by the rebel army to be a child soldier

A young girl from India who cares for her siblings by finding food and things to sell

A teenage asylum seeker in Ireland who is separated from his family

A young girl from Brazil who is in a wheelchair

An elected teenage member of a National Youth Parliament

A Nigerian boy who is chairperson of a group of young people taking action to improve the health of young people in his school and community

A 13 year old girl who encourages the leaders in her youth club to only buy fair trade tea, coffee and biscuits

A 15 year old Catholic boy from Northern Ireland who left school at 15

A teenage girl in Leaving Cert year, planning to study political science in college

A 16 year old boy from Nicaragua who is legally allowed to vote