

Questioning Conflict



Aim:

to explore the extent of conflict around the world and the impact it has had on people's lives.

Age:

8 years and older

Time:

40 minutes (10 minutes for first part and 30 minutes for main activity)

Materials:

Question and answer cards, map of the world (optional).

*If possible use a Peters' Projection map of the world, which portrays countries according to their true size and location. The maps are available from Trócaire Resource Centres and from Amnesty (see useful addresses for details).

What to do:

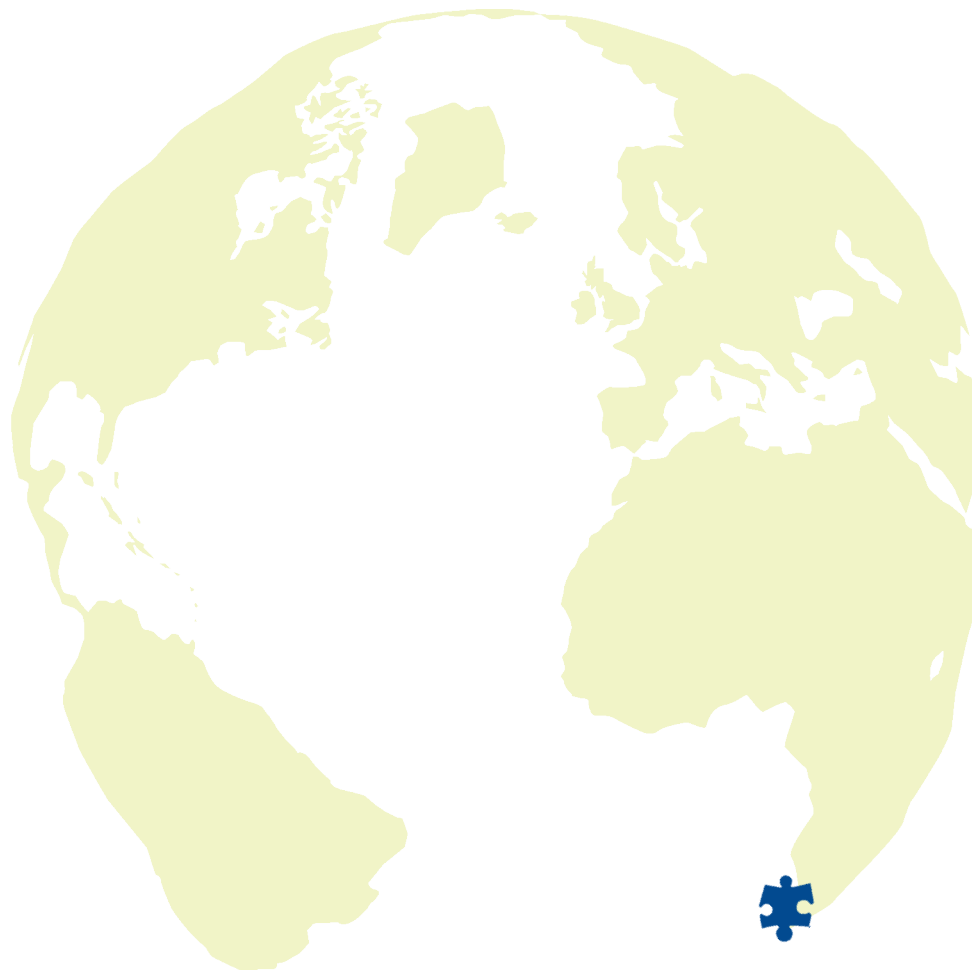
Begin with a brainstorm on conflicts that are currently, or have been recently, in the news - either on TV, on the radio or in newspapers. Ask participants to identify on the world map* countries where there is conflict.

In advance of the session hide the question and answer cards in different parts of the room. If you are running the activity outside, remember to protect the cards against the elements. Explain to the participants that they have to find the cards, one per person. They then have to match the questions to the answers. If necessary, double up on the cards. Each pair then presents their question and answer.

In the large group discuss the questions and answers. Ask which answers they knew already and what answers surprised them. Why? What can be done to protect people in conflict situations? Who (or what groups) should protect people from conflict?

Note to Leader

If there is an uneven number in the group, hold onto one card yourself and pair up with the odd person. Check the suitability of the questions for your group and if necessary replace some of the questions.





Question and Answer Cards

Q

Conflict is only when countries fight each other. Is this true?

A

No. Conflict can also be within a single person, between two people, or between particular groups or communities.

Q

How many armed conflicts were there between 1990 and 2001?

A

There were 57 major armed conflicts around the world between 1990 and 2001.

Q

What have the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the world's biggest arms suppliers in common?

A

They are the same countries - UK, USA, Russia, France and China.

Q

What do Northern Ireland, Iraq and Liberia have in common?

A

Northern Ireland, Iraq and Liberia have all experienced armed conflict in recent years.

Q

Who is most at risk of injury or death in armed conflicts?

A

90% of those killed or injured during armed conflicts are civilians, with half of the victims being children.

Q

What have \$400, 5 cows and a chicken got in common?

A

It is the cost of an AK 47 sub-machine gun in the USA, Kenya and Sudan respectively.

Q

What name is given to the period of conflict in Northern Ireland from 1969 to 1998?

A

'The Troubles' is the name given to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Q

How many people were killed in civil wars around the world in the 1990s?

A

More than 5 million people were killed in civil wars around the world in the 1990s. The biggest death toll was in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Q

How many deaths are caused by landmines each year?

A

25000 deaths are caused by landmines each year; the majority are women and children.

Q

How many people were killed in the Troubles in Northern Ireland?

A

In total, 3636 people were killed in the Troubles in Northern Ireland, including 257 children.

Q

How many children are involved in armed conflict around the world?

A

More than 300,000 children are involved in armed conflicts. That's about the same as the population of Belfast.

Q

Ireland has no links to the international trade in arms. Is this true?

A

No. Fifty three Irish companies are estimated to have links to the international arms trade.

Q

What name is given to the peace agreement signed in Northern Ireland on the 10th April 1998?

A

The Good Friday Agreement.

Q

Which is bigger, annual arms sales worldwide or the funds needed to stop world hunger and allow all primary school children go to school?

A

Arms sales are worth almost \$10 billion (that's a one followed by 10 noughts) more than the combined cost of ending hunger and allowing all children to go to school.

Q

What is peace?

A

True peace or 'positive peace' is the absence of conflict with justice for everyone involved.

