

GOAL 16: PEACE AND JUSTICE



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



PURPOSE

To reflect on the importance of our right to participate through voting.

MATERIALS

- A collection of counters or plastic bottle tops
- UN convention on the Rights of the Child Article 12

PREPARE

- Select a range of questions to ask your young people to vote on. For example, 'We would like to have a snack break in the middle of our meeting.'
- Label two small tubs with 'Yes' and 'No'.

ACTIVITY (20+ MINUTES)

Equally distribute the bottle tops inviting the group to vote on issues that are important to them. Read out the first question and ask them to vote 'Yes' or 'No'. Make a count and record the number.

Collect and redistribute the bottle tops, but miss out some of the young people so that they miss out on the vote.

Repeat this activity until you have asked all the questions.

DISCUSSION (30 minutes)

After the voting, ask them how they felt about being left out of a vote that they cared about.

Do they think that young people (16+) should be allowed to vote in Scotland?

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Article 12, states that children have the right to participate in decision-making processes that may be relevant in their lives.

Do they feel that there are opportunities for their voices to be listened to? In their group? At school? In the community? Elsewhere?

SUMMARY

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GOAL 16

Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are necessary to achieve the goals. People everywhere need to feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation. In order to advance the goals we need effective and inclusive public institutions that can deliver quality education and healthcare, fair economic policies and inclusive environmental protection.

TARGETS

- End violence in the world and related death rates everywhere.
- End the abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.
- Ensure that everyone has equal access to justice in their country or internationally.
- Combat crime and corruption in any form.
- Ensure citizens are consulted and their governments make decisions with the interest of children and adults in mind. For example, children and young people must be consulted before a legal law which affects their lives is signed.

- Ensure all children are given an identity including birth registration.
- Ensure all people have free access to information.
- Strengthen institutions to prevent violence, terrorism and crime.

ACTIVITY

Activity where the participants vote and find out what it means not to have a voice.

TAKE IT FURTHER

- Find out more about Children's Rights with UNICEF resources.
- For those aged 15+, this practical guide for youth action looks at power, rights and participation.

<http://restlessdevelopment.org/file/power-rights-and-participation-pdf>

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