

EXPLORING JUSTICE: YOUTH WORKER GUIDE

'My message to the youth of Ireland is I wish that my area will be safe like theirs, free of occupation.'



trocaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **Exploring Global Justice**, an online toolkit for youth groups.

This resource aims to support youth organisations to explore global justice issues from a global youth work perspective.

Global youth work is about discovering global issues with young people through non-formal education. The aim is to explore a young person's role in their local community and within a globalised world.

Global justice is the idea that every person, everywhere in the world, is born with the same rights. This means that everyone should have equal access to resources and have the power to make decisions that affect their daily lives.



People experience injustice when their human rights are denied. This happens all over the world, every day and for many different reasons. Very often the causes of these injustices lie in systems and places outside of a person's control, and often outside of their own country



There are many issues that might be considered global justice issues, such as climate change, poverty, conflict, displacement, hunger and food insecurity, access to land and water, and gender inequality. The way the world is structured means that some people have more power than others. In the economic system, which we are all part of, there are those who mostly benefit, and others who mostly suffer. Global justice calls us to question why this is and to explore what we, as global citizens, can do to build a more just world.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

If you have used our resources before, you may notice something different this year.

We have moved to a digital approach, with all elements available online.

A total of fifteen activities explore global justice in three different countries – Somalia, Guatemala and Palestine – as well as some introductory and reflective activities.

The **Tree of Justice** serves as the central hub for our resources. Please follow the advice that Feathers the bird has for you. This will help to guide you along the way. The plan over the next three years is for the tree to grow, with more countries and activities added over time.

The main activity this year is the **Exploring Global Justice** video located on the trunk of the tree. All of the other activities help to expand upon and explain the themes, concepts and ideas covered in the video. We recommend that your first step in using this resource is to watch the Exploring Global Justice video and complete the accompanying activities, found in the trunk of the tree.

You are then free to choose where on the tree you want to go. The order in which you use the activities is up to you and your young people but there is a suggested order included in this resource if you need it.

The activities are designed primarily for use with young people aged twelve and over. The resource has been developed to deliver a four-session programme of ninety-minute sessions. On page 8 of this guide there is a suggested breakdown



of each session; however, it is possible to use activities individually without delivering the full programme.

A key part of this youth programme is to build awareness and confidence among young people to act for global justice. You will find ideas to inspire youth-led action projects on the review branch tab.

Creating a Safe Environment

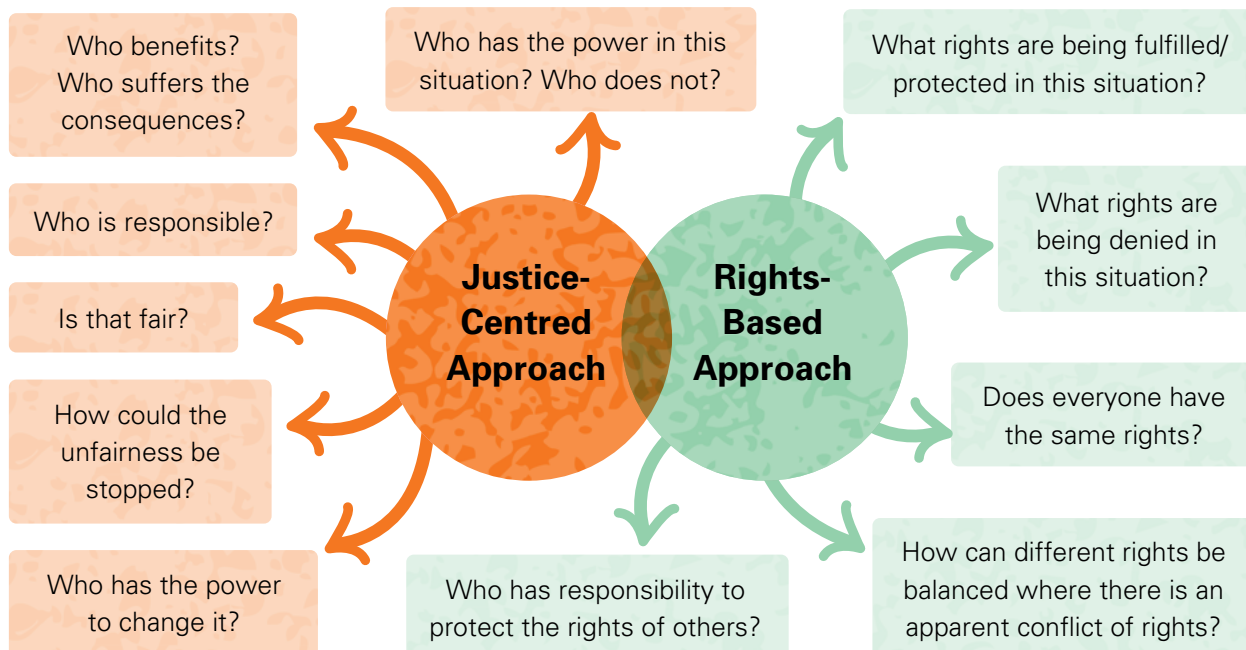
In exploring global justice issues with young people, it is vital to create a safe space to encourage full participation in discussions. We strongly recommend that you create a group contract at the beginning of the programme. Always be aware of a young person's reactions and follow up with them where appropriate. Always check in with your group to ensure the activities are safe for, accessible to and respectful of everyone. When in doubt, ask. Where adaptations are needed, ask your participants what feels comfortable for them and include support persons where appropriate.

Note: We recognise that any resources focusing on global issues can resonate with individuals because of their lived experience; therefore, we advise that you read each activity in advance and modify it if you feel there is anything that may affect an individual. The content relating to the three focus countries this year – Somalia, Guatemala and Palestine – focuses on a number of perspectives, but there are many more. It is important as youth workers that we avoid reinforcing negative stereotypes through the activities contained in this resource.

Methodologies

The methodologies in this resource will support young people to critically examine global justice issues. In leading group discussions, it helps to adopt a justice-centred, rights-based approach, focusing on the lack of power often experienced due to global systems. By asking the following questions you are applying a critical lens to the issues and topics that will be covered.

Role of Critical Questioning



Global citizenship education (GCE)/global youth work (GYW) is becoming a more widely used term for this type of youth engagement. GCE/GYW shares the following elements with youth work principles.

Ten Key Principles of Global Youth Work

- 1) Starts from young people's experiences and encourages their personal, social, emotional, and political development.
- 2) Works to non-formal education principles and offers opportunities that are educational, participative, empowering and designed to promote equality of opportunity.
- 3) Is based on an agenda that has been negotiated with young people.
- 4) Engages young people in critical analysis of local and global influences on their own lives and communities.
- 5) Encourages an understanding of the world based on the historical process of globalisation.
- 6) Recognises that relationships between, and within, developing and developed countries ('global north' and 'global south') are characterised by inequalities caused by globalisation.
- 7) Promotes the values of justice and equity in personal, local, national, and global relationships.
- 8) Encourages an understanding of, appreciation for, diversity, locally and globally.
- 9) Sees the people and organisations of all countries (developing and developed; 'global north' and 'global south') as equal partners for change in a shared and independent world.
- 10) Encourages action that builds alliances to bring about change.

(Global Youth Work, DEA, 2004)

Symbols



Purpose



Materials



Reminder



Time



Summary



Photocopy

Key Terms

There are many key terms used across the resources. Most of them are explained through the content and activities, but some might need some degree of pre-teaching, depending on the group.

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ABOUT TRÓCAIRE

‘Trócaire’ is the Irish word for compassion. For fifty years, Trócaire has put the compassion of Irish people into action.

We work in partnership with communities in more than twenty countries to relieve poverty and tackle injustice. We support people to use their own power to create positive and lasting change.

Trócaire was set up in 1973 with two main aims:

- Support and advocate for people in the wider world who are living in poverty
- Educate people in Ireland about global poverty and justice issues

Trócaire believes that every woman, man and child is born equal. We understand poverty as being more than the absence of basic needs. It is the absence of opportunity, the lack of power, a lack of voice and a lack of control over one's life. We see that real and lasting change happens when people secure their basic human rights. We influence this by working in partnership with local communities affected by poverty and injustice.

Partnership means working with individuals, communities and local organisations to help bring about the change they want to see in their lives. Fundamentally, partnership is about solidarity, respect and empowerment.

Trocaire's development education work is rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals. Sustainable development means developing in a way that will not harm the lives or ignore the rights of future generations. Climate change and Covid-19 have been devastating for communities around the world, including here at home. However, these crises have also brought communities together with a strong sense of compassion and caring for one another, serving as a reminder of how dependent we are on the world around us and everyone living in it.

TRÓCAIRE'S WORK IN SOMALIA

Somalia is a country in East Africa, in an area known as the Horn of Africa.

Affected by conflict, drought and hunger, Somalia is one of the poorest and most fragile countries in the world, having no effective government from 1991 until 2012.

Internal conflict has raged for almost thirty years. Large parts of South-Central Somalia, where Trócaire works, is governed by armed groups, leaving an estimated 2.6 million people internally displaced. The new government has brought hope that Somalia will become more stable but the country still faces major challenges.

A combination of conflict, climate change and extreme poverty has left millions of people facing the daily reality of hunger. Trócaire has been providing humanitarian support to people in Somalia since 1992. For almost thirty years we have worked with people in the Gedo region of South-Central Somalia.

Trócaire operates the only hospital and clinic network in Gedo. Our twenty-four healthcare facilities, which include four hospitals, treat an average of nineteen thousand people every month. These facilities provide vital healthcare for people experiencing malnutrition and illness, as well as giving pregnant women a safe place to give birth.

In the Somalia section of the video and in the Somalia branch you will learn more about Ambiyo and her family, and how their lives have been impacted by drought. There are activities exploring overseas aid and climate change.



TRÓCAIRE'S WORK IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala is a country in Central America.

The country experienced four decades of civil war, with peace declared in the late 1990s. Despite more hopeful times, significant challenges remain in the country.

Guatemala still bears the scars of civil war. More than two hundred thousand people were killed in the conflict, which ran from the 1960s to 1990s. The vast majority of those killed were indigenous. Today, indigenous communities remain marginalised in Guatemala. At the same time, a powerful minority keep a firm grip on the country's political and economic power.

Guatemala has one of the highest rates of hunger and malnutrition in Latin America. This is especially the case in rural areas and among the indigenous population. Large business projects have led to environmental destruction and land grabs, while attacks against human rights defenders are common. Violence against women is a serious problem in the country. Guatemala is also vulnerable to natural and climate-related disasters.

Trócaire's partners are helping communities in Guatemala to protect their land in the face of corporate greed. Our work helps to tackle violence against women and to support survivors of abuse. Our partners are also supporting communities to prepare for and respond to disasters.

In the Guatemala branch you will receive more information about Guatemala and how big businesses are evicting families from their land to use that land for cash crops. There is an activity exploring palm oil and a board game called Human Rights Defenders.

TRÓCAIRE'S WORK IN PALESTINE

For fifty-five years Israel has maintained a military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Serious human rights abuses are happening on an almost daily basis in the West Bank and Gaza.

Due to military bombardments and an ongoing blockade, 80 per cent of people in Gaza depend on aid to survive. In the West Bank Palestinian homes are being demolished. Land is being confiscated. Israel continues to displace Palestinian communities by force. Israeli settlements have been built on confiscated Palestinian land. This is despite settlements being illegal under international law.

Trócaire works with Israeli and Palestinian partners to support those affected by conflict and human rights violations, and to raise international awareness of the injustices faced by Palestinians under the occupation.

In the Palestine section of the video and in the Palestine branch you can find out more about the history of the region and what life is like under the occupation for young people like Abrar, Lujain and Bysan. There is an interactive movement activity to highlight this, a creative activity on artivism and a photo pack exploring the concept of Sumud or resistance.

The following table outlines the main activities contained in the Tree of Justice for this year and a suggested order in which to use these activities.

| Step | Activity | Location |
|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Session One | | |
| 1 | Exploring Justice (video) | Trunk |
| 2 | Exploring Global Justice Debrief | Trunk |
| 3 | Exploring Human Rights | Trunk |
| Session Two | | |
| 4 | Introduction to Somalia (slide show) | Somalia branch |
| 5 | Perspectives | Somalia branch |
| 6 | Overseas Development Aid | Somalia branch |
| Session Three | | |
| 7 | Introduction to Guatemala (slide show) | Guatemala branch |
| 8 | A Valuable Oil | Guatemala branch |
| 9 | Human Rights Defenders (game) | Guatemala branch |
| Session Four | | |
| 10 | Introduction to Palestine (slide show) | Palestine branch |
| 11 | Artivism | Palestine branch |
| | Artivism (slide show) | Palestine branch |
| Final | Taking Action | Review branch |

Cover photo: Hamza Jindya (19), South Hebron Hills.
Photo credit: Ahed Izhiman.

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YouTube: youtube.com/trocaire
– see the people you support

Vimeo: vimeo.com/trocaire
– watch our videos

Instagram: instagram.com/trocaireonline
– see our photos and videos

Contact us:

Trócaire, Maynooth,
Co. Kildare, Ireland
T: +353 (0)1 629 3333
E: Aine O'Driscoll at:
aine.odriscoll@trocaire.org

Trócaire, 50 King Street,
Belfast BT1 6AD,
Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0) 28 90 808 030
E: infoni@trocaire.org

Trócaire, 9 Cook Street,
Cork, Ireland
T: +353 (0)21 427 5622
E: corkcentre@trocaire.org

www.trocaire.org



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