

Teachers' notes: Human rights and legalised violence

How to run the activities

You will need

- The Children's Rights Alliance for England Activity Sheet on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- A copy of the CRC for each pupil.
- 'The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Violence' powerpoint presentation.
- The four Story worksheets - one sheet for each student or one for each group.

All available for free on our website,
www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/children

You might also use:

- A map of the world (optional).

Lesson 1:

For a good introduction to the CRC, use Activity 4 (p. 5) in the CRAE Activity Sheet for younger children, and Activity 5 (p. 5) for older children and young people.

Lesson 2:

Use the 'Violence and Human Rights' powerpoint presentation: Slides 1 and 2 assume that the class has already been introduced to the CRC and that each person has their own copy. Slide 3 asks the class to find articles of the Convention which are related to violence. This could lead to a discussion - see below. Slides 4 - 7 give four stories about children around the world who have been victims of violence. Read through all four stories with the children. You might wish to show the class where each country is on the map of the world, or ask them to find it.

Information and points to discuss

- It is not children's responsibility to end violence against them. It is adults' responsibility not to use violence on children, and to protect children from other adults' violence. For this reason, the list of people on the worksheets does not include the children's names. However, children do have the right to try to end violence against them, if they choose to. It could be worthwhile to discuss how children can do this - for example, by telling other adults - and to let the students know about who they could contact to discuss these issues if they want to.
- Most of the ways in which these children's rights are not respected are legal in their countries. One way in which the governments of these countries could help is to make sure that children's rights are fully protected by the law. (This could tie in with the Legalised Violence - Introduction lesson - see our website).
- It might be that some of the young people in the stories have 'chosen' or 'deserved' the violence which happens to them. Steven has chosen to pick pockets; Juma chose to leave school without permission; Anna chose to receive corporal punishment rather than suspension. But it is important to think about why these children made these choices. Juma was hungry; Steven may be very poor; and the 'choice' which Anna was given is not a real and respectful choice. No child should be forced to choose between violence and another option - the violence should never be an option at all.
- Some people might think that Kelly's rights have not been violated in the same way as the other children's rights have. It is true that the actual violence she suffers may be less severe. But, just like any other person of any age, she has the right not to be subjected to violence, and this right has not been respected.
- We don't know how old Juma is. Imagine him as a young child, aged 5, then as a much older child, aged 17. Does that make a difference to how we think about his rights? Should it make a difference?
- The United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children has been used as a guide in creating this lesson plan. It is a major study on violence against children in all world regions and all settings. It talks about the violence against children which happens in different places, including at home, at school, in their communities, in institutions (including children's homes and prisons) and at work. Child-friendly versions of the study are available (see 'Further resources' on our website).

About us

These lesson plans have been developed by the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance and the Churches' Network for Non-violence (CNNV), in conjunction with the CNNV 2009-10 roadshow: **Growing up without violence - Ending legalised violence against children**. The roadshow aims to reflect landmark events in children's rights in 2009 and to further the movement to end all forms of violence against children including corporal punishment.

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