

# Act it out



## Brief description of the activity

This is a drama activity that encourages people to review their general perceptions of human rights, find different ways of representing these perceptions. It is a mimed presentation where the participants have to present different human rights in a way that is understandable to people of different cultures and who may speak different languages. They are not allowed to use words at all, they can only use gestures.

## Act it out

### Topics, objectives and methodologies:

The topics touched by this activity are general human rights, citizenship, cultural differences, intercultural dialogue. Aims of the activity are to review what participants know about human rights, to develop intercultural and communication skills, to develop co-operation and creativity amongst participants and to encourage an intercultural dialogue.

### Duration:

90 minutes.

### Costs:

Low costs needed for buying the props. paper, colored markers, crayons, glue, string and cardboard. It also depends on how much material you can get as a donation or through sponsorship.

### Location:

Indoor place is preferable. Somewhere where youngsters

can focus and participate.

### Materials:

- Props: dressing-up clothes, toys, household items, etc.
- Paper and colored markers, crayons
- Glue, string and cardboard

### Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

The activity may be led by 1 or 2 coordinators/facilitators that have some knowledge on the topic (background information about human rights and culture). The coordinator has to deliver the material to the participants.

### Participants involved:

9 or more participants. Young people or anyone who likes the topic and would like to learn new perspectives.

## Steps:

### Before

Preparation of the location, the room with the needed material.

Explain the participants how long the workshop will take and what is its goal.

Explain that the purpose of the exercise is to come up with a dramatic representation of the general idea or concept of human rights that is understandable to people of different cultures, and who may speak different languages.

Explain the rules of the activity: they will not be allowed to use words at all, they can only use gestures as this must be a mimed presentation. However, groups may make use of some of the materials or props, if they wish.

Ask people to get into small groups of between 4 and 6 people, and give each group a large sheet of paper and a set of crayons / markers.

### During

Give the groups 10 minutes first to brainstorm all their ideas about human rights and then to identify two or three key ideas that they would like bring out more strongly during the mime.

Afterwards give the groups 30 minutes to design and rehearse their mime. Explain that this must be a group effort and everyone should have a role in the production.

After 30 minutes are up, gather the groups together so that everyone can watch each other's performances.

Give a few minutes after each performance for feedback and discussion.

Ask the spectators to offer their interpretations of what they have just seen, and to try to identify the key ideas that the performance attempted to portray.

Then give the group itself a chance to explain briefly any points that did not emerge during the feedback. Repeat this for each of the performances.

### After

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- Review the activity itself:
- How did people feel about this activity? Was it more or less difficult than they had first imagined? What were the most difficult aspects, or the most difficult things to represent?
- Did people learn anything new about human rights?
- What were the similarities or differences among the groups? Were there any fundamental disagree-

ments over the idea of human rights? Why?

## Do's and don'ts

Make it clear to them that their task is to portray "human rights in general", rather than to illustrate one or more specific human rights. They may decide to take one specific right to bring out general points, but they should remember that they are attempting to show what is common to the different human rights. At the end of the session spectators should be able to (or begin to!) answer the question, "what are human rights?"

Do not let those who feel they are weak at acting fail to play an active part. Explain that there are plenty of roles for all, and that this must be something that the whole group feels happy about presenting. A few unusual props may bring the performances to life and help spark creative ideas - anything from saucepans, toy cars, hats, pillows, stones, a dustbin lid...

You can also carry this activity out as a drawing exercise where each group presents a poster - again without using words - to express the main ideas about human rights.

## Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

The participants have to present different human rights in a way that is understandable to people of different cultures and who may speak different languages. They are not allowed to use words at all, they can only use gestures. They learn that people with different cultural background have the same human rights. Human rights applies to all of us. This activity offers a different, innovative approach to understanding the human rights and the importance of intercultural dialogue.

## Bibliography

Brander Patricija, idr., Kompas. Piročnik za učenje mladih o človekovih pravicah, DZS, založništvo



