

Justice and Peace

IT'S ABOUT US



Aim: To discuss conflict, its root causes, the impact on children and conflict prevention



Objectives: Young people will...

- Learn about what it is like to be a young refugee.
- Discuss the impact and effect of war on children.
- Discuss the root causes of conflict.
- Explore ways to prevent future wars and conflict.

Background Resources and Links:

- [Children and Conflict in a Changing World](#)

You will need: equipment to watch video, flipchart/whiteboard and markers



5m

View:

- [A Syrian teenager's life as a refugee](#) - This is a video of Hanadi, 17 who tells us about her life in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan.





30m

Discussion Points:

Children are the most vulnerable during times of war and its primary victims. In this video, Hanadi talks of her experience as a refugee in the Za' atari Refugee Camp.

- What do you think life was like for Hanadi before the war?
- Hanadi and her family spent a year moving across Syria toward Jordan to escape the violence, what do you think the conditions were like for them? How do you think they felt every day?
- They are now living in an overcrowded refugee camp, where the temperature reaches over 40 degrees celsius in summer and below freezing in winter. What are some of the difficulties they face day-to-day and what do you think are some of the differences between your lives and Hanadi's life today?

Group Work (write up on a flipchart or whiteboard)

How does conflict affect children? (prompt children to think of both the short term and long term impacts.) Examples include:

- Death of themselves, their family members, friends, neighbors
- Injury and long term disability
- Illness due to lack of nutrition, safe water, sanitation, access to housing and healthcare
- Rape, torture and prostitution and subsequent physical and mental trauma
- Psychological suffering
- Loss of their homes, culture, dignity
- Loss of education, future hopes and dreams
- Lost generation for a nation that will need to repair its social, civic and structural infrastructure

So who bears the brunt of wars? Who suffers the biggest loss? Who ends up paying the most lasting impact of conflict?

-CHILDREN -



• Group Work Continued...

What do you think are the root causes of war and conflict in the world?

On a flipchart or the board write the word CONFLICT. As participants answer, see if you can get their answers to fit within the acronym categories.

C- Conquest/control - the desire to conquer or assert control over another group/nation (World War II)

O- Oppression - due to inequality and injustice being perpetrated on a group or nation (Syria)

N- Nationalism/Racism /Ethnic Cleansing - belief in being superior to another (Rwanda)

F- Fear /Ignorance - belief that another group is a threat (Iraq)

L- Lack of Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration - the inability to resolve differences and negotiate solutions

I- Ideology - religion or other belief systems that conflicts with another group. (Afghanistan)

T- Territory - gain control over resources or land (Sudan)

Follow on: As future leaders, peacemakers and citizens what changes in the world can you make to prevent the conflicts of tomorrow?

On a flipchart or the board write the word TEACH US. As participants answer, see if you can get their answers to fit within the acronym categories.

T- Tolerance of diversity

E- Equality and Justice for all people

A- Awareness and Acceptance of difference

C- Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration

H- Human Rights and Social Responsibility

U- Understanding and Unity

S- Sustainable global practices

Some facts and figures to think about

- Total world military expenditure in 2012 was \$1.75 trillion. Research shows that the USA accounts for 39% of the world's total military spent and spends ten times more than the next 10 countries combined. Imagine if all of this money was invested in preventing the root causes of war. ([Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook 2013](#))
- Preventing war is 60 times cheaper than fighting it. Still the world spends just €1 for every €1,885 it spends on military budgets. ([fcnl.org](#))
- War has a huge environmental impact too. "The projected full costs of the Iraq war (estimated \$3 trillion) would cover "all of the global investments in renewable power generation" needed between now and 2030 to reverse global warming trends." ([truth-out.org](#))



5m

Closure:

- Play [Imagine sung by Emmanuel Kelly](#), a young victim of chemical warfare in Iraq in his audition for X-Factor.

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today

Imagine there's no countries It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace

You, you may say
I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world

You, you may say
I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will live as one."



10m

At Home:

If you were able to talk to Hanadi and her friends what would you like to ask her? Please write 3 questions.

Do the Maths

<http://www.stwr.org/special-features/cost-of-war-calculator.html>

Go to the [Share the World's Resources Cost of War Calculator](http://www.stwr.org/special-features/cost-of-war-calculator.html) and determine both the cost of your weapon of choice versus what could be achieved in the world with the same money. Determine what you would buy with that money.



Take Action 'Give Peace a Chance'

1. Brainstorm and decide on how your group can take action in your local community around the importance to of building a peaceful world.
 1. Hold an art exhibition
 2. Perform a flashmob
 3. Create an art installation
 4. Stage a play
 5. Put up an information stand about promoting peace/resolving conflict locally and/or globally
 6. Put on a fundraising event, concert, comedy night, poetry reading
2. Plan your event using our toolkit
3. Contact local media to cover the event
4. Spread your message online
5. Prepare, Rehearse, Motivate and Participate