All At Sea

Aim: To look at how different political agendas can influence the messages we receive

Age: 10+   **Time:** 30 mins

Materials: Masking tape, copy of the master grid, copies of stories

What to do:

Preparation: Create a blank grid on the floor using masking tape or rope (similar to that illustrated on Page 34). Keep a master copy with the danger zones marked for the facilitator.

Step 1: Split the group into 2 teams and give each team a different story. Explain to participants that they are travelling in a convoy of ships. They must pass through International water but this has several danger spots which they must avoid. The winner is the team to reach the safety of the harbour first.

Step 2: Each team appoints one person to start the game. The other members of the team line up along the side of the grid and must instruct their ship on each move it makes.

Rules: Ships move one square at a time in any direction. Each team can skip a go, but only once. Two ships cannot be on the same square at the same time. If one of the teams steps on a 'danger spot', they draw a 'danger card'.

Danger Cards: The leader can cut out these instructions (make more than one copy of each if necessary) and place them in a hat. Teams have to take one when they land on a danger spot.

Variation: An alternative way to play the game is that a team of 3-4 move in a 'convoy' through the grid. If one member steps on a 'danger spot', that person is out, but the rest of the team continues. The team with the most members still in the game at the end is the winner.

Note to leader:	The larger the grid, the longer the game. When a ship moves into a danger spot, use a sounds effect to add to the tension.

Israel Story: Activists on board the ships tried to lynch the Israel Navy commandos who boarded their boat. The Israeli Defence Force confirmed that at least seven Navy commandos had been wounded, two of them seriously, in a fight which apparently broke out after activists tried to seize their weapons. The Turkish ferry ignored orders to turn back from its course to Gaza. The soldiers said they had encountered violent resistance from activists armed with sticks and knives.
Source: http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/israel-navy-commandos-gaza-flotilla-activists-tried-to-lynch-us-1.293089
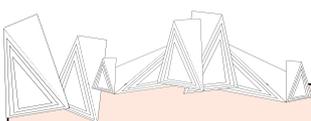
Activists' Story: We constantly said that we were travelling in peace and carrying nothing but humanitarian and construction aid to the people of Gaza. When most of the ship's crew were performing their morning prayers, speed-boats carrying masked, armed soldiers came alongside. At least 10 Israeli soldiers were in every boat. As they tried to get onboard, they began shooting. Then we heard sounds that were similar to gas bombs. The third sound was the constant sound of machine gun fire. At the same time, military helicopters full of armed soldiers roped down, shooting as they descended. Source: http://www.freegaza.org/

Context for the stories: In May 2010, a flotilla of 6 ships travelling to the Gaza strip was intercepted by Israeli soldiers who claimed they were acting illegally. The flotilla aimed to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Nine people on board the flotilla were killed.

Debrief: Was it easy or difficult to reach the harbour? What made it this way? How did it feel – reaching the harbour or being blocked? What does this story demonstrate? Which story was most convincing? Why? Should we do what we think is right, or try to compromise? Do you think the actions of both sides were justified? Who do you think supports both sides to continue their actions and why?

Danger Cards:

A report on the situation is shown on the news. Media hype surrounding the story means you have to stop your progress for one day. Miss one turn.	Your ship gets caught in bad weather. Take a step back	4 members of your crew suffer food poisoning. Miss one turn.	Your Ship has to slow down to pass through a narrow channel. Miss one turn.
Ship needs repairs. Return to home.	Your ship is blown faster by strong winds. Take an extra turn.	Your route is blocked by another ferry. Move one step sideways.	You run out of food and have to dock at a nearby harbour to get supplies. Miss one turn.

DID YOU KNOW? In 2005, the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened an investigation into the situation in Darfur, Sudan where a war started in 2003. In March 2009, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for the current President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir with charges of crimes against humanity (such as murder and rape), war crimes and genocide. President al-Bashir refuses to accept the warrant or appear in the Court. In July 2010, a second warrant for his arrest was issued. International NGOs and the UN claim that approximately 300,000 Sudanese civilians have died in Darfur from disease, starvation and conflict since 2003, while the Sudanese government puts their estimate at about 20,000 for the same period.

Sample Grid (Shaded Squares are the Danger Spots)

	HARBOUR	HARBOUR	
	⚠️		⚠️
⚠️		⚠️	
⚠️	⚠️		
	△		⚠️
		⚠️	⚠️
⚠️			
START TEAM 1			**START TEAM 2**

'People always try to justify their own violence, but violence against them is unjustified' (Rowan, Youth Advisory Group member of NYDEP)

DID YOU KNOW? The International Criminal Court (ICC) was created in 2002 to deal with crimes that countries commit – like war crimes. It sits in the Hague, Holland and is independent of the UN (United Nations) system. India, China, Israel and the USA are not members of the ICC and so can't be prosecuted. The Court has heard cases from Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya and the Central African Republic.