

# Blind Justice

8+

**AIM** | To gather a list of words which we relate to the theme of Justice and explore real life examples of them.

**Time** | 20 - 40 Minutes

**Material** | Blindfolds, flipchart and markers, copy of role cards

## What to do

Begin with a brainstorm of double-barrel words (pairs of words that fit together) related to Justice in the world and list them on the flipchart. The words selected can be things people feel are fair or unfair, such as: Prison Cell, Innocent Person, Health Care, Enough Food, Fair Trial, Child Labour, HIV Positive.

Participants form two lines facing each other. Each person should now have one partner facing them. Give each pair one of the double-barrel words, they decide who will say which word. Both people are blindfolded. The leaders move participants to different parts of the room and on the word GO; they have to find their partner by shouting out their part of the word.

When everybody has found their partner, form a circle. Go around the circle and ask each partner group to say something about how their words relate to justice, ask them if they can think of a real life example related to it.

## Optional Part B

Form a large circle and ask for three volunteers. The volunteers stand in the centre of the circle. The rest of the group join hands. Two of the volunteers receive a role card each. They read their role card and take note of the highlighted words that are **UNDERLINED**. The third volunteer is blindfolded.

The blindfolded person's task is to catch the people in the middle. S(he) calls out the word "Justice" and the people with the roles must immediately shout one of their highlighted words. This is to give the blind person an idea of where people are. The game continues until at least 1 person is caught and then you can change players. After a few rounds, form a circle with everybody in it and ask the volunteers to read their cards to the group and start a debrief.

## Debrief

Was it difficult to catch the people? What are the justice issues in the stories? Do you think it's hard to stop these injustices? Is it fair that people live like this? If you were in power, what would you do to change it?

## Role Cards

**Jose** I'm from Angola. I'm 20 years old. I came to Ireland because of the conflict in Angola. My country was **war-torn**. Two years later, my application for asylum is still being processed. In the meantime I'm not allowed to work. I enquired about a third level course but was informed that as an **asylum seeker** I am not eligible. It's very frustrating. All I can do is hang around the hostel or on the street.

Source: Chilled out not Worn out, NYCI (2004)

**Kaliamani** I'm 13 years old. I come from Mumbai in India. I live with my mother and three younger brothers in a **slum shack**. My mother has AIDS. Two of my three younger brothers are HIV positive. I do the washing, caring and cooking for the family, while my mother works as a rag-picker. The work is **low paid** but it helps us to buy food. I don't go to school. I know my mother worries about what will happen to me when she is gone. I will probably pick rags or get married as soon as possible.

Source: Chilled out not Worn out, NYCI (2004)

**Action Idea** When you have a list of double-barrel words, join some flipchart sheets together and ask the groups to graffiti their words onto the sheet, encourage them to be as colourful and creative as they can be. Tell them to add in a message of solidarity to young people around the world who are affected by these situations.