



Conflict is...

Aim:

that young people express their ideas about what conflict is.

Age:

10 years and older

Time:

25 minutes

Materials:

sets of statement cards
flipchart, markers

What to do:

Write the word 'conflict' on the flipchart. Ask the young people to call out any words that come to mind when they think of conflict. Write down all the words without discussing or commenting on them. As a group, look at the words. Are they always negative? Can conflict ever be positive?

Form small groups and give each group a set of the statement cards. Ask the groups to choose two statements they agree strongly with and two that they disagree strongly with. Allow 5 – 10 minutes for this. Get feedback from all the groups on what they agreed and disagreed with.

In the large group, ask if there was agreement? Can the large group come up with a single statement that they all agree with? Is this difficult? Can anyone suggest another statement that everyone would agree with?

Statement Cards

A conflict is justified where it prevents a bigger conflict happening in the future.

People are not naturally peaceful. Conflict is a necessary part of life.

To ensure peace, only the biggest countries should have nuclear weapons.

Christians and Muslims cannot live in peace together. They are always in conflict.

It is the obligation of every person to defend themselves if they come under attack.

When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die.*

We make war that we may live in peace.**

If there were no conflict the world would be a very boring place to live.

Conflict is a good thing. Through conflict I learn about myself and grow.

Conflict is about wars and fighting between states.

*Jean Paul Sartre **Aristotle

Source: Trócaire (2003). Iraq - A People Sacrificed.
Also: Irish Independent (12/3/03). The Iraq Crisis.
War or Peace.

