

# Every Picture Tells a Story

## Aim

to compare and contrast the different ways young people participate around the world

## Age

6 years and older

## Time

25-45 minutes depending on option used

## Materials

Photos, flipchart paper, markers/crayons

## Note to Leader

There are many ways to use photos to explore young people's participation. Further ideas for using photos are available on the website [www.developmenteducation.ie](http://www.developmenteducation.ie)

## What to do

### Option One

Break into groups of 4-6 people. Lay out the photos on the floor or ground. Each group chooses a photo and spends 5-10 minutes discussing what the young people are doing in the photo. What action are they taking? What might they be trying to achieve? How do they feel about it? Discuss what happened before the snapshot was taken and what might have happened afterward. Create a two-minute drama based on your discussions.

### Option Two

Ask small groups to choose a photo and to create a freeze-frame of the scene in the photo. Two members of the group play the part of the photographers. The rest play the characters in the photo. Ask the photographers to arrange the characters whatever way they want. When they have created the freeze-frame, hold the pose and stay silent for a few moments. Then tap each character on the shoulder and ask how they are feeling now. Encourage people in other groups to ask the characters questions about what they are doing in the freeze-frame and why. Invite them to "rearrange" the freeze-frame. Was the outcome any different?

### Option Three

Break into groups. Give each group a full set of photos and ask them to rank them in a diamond shape according to which example of youth participation

appeals most to them. Then rank them according to which example of youth participation they believe is easiest for young people to get involved in and finally which one will have the biggest impact.

### Option Four

Break into groups. Each group chooses a photo and places it in the centre of a flipchart sheet. Ask the groups to draw an extended frame around the photo and to give it a title. They then discuss what happened before the snapshot was taken and the possible scenario afterward and draw this. Display the pictures around the room and compare the different types of youth participation and the way in which they were portrayed in the photo.

In the large group discuss

- What are the different ways in which young people participate?
- Are the photos all positive examples of youth participation?
- Are there similarities and differences in the way young people participate in rich and poor countries?
- What effect does participation have on the young people?
- What effect does it have on the family, community or others?



# Every Picture Tells a Story

Continued

## Take Action!

December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day. Join in solidarity with young people around the world who are affected by, or at risk from, HIV/AIDS by participating in the Peace Tiles project. The art-based project promotes youth-led awareness raising about the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people, while also providing a space for them to be agents and actors for change. For information about getting involved, visit [www.peacetiles.net](http://www.peacetiles.net).

## Impacts of Children's Participation

### At a personal level:

- self-confidence
- gain useful knowledge
- personal and social development

### At the family level:

- more support from parents
- enhanced status within the family
- greater social freedom, particularly for girls

### At a community level:

- more respect from peers and the community
- increased community awareness of children's issues
- community development is improved

### At an institutional level:

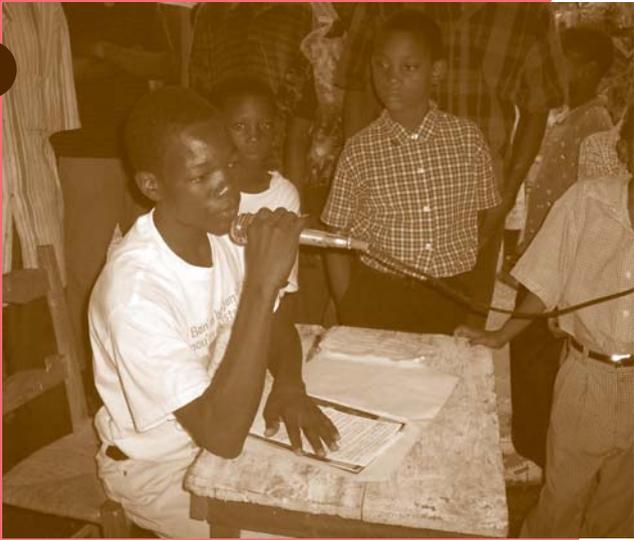
- improvements in education
- strengthens democracy

Source: Plan (2004). *Children Changing their World. Understanding and evaluating children's participation in development.*

## Captions for Photographs (pages 28-29)

- 1 Young people in Haiti producing a radio programme on children's rights (Plan, 2004)
- 2 Young people share their views with politicians at *Dáil na nÓg* 2005 (© Derek Speirs, 2005)
- 3 Young people listen to speeches at a One World Week 2004 event calling for universal access to education (Tommy Clancy/NYCI, 2005).
- 4 Friends of Kunle Elukanlo celebrate their successful campaign to have him returned to Ireland (© Dave Sleator/The Irish Times, 2005)
- 5 Young people from Fishbowl Youth Group speak at a conference on anti-racist youth work (Tommy Clancy/NYCI, 2005)
- 6 Young people in Kenya challenge discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS (Plan, 2004)
- 7 Children from Nicaragua take part in a Trócaire-funded local radio station called Radio Cumiches which is run by children and raises awareness of children's rights (Trócaire, 2005)
- 8 Young people in India receive an award for a video they produced highlighting the injustices in their lives (Plan, 2004)
- 9 Young people lobby politicians for better funding for youth work in Ireland (NYCI, 2005)
- 10 Young people in Niger display their work for the 'Send a Friend to School' campaign (Concern, 2005).
- 11 Members of Magama Yes Club in Zimbabwe create awareness on HIV and AIDS in their community (Plan, 2004)
- 12 A young woman casts her vote in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002 (© Sven Torfinn, Panos Pictures, 2002)

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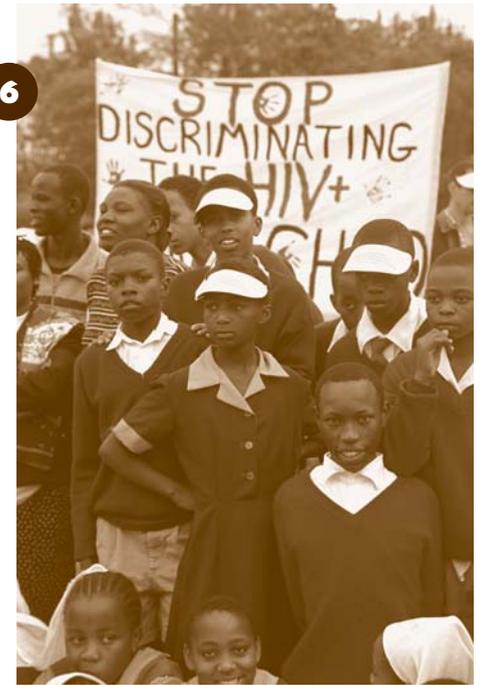
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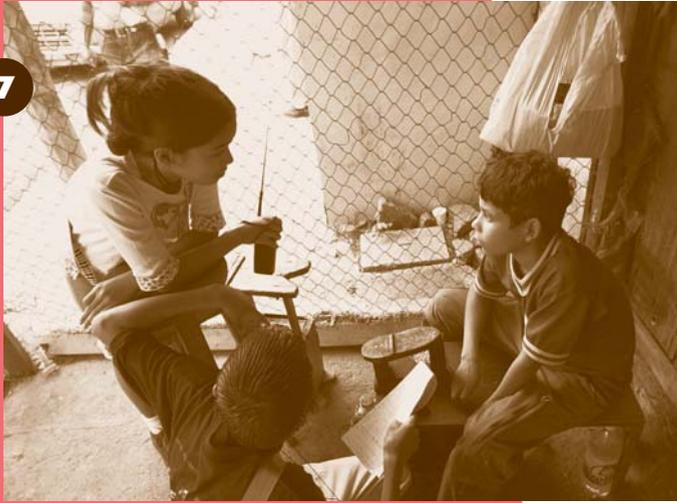


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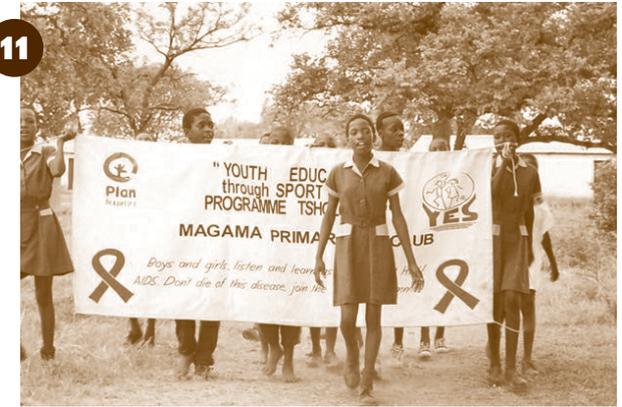




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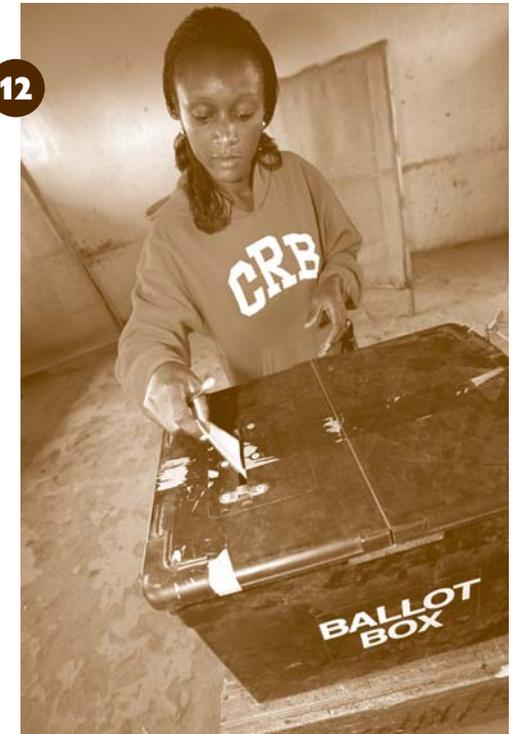
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