

Linked Together

Aim

that young people examine how their lives are linked to the lives of people all over the world

Age

6 years and older

Time

20 minutes

Materials

long piece of string/wool, ball or other small object

What to do

Begin by asking the group what connects them to the rest of the world. Everyone sits or stands in a circle for this. A ball or other object could be passed around the group and only the person holding it speaks. If a participant can't think of anything to add to the list, they pass the object on. Go around the circle a second if necessary until everyone mentions something. Suggestions might include the food we eat, the clothes we wear, how we travel, the TV and music we like or the people in our youth group, school or community. Finally get everyone to repeat their connection.

Still in the circle, one person starts by saying what connects them to the wider world. They hold one end of the string/wool and throw (or pass) the rest to a person across the circle who says how they're connected. This is repeated until everyone is connected.

Explain that we are all connected to people throughout the world in our daily lives. Decisions we make about what to eat, what to wear, how to travel, and so on affect people everywhere.

Take Action!

Check out if your local shop supplies fair trade products like tea, coffee, biscuits and (of course) chocolate! Fairtrade ensures that producers in the Majority World get a fair deal for their produce, while you get the quality and taste you deserve. If they don't, urge the shop management to supply fair trade produce. Encourage your youth organisation or school to stock Fairtrade products. For information contact Fairtrade Mark Ireland, www.fairtrade.ie

