

Make Your Mark

Aim

that young people reflect on experiences of participating or being prevented from participating

Age

10 years and older

Time

30 minutes

Materials

sheet of paper and markers/art materials

What to do

Each person gets a sheet of paper and markers/art materials. They can choose to draw their own hand or foot print or both. Ask half the young people to imagine a time when they participated in something. Inside the hand or foot, write or draw how it made them feel (for example, draw a smile or write 'happy'). On the outside, draw or write what helped their participation (for example, they were listened to or their ideas were followed). The other half imagine a time when they were prevented from participating, how they felt about it and

what hindered their participation. Allow 15 minutes for this.

Form mixed groups. In the groups, volunteers share what encouraged or discouraged them from participating and how they felt about it. Each group makes a list of up to five statements about good youth participation. All the groups feed back and an overall charter of good youth participation is agreed.

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of 8 Goals which aim to combat extreme hunger and poverty and improve education and health and protect the environment by 2015. The Goals were adopted by all the countries of the UN in 2005.

In September 2005, the Governments came together to review progress towards the Goals. Progress has been made on achieving the Goals in some parts of the world but other areas, particularly in sub-Saharan

Africa, are falling behind. To achieve the Goals, Governments must reach the agreed aid target of 0.7% of income as soon as possible. Irish NGOs want the Government to reach the target by 2010.

Goal 8 calls for a global partnership to ensure the Goals are met. Young people represent 50% of the world's population and are the group most at risk from poverty. It is therefore essential that young people can participate in achieving the Goals.

