

POWER COLLAGE

ACTIVITY

6

AIM

Highlight the power of images and messages to affect how we see the world

AGE

10 years and older

TIME

45 minutes

MATERIAL

Markers, scissors, glue and flipchart paper, old newspapers and magazines

NOTE TO LEADER

You could ask half the groups to focus on images and messages related to the Developing World.

WHAT TO DO

In pairs ask the participants to discuss the characteristics of somebody with power. When all the pairs have done this for about 2 minutes, ask them to feed back to the larger group, highlight the similarities and differences from group to group. This can be done verbally or using post-its.

Collect copies of a range of different newspapers and magazines. Break into groups of four. Ask half the groups to find positive images and headlines about the use of power and the other half to find negative images and headlines. Create a collage using the images and headlines. Give participants 20 minutes for this. The completed posters are put on the wall and participants look at the different examples.

Bring the groups back together and ask:

- Was it easy or difficult to find positive/negative images and messages about power?
- What parts of the world were the positive images and messages from?
- What parts of the world were the negative images and messages from?
- Do you think this is fair and why?

ACTION

Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations has produced a Code of Conduct on Images and Messages in Development. A copy of the guidelines is available at www.dochas.ie It gives guidelines for the use of images and messages about people in developing countries in all types of media. NYCI is a member of Dóchas.

Three key principles in the code:

- Respect for the dignity of the people concerned
- Belief in the equality of all people
- Acceptance of the need to promote fairness, solidarity and justice

As a group, find images and messages from newspapers, magazines and other printed materials that are related to developing countries. Explore if these live up to the spirit of the code. If you find examples that don't, write a letter to the organisation to raise their awareness about the code.