

The power of laughter

The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Objective:

This activity aims to give the participants an understanding of the right to peaceful protest and the right to free assembly, empowering them to work for human rights through nonviolent actions

Time:

100 minutes (depending on number of participants)

Age: 11-18

Material:

- Pieces of paper colors pens (for debriefing and opening).
- Fabrics, cardboard, color, pens (making your own symbols).
- Video projector.

Activity steps:

The participants are divided into groups, dependent on how many present (group size: around 4- 8). Each group will do the following activity together:

1) Symbols for identity:

- a. Each participant of the group will take a piece of paper and on one side they will write five personal strengths, five personal weaknesses on the other. Feel free to put some chill music (7minutes).
- b. Then the group will come together and create a symbol that represents the group - something that shows their strengths and characteristics, that gives power to the team. So, each person should share the strengths and weaknesses with the team, and think how to work with them, how to erase one's weakness with the strengths of others. The idea is that the group feel that together they are stronger. Always remind them that they can be as creative as they want, and that is very important because they will have to carry / use the symbol in all the challenges that will come next. (15 minutes).

Now every group will do a different challenge, each challenge will be 20 minutes long before they move on to the next one. (Note: if the group is bigger than 40, you can make each 2- 3 groups to make one of the challenges, not all, and then you share it in the debriefing).

- 2) **Laugh, Comedy and act:** Each group has to choose a fairy tale or a story for kids (like little Red Riding Hood) and they have to decide how to act it in the funniest way they can imagine. Their main goal is that they keep the story the way it is but that everyone will laugh. They all have to act and the play will be presented to everyone at the end.
- 3) **Music time:** Each group has to choose some situation / news that it is happening in the world and have to make a song about it. The idea is that it will be a nice song that will let people know what is happening with these issues, it can be a rap or an opera, let them create and get crazy. They should sing about their opinion about the issue (this is very important, that they will be critical about the topic they had chosen). They don't have to be big issues; it can be as simple as something that happens at home or at school. All the participants must sing.
- 4) **Sharing time:** Now all the groups gather together and they show: their symbols and explain it and then they act the play and sing the songs. (Time depends on number of participants +/- 20 minutes).

Debrief

1. Reflect:

- How did they feel in the activity?
 - Which was their favorite part?
 - Which was the most difficult?
 - Do they think they could make all the challenges alone? Why/why not?
 - How the process to choose the topic of the song? How do they choose it? Why?
 - Do you think that you can change something in your community by just singing and acting?
- *Remember that with the answers you want to show how easy and funny everything was, the important of thinking what is happening in the daily life, and team work.

2. Generalize

Play video # 2: Jamila Raquib – the right to peaceful assembly (4minutes)

