



A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

Discussing standards for child protection



Why use this activity?

People have different ideas on what is acceptable or unacceptable about caring for children. Their view often depends on their culture, background, knowledge or experience. This activity encourages debate and discussion about child protection. It also helps people to understand the importance of communities and churches agreeing basic minimum standards for protecting children.



A brief description

Each person receives a piece of paper with a list of statements written on it. They read the statements, one at a time, and place a mark in the box by each statement that best describes their feelings. The statements are then read out. Each person stands with other people who chose the same answer. They may be asked why they have given that answer, and can discuss with people who gave different answers.



You will need

Copies of the sheet of statements below. You will need a copy for everyone who is taking part in the activity.



What to do

Please note: this activity assumes that everyone can read, or have the questions read to them.

- Find four large pieces of paper, board or something similar. Write the words 'strongly agree' on one sheet, 'agree', 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' on the others (one phrase per sheet of paper or board). Make sure the writing is big and clear.
- Place the signs in a row on the floor or in different parts of the room.
- Give each person a copy of the statements below. Ask them to read each statement and mark in the box that best describes their feelings (whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree).
- Once everyone has finished, read out one of the statements and ask people to stand by the sign that has their answer on it for that particular statement.

Awareness raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peacebuilding

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

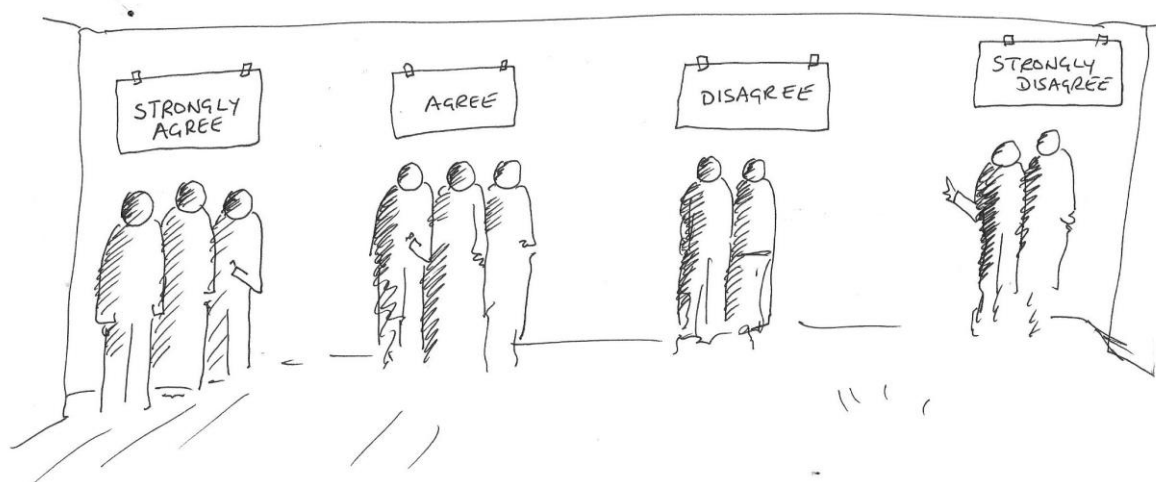
Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

A2 DISCUSSING STANDARDS FOR CHILD PROTECTION



- Ask a few people, individually, to explain why they chose their answer. Ask other people who have chosen different answers, so there is a good discussion of different views. You may need to remind people to take it in turns to speak, and to not all talk at the same time. Ensure you give everybody the opportunity to speak.
- Some people may try to convince others in the group to move over to where they are standing. This can be a good way to encourage discussion. However, it is important that people are polite and respectful of other viewpoints.
- Repeat the exercise by reading out other statements and asking people to move to the sign that matches their answer.
- At the end of the activity, ask participants what they have learnt. Explain that it is not easy for everyone to agree because of our different knowledge, experience and background. However, as a church or community we all need to agree on some basic standards so that there are clear boundaries on how to keep children safe.



Finding out more

- Tearfund (2006) PILLARS Guide: *Seeking justice for all: special rights for children* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/pillars/seeking_justice_for_all/r23_special_rights_for_children/#sthash.5ar3cva2.dpuf
- Resources on the Keeping Children Safe website: www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk

Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing the need to protect children: information for facilitators [A1: Children & youth-1]
- A2 – Using the media to talk about child protection [A2: Children & youth-1]
- B – Caring for children (Bible study) [B: Children & youth-2]
- B – God's view of children (Bible study) [B: Children & youth-2]

A2 DISCUSSING STANDARDS FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Statements

Read the following statements. Tick the box that best describes your feelings – strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Hitting children is always wrong and is a form of child abuse.				
2	Sexual abuse of children is not a problem in this country.				
3	Using a stick as a way of disciplining children in school is OK.				
4	Reporting abuse is likely to make things worse for the child so it is better not to do or say anything.				
5	Children should be seen and not heard.				
6	It is never acceptable to leave a child alone in the house, even if they are very well behaved.				
7	Children's ideas cannot be taken seriously.				
8	It is not normal for children to cry once they are old enough to go to school.				
9	Disabled children are more at risk of being abused than other children.				
10	Staff employed to teach or care for children are unlikely to abuse them.				
11	Children often make up stories about being abused.				
12	Boys are less likely to be sexually abused than girls.				
13	A faith leader would never abuse a child.				
14	Only men abuse children: women are safer.				

Note: This is adapted from *Keeping Children Safe* child protection training materials: www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk