



A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

Using the media to talk about child protection



Why use this activity?

To help people to learn and talk about how children can be protected from harm.



A brief description

In small groups, people read and discuss newspaper or magazine articles from the local context which show that children have been abused, exploited or neglected.



You will need

Newspaper and magazine articles from the last three to six months that talk about children. These could include stories such as:

- children being kidnapped, trafficked or exploited
- children at risk of, or suffering from, violence, neglect or abuse
- children who are in orphanages or without contact with their family
- children lacking access to health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, or education
- children being involved in work that is dangerous or harmful to their development
- some children given fewer opportunities than other children due to disability, illness or disease
- children being part of the armed forces or opposition groups

Please see **Tool A1 – Revealing the need to protect children** for background information on these issues and to see what the Bible says about why we need to protect children.



Time taken

About 45 minutes to carry out the activity, and time beforehand to find newspaper articles.

Awareness raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

A2 USING THE MEDIA TO TALK ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION



What to do

Ask people to divide themselves into small groups and give them three or four short media articles. It is important that there is at least one person who is able to read in each group.



Ask the groups to think about and discuss the following questions:

- What is the article talking about?
- What types of abuse or neglect might the children be going through?
- Is this happening within our community?
- What does the Bible say about such issues?
- Whose responsibility is it to resolve the situation that the child is in?
- What can we do about it?



Finding out more

- Tearfund (2004) *Roots 7 - Child participation*
http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/7_child_participation/
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf

Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing the need to protect children: information for facilitators [A1: Children & youth-1]
- A2 – Discussing standards for child protection [A2: Children & youth-3]
- B – Caring for children (Bible study) [B: Children & youth-2]
- B – God's view of children (Bible study) [B: Children & youth-2]

Important note on confidentiality:

- Always allow people to talk about situations that may be happening within the community but ask them not to reveal the identities of the children or their families in an open discussion.
- Also, offer for people to come and talk to you as a facilitator after the session or at a later time if they want to speak to you in confidence. For example, they may choose to open up to you regarding a specific situation that they may need advice or prayer for.
- Never promise that you will keep secrets regarding child abuse since these matters must be reported to the relevant authorities. Do support the person to get help – especially if a child is in immediate danger or needs medical attention.