

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Championing Gender Diversity

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Community Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst encouraging learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the community. During the Community Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of **Planning and Organisation** and **Personal Effectiveness** and apply them in an appropriate manner.

BRIEF

"The story of gender plays out all around us. More and more, celebrities are shining a spotlight on the subject. But more quietly, our children, parents, teachers, medical professionals, and officials every day confront an array of issues with gender at the center" (2016, Susan Goldberg, National Geographic magazine Editor in Chief)

Children and young people are growing up in the midst of what the National Geographic has hailed a *Gender Revolution*. In science, in society, in culture, gender is under-going some profound changes that require a new gender literacy, with a spotlight on how rights, equalities and safeguarding.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the UNCRC) includes the right to an identity (including gender identity and expression), the right to be free from discrimination (including gender-based discrimination) and abuse (including gender-based violence). There are also government policies and acts which have to sort out any discrimination that causes inequalities (including gender inequalities), safeguard children and young people's well-being (including their gender well-being) and there is school guidance on sexist and transphobic bullying.

Wales is one of the first countries in the UK to produce a tool-kit for children and young people to support them in raising awareness about gender equalities and gender diversity. It is called, *'Agenda: A Young People's Guide to Making Positive Relationships Matter'* and it will support you in this brief by providing you with resources, activities, and inspirational stories of how other young people in Wales have championed this issue.

As a member of a team (3-6) your challenge is to spend 10 hours delivering training to your chosen target group ((e.g. younger students, staff, school governors, community group) that raises awareness of gender diversity and the right to thrive no matter what our gender, in the wider context of children's rights and well-being. Planning and delivering this training will improve your own and others' understanding of the impact of gender norms and expectations on everyone's lives. It will develop everyone's gender literacy and give people confidence to seek out support and advice.

In preparation consider how you can research, develop and extend your knowledge about gender diversity. You may want to begin with finding out how definitions of sex and gender have changed over time, or how the animal kingdom is full of gender-bending and sex-switching creatures. For further inspiration read the story of **The Rotifer Project (p.51-53 agenda.wales)**, where four students educated staff about gender diversity through a game of gender-snap pairs and a muffin challenge!

You will plan and organise how you will spend 10 hours training your chosen target group and what resources and activities you will use to engage them. Fun and creative activities are often the best for delivering training on potentially sensitive issues (for poetry, drama, visual arts, music, movement and dance, and posters see agenda.wales, p.21)

You will create and manage an action plan when developing your opportunities for your school or community and with the use of feedback can reflect and review your personal performance in planning and carrying out the activity. For ideas of how to get started with your research go to page 69 of agenda.wales.

Email agenda.wales@gmail.com to let us know when you have completed the challenge, and who and how many people you trained. If you write up your case study in no more than 500 words, in addition to completing your challenge, we will feature it on the agenda.wales facebook page.

You can receive additional support for this challenge by contacting agenda.wales@gmail.com and keep in touch with other students involved in similar community challenges by following AGENDA's facebook page, @agenda.wales.

Key Resource:

Agenda: A Young People's Guide to Making Positive Relationships Matter in Schools, www.agenda.wales (pages 51-53)

Additional Resources:

What is Gender? <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/gender-revolution-a-journey-with-katie-couric/videos/what-is-gender/>

An interview with Cordelia Fine, author of "Delusions of Gender"
<http://blogs.plos.org/neuroanthropology/2010/09/28/cordelia-fine-and-the-delusions-of-gender/>

Transgender through History
http://bilerico.lgbtqnation.com/2008/02/transgender_history_trans_expression_in.php

17 photos of animals that prove there's nothing natural about traditional gender roles
<http://www.upworthy.com/17-photos-of-animals-that-prove-theres-nothing-natural-about-traditional-gender-roles>

The 21 Best Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Books for Kids

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/em-and-lo/the-21-best-transgender-b_b_9702762.html

(2015) Sex redefined: The idea of two sexes is simplistic. Biologists now think there is a wider spectrum than that by Claire Ainsworth. <http://www.nature.com/news/sex-redefined-1.16943>

SheZow <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SheZow>

Beyond the Binary: A tool-kit for gender identity activism in schools

<http://translaw.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/99640173-Beyond-the-Binary.pdf>

Bullying linked to gender and sexuality often goes unchecked at schools (by Victoria Rawlings, 2016) <https://theconversation.com/bullying-linked-to-gender-and-sexuality-often-goes-unchecked-in-schools-55639>

<https://theconversation.com/we-must-celebrate-gender-and-sexual-diversity-in-our-schools-54740>

(2014) *From Blues to Rainbows: the mental health and well-being of gender-diverse and transgender young people in Australia* <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/research-project-files/bw0268-from-blues-to-rainbows-report-final-report.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Contact details

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Teacher resources:

Gender Revolution Guide <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pdf/gender-revolution-guide.pdf>

*Trans*form Toolkit*

<http://youthcymru.org.uk/transform-toolkit/>

This toolkit contains information and guidance for youth work organisations and a selection of resources to use with young people to promote awareness of equality and diversity in your organisation.

Welsh Government (2011) *Respecting Others: sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying* <http://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/121128absexisten.pdf>

All of Us (2016) <https://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/docs/default-source/all-of-us-online-version-may-2016-v3-pdf/a8c146fe405c47b9989542b9040a5b90.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

All Of Us is a collection of short videos and teaching activities designed by Safe Schools Coalition Australia in order to assist students in understanding gender diversity, sexual diversity and intersex topics.