

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Healthy Relationships Campaigns

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 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the UNCRC) includes the right to feel safe in your relationships with others, and the right to be free from abuse and exploitation (including sexual violence and all forms of relationship abuse). There are also government policies and acts which are aimed to prevent all forms of gender-based and sexual violence.

In February 2015, over 40 young people took part in a youth-led protest to urge the Welsh Government to prioritise the importance of education in the new Violence against Women Bill. They hand delivered Valentine's Cards to every Welsh assembly member. Their campaign was successful and later that year they produced a *Good Practice Guide* for educational practitioners on how to promote gender well-being and gender equalities for healthy respectful relationships.

A key part of the guide encourages young people to start up or get involved in local and global campaigns and awareness raising days to stop gender-based and sexual violence around the world.

Wales is one of the first countries in the UK to produce a tool-kit for children and young people to raise awareness of healthy and respectful relationships, and challenge gender-based and sexual violence across the world. 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 and around the world have become change-makers on this issue.

As a member of a team (3-6) your challenge is to spend 10 hours delivering training to your chosen key target group (e.g. younger students, staff, school governors, community groups) on how they can start their own, or support local, national and international campaigns that raise awareness of healthy relationships, in the wider context of children's rights, gender equalities and social justice. Planning and delivering this training will improve your own and others' understanding of the issue, and what makes for a successful awareness raising campaign.

In preparation, research, develop and extend your knowledge about change-making campaigns around the world (p.12 agenda.wales). Find out about the different annual awareness raising days each dedicated to addressing gender and sexual inequalities, discrimination and violence (see Section 7, p. 73). Raising awareness can take many forms, from hashtag campaigns on Twitter to dance flash-mobs in the street. For further inspiration, read Section 4, *Ideas for Change* in the AGENDA tool-kit, especially those activities that use art-based methods (for poetry, drama, visual arts, music, movement and dance, and posters see agenda.wales, p.21).

“Art has added energy to advocacy – and it reaches people at deeper emotional level, conveying what cannot be said with mere facts” (Alternate.org)

Choose one or more mode of change that you would like to focus your training on. You will then 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.

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 how many pupils and/or staff 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 and the Welsh Government’s *Live Fear Free* webpage.

You can receive additional support for this challenge by contacting agendawales@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

Additional Resources:

Children are leading the way in tackling sexual harassment in schools
<https://theconversation.com/children-are-leading-the-way-on-tackling-sexual-harassment-in-schools-73937>

Gender Stereotypes make teenagers more accepting of violence, by Vanita Sundaram
<https://theconversation.com/gender-stereotypes-make-teenagers-more-accepting-of-violence-33505>

Boys and Girls Speak Out (age 10-12). by Emma Renold. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2013/boys-girls-speak-out/>

16 days of activism against gender-based and sexual violence <http://16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu>

Young Feminist Wire www.yfa.awid.org - is an online community for and by young feminists working on women's human rights, gender equality and social justice around the world

Bridge - <http://socialmovements.bridge.ids.ac.uk> - is a gender and social movements organisation where you can find lots of research and online materials about how people and groups have brought a gender perspective to social justice movements across the world.

Contact details

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Teachers

Agenda: A Young People's Guide to Making Positive Relationships Matter

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2016/agenda-young-peoples-guide-positive-relationships/>

Good Practice Guide: A Whole Education Approach to Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales. <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/safety/domesticabuse/publications/good-practice-guide-a-whole-education-approach/?lang=en>

Through the Looking Glass: A Guide To Empowering Young People To Become Advocates For Gender Equality <http://www.nwci.ie/looking-glass/Through-the-Looking-Glass.pdf>

Sexual harassment and sexual violence in Schools

https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmwomeq/91/91.pdf?utm_source=91&utm_medium=module&utm_campaign=modulereports

Live Fear Free - <http://livefearfree.gov.wales/?lang=en>