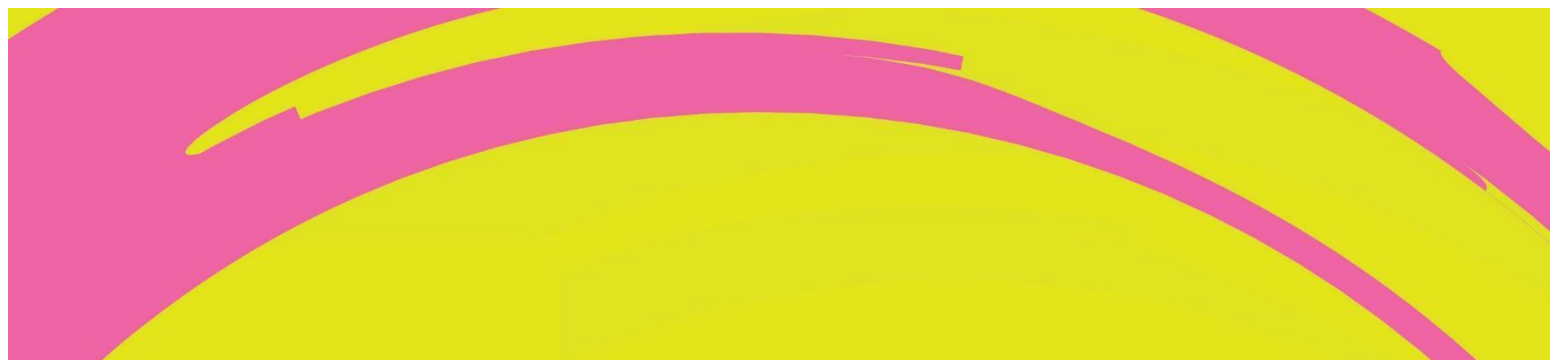


# **WP2 - Social Action Toolkit**

**Introduction to Social Action:  
Learner Handout**





## Social Action Toolkit

### How-To Guide

#### **Title: Introduction to Social Action: Helping it thrive**

#### **Introduction:**

Engaging young people to create positive change in their communities is a crucial step towards building a better future for all. Young people often get a bad reputation for not being as involved in their community as many adults feel they should be. However, all over the world young people are creating change both locally and globally. But, in order to help young people get involved in social activism adults need to provide them with opportunities to create change and support them in doing so. The following information will guide youth workers in supporting young people in getting started with a social action project. Young people bring an energy, creativity and passion to the table that many adults lack and it is this enthusiasm which makes them such great social leaders.

This guide includes the early steps necessary in getting a social project started and includes the ingredients necessary to getting a social action project off the ground. Use it as a step-by-step guide on how to encourage and motivate young people to take an active role in making a positive impact in their communities:

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Flip chart paper
- Markers
- Arts and Crafts materials
- Food and snacks for the young people

#### **Step 1: Create a Safe and Inclusive Space**

It is hugely important that you create an inclusive space for young people to voice their opinions and ideas in a safe way. The space must be non-judgemental and encourage all





	<p>ideas. Remember there's no such thing as a bad idea, even those that may seem unrealistic. Ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate and that all opinions are valued. Also, don't forget to make the experience FUN!</p>
<b>Step 2: Identify the issue</b>	<p>First you must identify the issues that are important to young people in your community. This can be done by conducting surveys, hosting community forums, and engaging with local youth groups. But the important thing is that you ask them! Don't assume that you know the issues that are most important to young people. By identifying the issues that matter most to them, you can then work together to create strategies to address them.</p>
<b>Step 3: Brainstorm how you will address the issue</b>	<p>Once you have identified the issue that young people want to address, it's time to come up with a solution. Try to be creative and in groups, ask young people to brainstorm how they will address the issues they have identified. Get each group to write down their ideas (remember no idea is a bad idea!) and create a vision board with the arts and craft supplies available. Ask each group to present their creation to the rest of the participants.</p>
<b>Step 4: Start Small</b>	<p>The desire might be to start on a big project that will have a bigger impact. But it's actually better to start small and</p>





	<p>build momentum. It might also help to organise small scale events such as community clean ups, volunteering opportunities or fundraising events where the young people can see their impact on the community immediately. Being able to see instant feedback will encourage them to keep going and give them a sense of achievement and a desire to do something bigger next time. This can be a good way to have a trial run or practice activism as the more practice they get the more efficient they will become in managing small scale projects.</p>
<b>Step 5: Offer Resources and Assistance</b>	<p>Young people may face challenges when trying to create positive change in their community. This may be the first time that they have ever tried to do something positive for their community and others may be suspicious of their motives. Provide resources and support to help them overcome these challenges. This could include access to funding, mentoring, or training sessions that will equip them with the skills they need. Remind them that you are there also as a support and sounding board if they have any questions or need any advice. Try to link the young people with local groups and organisations to help them amplify their work. This also helps the young people</p>





	become more connected to their community by working with local non-profits, businesses, and community groups to create an even greater impact. It may also empower the young people to connect in with other group in the community and engage in wider interests other than just your youth group.
<b>Step 6: Celebrate Success</b>	Don't forget to celebrate success and acknowledge the contribution of the young people. This can be done though awarding the certificates at a ceremony, holding a larger community event, social media posts, or articles in the local media. It is crucial that they are recognised for their contribution no matter how small. By celebrating accomplishments, it will inspire young people to continue to make a positive impact in their community.

### Conclusion:

- Step 1 : Create a Safe and Inclusive Space- This is the most important part of the whole guide. Support the young people involved in your project by giving them a safe, non-judgemental, and ultimately fun place to come to!
- Step 2 : Identify the issue- Before you can make an impact on your community, you need to know what the issues impacting it are.





- Step 3: Brainstorm how you will address the issue- Use a flip chart and write down as many ideas as possible. Remember, there is no such thing as a bad idea!
- Step 4: Start Small- You don't need to change the whole world with your first project. Choose something small and local that will create real impact in your community. If you plan too big and fail it will be discouraging for the young people involved and they may not get involved in something again.
- Step 5: Offer Resources and Assistance- remember, that young people may need some support in getting their ideas off the ground. This does not mean that you take over their project and do everything! Let them know that you are in the background for when they need your support and advice but ultimately that it is their project. Try to connect them with existing projects or organisations who can help maximise their impact.
- Step 6: Celebrate Success- Don't forget to celebrate any success, no matter how small! This may be the first time that some young people have been involved in a group project or involved in something positive that they are proud of. Make sure you celebrate to encourage them to get involved in similar activities in the future.

### **Troubleshooting:**

It is vital that a safe, inclusive, non-judgemental space is created to welcome all types of young people into the project. For some young people they may not always have had positive experiences within their community. This may be the first time that they have been involved in a social action project so it is important that they are supported in a way that makes them feel comfortable.





## Additional Resources:

### **National Youth Council of Ireland**

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is a membership-led umbrella organisation that represents and supports young people and youth organizations in Ireland. Their website provides a range of resources, including research reports, toolkits, and training materials, aimed at promoting the development of young people and the youth sector in Ireland.

<https://www.youth.ie/resources/>

### **DoSomething.org**

DoSomething.org is a non-profit organization that aims to empower young people to make a positive impact on their communities. Their website provides resources and tools for young people to take action on various social issues, such as education, the environment, and human rights. They also offer campaigns and volunteer opportunities.

<https://www.dosomething.org/>

### **WE**

WE is a non-profit organization that empowers young people to create positive change in their communities and the world. Their website provides resources for educators, youth leaders, and volunteers, as well as opportunities for youth engagement and service learning.

<https://www.we.org/>

### **Youth For Climate**

Youth For Climate is a youth-led movement in Belgium that advocates for climate action and environmental sustainability. Their website provides resources for young people and educators to learn more about climate change and its impact on society. They also offer information on their advocacy campaigns and ways to get involved in the movement.





<https://youthforclimate.be/>

### Further reading:

- BBC Worklife. (2022, August 3). Gen Z: How young people are changing activism.  
<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20220803-gen-z-how-young-people-are-changing-activism>
- Marie Claire UK. (n.d.). Youth voices: Meet the bright young activists fighting for the right to be heard.  
<https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/youth-voices-meet-the-bright-young-activists-fighting-for-the-right-to-be-heard>
- Funding Youth Activism. (n.d.). Building Young People’s Power.  
<https://fundingyouthactivism.org.uk/building-young-peoples-power/>

### Case Study

<b>Module Title</b>	Introduction to Social Action		
<b>Case Study Title</b>	One Young World		
<b>Type of resource</b>	Case Study	<b>Type of learning</b>	Self-directed learning
<b>Duration of Activity (in minutes)</b>	60 minutes	<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand the definition and purpose of social action.</li> <li>● Identify different forms of social action and their impact on individuals and communities.</li> <li>● Develop an understanding of the importance of youth</li> </ul>







			engagement in social action.
<b>Aim of Activity</b>	<p>One Young World is a useful case study on social activism and young people because it provides valuable insights into the strategies and approaches that can be used to engage and empower young people to create positive change. By examining the successes and challenges of One Young World, youth workers can learn how to effectively engage and support young people in their own communities to become change agents. The case study also highlights the importance of creating a supportive and collaborative environment that fosters innovation, creativity, and social entrepreneurship among young people.</p>		
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>One Young World is a global forum that aims to connect, inspire, and empower young people around the world to create positive social change. Founded in 2009, the organisation brings together young leaders from every country and sector to share ideas, develop leadership skills, and collaborate on innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.</p> <p>One of the primary ways that One Young World encourages young people to do social good is through its annual summit. Each year, thousands of young leaders from around the world come together for a week-long event that includes keynote speeches, workshops, and networking opportunities. The summit provides a platform for young people to share their stories, exchange ideas, and develop practical solutions to issues such as climate change, human rights, and poverty.</p> <p>At the summit, One Young World also provides delegates with training in leadership and social entrepreneurship. This training is designed to help young people develop the skills they need to create positive change in their communities and beyond. By equipping young leaders with the tools they need to make a difference, One Young World is helping to create a new generation of changemakers who are committed to social good.</p>		
<b>Challenge</b>	<p>One Young World has been successful in inspiring young people to do social good by providing them with a platform to connect, learn, and collaborate. The organisation has helped to create a global community of young leaders who are committed to making a difference in the world. By empowering young people to take action on the issues that matter most to them, One Young World is helping to create a more just and sustainable future for all.</p> <p>In addition to its annual summit, One Young World runs a number of other programs and initiatives that encourage young people to get involved in social causes. For example, the organisation has launched a series of online campaigns to raise awareness about issues such as mental health, gender equality, and sustainable development. It also provides</p>		






	<p>funding and support to young entrepreneurs who are working on innovative solutions to social problems.</p> <p>As the most international youth conference in the world, One Young World offers a unique chance to connect and network with over 2,000 young leaders from 190+ different countries. You'll have the chance to learn from your peers, share your own initiatives, and even collaborate on new projects.</p> <p>Young people gain lifelong access to a community of over 15,000 individuals. Being a part of this community, young people will have access to funding opportunities, educational resources, mentorship, and speaking engagements. The in-house community team will remain in touch with young people, keeping them up to date on opportunities to boost their platform and maximize the impact they can have on the world. One Young World has been successful for several reasons:</p> <p><b>Focus on young people:</b> One Young World's focus on empowering young people has allowed them to tap into the passion, creativity, and energy of youth. By providing young people with the tools, resources, and support they need to create positive change</p> <p><b>Global network:</b> One Young World has built a global network of young leaders from over 190 countries. This network provides a diverse range of perspectives, ideas, and experiences, which are essential for tackling complex social issues on a global scale.</p> <p><b>Collaborative approach:</b> One Young World takes a collaborative approach to social change, emphasizing the importance of partnerships, alliances, and networks. This approach has enabled One Young World to leverage the resources and expertise of a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and businesses.</p> <p><b>Comprehensive support:</b> One Young World provides comprehensive support to young leaders, including training, mentoring, and funding opportunities. This support helps young leaders develop the skills and knowledge they need to create sustainable social impact.</p>
<p><b>Assignment</b></p>	<p>Check out <a href="http://www.oneyoungworld.com">www.oneyoungworld.com</a> and it's YouTube channel to get a better idea of the way they engage young people.</p> <p><b>Set of questions for reflection:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How might the strategies and approaches used by One Young World be adapted or applied in your own work with young people?</li> </ol>





	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How might you collaborate with other organisations or stakeholders to promote social change and activism among young people, as One Young World has done?</li>   <li>3. What steps can you take to provide young people with the tools and resources they need to become effective agents of social change, as One Young World has done through its training and support programs?</li> </ol>
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### Call to Action

Theme	Introduction to Social Action
Activity Title	‘If I had a magic wand’
Type of resource	<b>Call to Action Activity</b>
Photo	 <p>Photo by <a href="#">Meg Jensen</a> on <a href="#">Unsplash</a></p>





<p>Duration of Activity (in minutes)</p>	<p><b>60 minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Learning Outcome</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the definition and purpose of social action.</li> <li>• Identify different forms of social action and their impact on individuals and communities.</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of the importance of youth engagement in social action.</li> </ul>
<p>Aim of activity</p>	<p>The "If I had a magic wand" activity is an excellent tool for youth workers to use with young people to help them think about social good and how they can have an impact. This activity encourages young people to think about the issues that they see in the world and how they would like to solve them. It provides an opportunity for them to use their imagination and creativity to think of solutions that they might not have considered before. Additionally, the activity promotes a sense of empowerment in young people, by helping them to recognise that they have the power to make a difference in the world. Finally, by encouraging young people to work together to identify problems and come up with solutions, this activity fosters a sense of community and collaboration, which are important skills for young people to develop.</p>		
<p>Materials Required for Activity</p>	<p>Flip chart paper &amp; markers Arts &amp; Crafts materials</p>		





Step-by-step  
instructions

**Step 1: Introduction**

Begin by introducing the activity and explaining what it entails. Explain to the young people that they will be imagining they have a magic wand that can do anything they wish. They will use this wand to create positive changes in the world for others.

**Step 2: Instructions**

Explain the instructions for the activity. Encourage them to think about the issues or problems that they see in the world and how they would like to solve them. Encourage them to think outside the box and imagine anything they want, no matter how big or small. Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers, and that they can be as creative as they like.

**Step 3: Give Time to Think**

Give the young people some time to think about their ideal scenario for improving the world for others. Encourage them to jot down their ideas in a notebook or on a piece of paper.

**Step 4: Share Ideas**

Once they have had enough time to think, invite them to share their ideas with the group. Give each person a chance to speak and explain what they would do if they had a magic wand to make the world a better place for others. Encourage the other young people to listen and ask questions if they have any.

**Step 5: Group Discussion**

After everyone has shared their ideas, have a group discussion about the similarities and differences between their wishes. Encourage the group to discuss how they would feel if they had the power to make their wishes come true and how they could use this power to create positive changes in the world. Talk about how they can take action towards achieving their goals even without a magic wand.

**Step 6: Action Plan**

Ask the young people to reflect on their ideas and choose one that they would like to work towards achieving. Encourage them to





	<p>create an action plan on how they can work towards making their wish a reality. This could include researching organisations, resources or individuals that can help them achieve their goal, setting a timeline and outlining specific steps they can take towards their goal.</p> <p><b>Step 7: Conclusion</b></p> <p>End the activity by thanking the young people for their participation and sharing their ideas. Let them know that they have the power to make a positive impact in the world, even without a magic wand. Encourage them to take action towards achieving their goals and making the world a better place for others.</p>
Template	



# SAFESPACE4YOUTH

YOUTH COMMUNITY



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