

Paradise Island

Length	 1,5 - 2 hours
Difficulty	 Beginner
Group size	 Small to medium (max 35)
Aim	To help participants reflect over how human rights correspond with fundamental human needs and to illustrate the universality and indivisibility of HR.
Description	A really good, interactive exercise that combines group work and plenary discussion to help participants identify the connection between their felt needs and the rights given in international law.
Materials	<p>Flip chart paper for each group and marker pens in different colours</p> <p>A table for each group to work at.</p> <p>Space on the walls to hang up the drawings after they have been presented and blue tack or tape to stick them up</p> <p>Simplified versions of UDHR as hand-outs, http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/verve/resources/FQ2_Simplified_Version_Dec.pdf</p>
Source	(adapted from Equality Myanmar and http://www.hrea.org/erc/Library/First_Steps/part4_eng.html)

Outline

Presentation of exercise	2 min
Group work – drawing the island	15-20 min
Presentation of the islands	3 min/group
Plenary discussion	10 min
A short presentation about the history of HR	10 min
Group work - revisit the island with the UDHR	15-20 min
Group presentation	3 min/group
Plenary discussion	10 minutes

Instructions

Group work and presentation - drawing the island

Divide into groups (no more than four groups, with a maximum of 8 per group). Explain that their group has discovered a new island, where they are to build up a new society. What things are important for their survival and development as human beings and society? What things do they need and want to live a healthy and happy life?

Ask the groups to draw their island and to draw and write down all the things they think of. They should give the island a name and choose one person to present their island to the whole group.

Put up the islands drawings on the wall, and give each group an applause after their presentation.

Plenary discussion

After they have presented their islands, discuss in plenary:

- How did it feel to be design your dream society?
- What do you think when you see the other islands/societies? What similarities and differences do you see?
- Would you like to add something to your country that you didn't think of when you drew the island? Why didn't you think of this? Why is it important? (Some tips might be e.g. police system, deciding system, work, leisure, communications, infrastructure etc)
- How do you think people from other countries would draw their imaginary island? Do you think people need the same things around the world?
- Is there a difference between what we really need (basic needs) and what we want - things that are nice to have but not necessary?

Short presentation of the foundations of Human Rights

Continue with a short presentation of the foundations of human rights (based on people's inherent dignity, worth and equality and that they are universal, inalienable, interdependent/interrelated/interconnected), and a short history leading up to the UDHR. Hand out a simplified version of the UDHR.

Group work and presentation - revisiting the islands with the UDHR

Let the participants revisit their islands together with the simplified version of the UDHR and compare the articles of the declaration with what they drew/wrote. Ask them to write the corresponding number of the article beside all the things they drew and wrote on the island. Ask them to choose 8 rights that they think are most important.

Gather them together and let each group present their island again, sticking the islands to the walls of the classroom for everyone to see.

- Which rights in the UDHR were not covered on your island? Why didn't you think of this?
- Which 8 rights are most important according to your group?

As they present the most important rights, make a "master list" which should include all of the most important rights from the group lists. Some rights will be mentioned several times. Write them on the master list once, and tick them each time they are repeated.

Plenary discussion

What do participants think after this exercise?

- In what ways do human rights correspond with basic human needs?
- What do you think about the rights you didn't think of when you drew your island?
- Do you agree that we need them? Are they important for everyone?
- What do you think of the master list?
- Did your idea of what is important change during the exercise?
- Was it difficult to choose the most important rights?
- What would life be like without the other 'less important' rights?