

Session V

The Rights of the Child

I. Reflection/Introduction: (Facilitator could read this to the group)

In the past four sessions you have shared with each other and the Crossing Boundaries community about yourselves, your family and your community as well as reflecting on who is a hero to you.

In addition, you have begun to look what all children in the world need to live fully human lives. You have begun to see that some changes have to be made to insure that all the rights of children are respected everywhere.

II. Activity

- a. Write the word **HUMAN** in the center of a large piece of paper.
- b. Brainstorm(Talk about) what that word means to you and write your ideas on the same piece of paper.
- c. Write the word **RIGHTS** in the center of a large piece of paper.
- d. Brainstorm(Talk about) what that word means to you and write your ideas on the same piece of paper.
- e. Write the word **HUMAN RIGHTS** in the center of a large piece of paper.
- f. Brainstorm(Talk about) what that those two words together means to you and write your ideas on the same piece of paper.

Talk about what you are learning by doing this.

III. Rights of the Child; Please have a facilitator read the next paragraph out loud or hand out copies of it written down. Please remind youth to listen carefully to what is being read.

Crossing Boundaries believes: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere – without discrimination – have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, from abuse and from exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. Every right spelled out in the Convention is inherent to the human dignity and harmonious development of every child.

1. Which of the choices below best sums up what Crossing Boundaries believes? Check one of the choices below then discuss whether or not you agree with that choice:

_____ Rights belong to the state which determines who has them and who does not.

_____ Rights have to be earned

_____ Rights are due to individuals just because they are human

2. Have the youth write out other rights they think children should have.

3. If the youth have been involved in protecting some human rights in their organization, please share this here:

IV. Convention on the Rights of the Child

a. Have the youth read out loud the basic ideas in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Facilitator may choose to have them read only a few or all of them.

Article 1

These rights apply to all children under 18.

Article 2

All children are of equal worth. All children have the same rights and should not be discriminated against. Nobody should treat you badly because of your appearance, your color, your gender, your religion or your opinions.

Article 3

Those who make decisions affecting children must first and foremost think about what is best for you.

Article 6

You have the right to life and the right to develop.

Article 7

You have the right to a name and a nationality.

Article 9

You have the right to live with your parents unless it's bad for you. You have the right to be brought up by your parents, if possible.

Articles 12–15

You have the right to say what you think. You are to be consulted and your opinions respected in all matters concerning you – at home, in school and with the authorities and the courts.

Article 18

Your parents are jointly responsible for your upbringing and development. They must always put your interests first.

Article 19

You have the right to protection against all

You have the right to protection against all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and maltreatment. You should not be exploited by your parents or other guardians.

Article 20–21

You are entitled to receive care if you have lost your family.

Article 22

If you have been forced to leave your country you have the same rights as all the other children in your new country. If you are alone you have the right to special protection and help. If possible you should be reunited with your family.

Article 23

All children have the right to a decent life. If you are disabled you have the right to additional support and assistance.

Article 24

When you are sick you have the right to receive all the help and care you need.

Articles 28 and 29

You have the right to attend school and to learn important things such as respect for other people's rights and respect for other cultures.

Article 30

The thoughts and beliefs of every child should be respected. If you belong to a minority you have the right to your own language, your own culture and your own religion.

Article 31

You have the right to play, rest and live in a healthy environment.

Article 32

You should not be forced to perform

hazardous work which interrupts or prevents your schooling and which could be harmful to your health.

Article 34

No one should subject you to abuse or force you into prostitution. If you are treated badly you are entitled to receive protection and help.

Article 35

No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

Article 37

No one should punish you in a cruel and harmful manner.

Article 38

You never have to be a soldier or take part in an armed conflict.

Article 42

All adults and children should know about this convention. You have the right to learn about your rights.

V. Reflection

- a. Look back over the rights just read. Have each youth pick out the rights she thinks are most important.
- b. Take a few minutes to share with each other which rights are most important.

Here are some links if you want to learn more about the Right of the Child.

www.unicef.org

www.childrensworld.org

www.peacechild.org

www.scslat.org

www.humanrightseducation.org

What did you learn today?

Materials Needed:

1. Large pieces of paper
2. Paper
3. Pens or Pencils