

RAISE YOUR VOICE RAISE YOUR BANNER at DUBLIN PRIDE

This is an activity young people can do during Pride month in their youth groups or individually, using creative methods to explore the role of protest, deepen their awareness of social injustice, empowering young people to challenge inequality, and fostering collective action 🌈

As we explore what Proud Spaces mean, we also ask: who is denied those spaces—and why? Around the world, LGBTQI+ communities and other minorities face systemic oppression. Through the lens of this simple banner making activity young people will get a chance to explore overlapping struggles for freedom, dignity, justice and have their voices heard.

CRAFT YOUR CALL TO ACTION

The aim of this activity is to bring young people through a creative and reflective process that explores identity, visibility, justice, and human rights through the powerful medium of banner-making. This is not just about creating something visual, it's about making space for deep conversations and critical thinking around what it means to be proud, feel safe, and take a stand.

Starting with a group discussion, encourage your group to reflect on their own experiences and the wider struggles of LGBTQI+ communities around the world. Questions around protest, solidarity, exclusion, and empowerment provide a foundation for connection, dialogue, and action. Through this process, young people not only develop powerful messages to share at the Pride parade, but also gain a deeper understanding of how creativity can be a tool for change and collective resistance.

REFLECT, QUESTION, RESIST - START WITH A GROUP DISCUSSION

- 🌈 What does it mean to have (or not have) space where you feel safe and proud?
- 🌈 Where are LGBTQI+ people still not welcome? Why?
- 🌈 How is Pride both a celebration and a protest?
- 🌈 What do we want to say to the world through our banners?
- 🌈 What can young people do to create a more just and fairer world for all?
- 🌈 What are we resisting? What are we demanding?
- 🌈 How can we show solidarity with other minorities facing discrimination or persecution?

BRINGING YOUR IDEAS TO LIFE AS BOLD, PROUD BANNERS FOR JUSTICE

Once the young people have had the opportunity to reflect and explore important questions around identity, justice, and solidarity, the next step is to bring those ideas to life through banner creation. This is where critical thinking and creativity come together, transforming conversations into powerful visual and verbal protest messages.

Ask your young people to come up with a slogan or image that speaks to the issues they care about, whether it's challenging injustice, celebrating who they are, or standing in solidarity with others. It's also a moment to consider the impact of their message, who they want to reach and what kind of change they hope to inspire.

The creative process should be flexible and fun, allowing time over a few sessions for experimenting with different designs, materials, and symbols of resistance. Whether it's rainbows, raised fists, or peace signs, every element carries meaning. Using recycled materials like cardboard, old sheets, fabric scraps, and markers not only supports sustainability, but also reinforces the grassroots spirit of protest. These banners will not only be proudly displayed at the Dublin Pride parade but will serve as a powerful reminder that young people's voices and visions for justice must be seen and heard.

USING CREATIVITY AS A MEGAPHONE

- Get the young people to come up with a slogan or message they think challenges injustice or celebrates identities (there are lots of examples on the internet if they need inspiration).
- Ask them to reflect on the power of their message – who is it for, and what change do they hope it inspires?
- Allow time over a few sessions or weeks for them to design and create their banner using words or shared symbols of resistance (e.g. rainbows, Palestinian flags, peace signs, freedom fists etc..).
- Decorate and assemble using all available materials – cardboard, paper, canvas, old sheets, paints, markers, stencils, wool, patches of cloth.... The list is endless, and this is a great way to recycle old materials.
- Bring the banners with them to fly at the Dublin Pride parade.

Make sure to document and share the creative process through pictures, videos, stories and reels and post on social media using hashtags #proudspaces during Pride month.

www.facebook.com/youthworkireland

www.instagram.com/youthworkireland

There will be a €100 One4All Voucher prize for the best banner.

