



### Sharing Approaches: Engaging Youth Groups in Global Issues

Bridges has recently expanded its work with youth groups in many different settings. Here's a little about what we've learned about how to get young people thinking, talking and doing something about global issues.

#### How we did it

Getting involved with local youth groups has been a great way for Bridges to involve young people and the adults who work with them in exploring global issues.

#### Highlights

Young people have been struck by the global connections in their lives by becoming part of Bridges interactive world map. Starting with imagining a giant world map on the floor and moving to different countries to show where their clothes are made or where the foods they eat grow, young people have left a messy trail of string linking all these countries together and providing an eye-opening start into exploring the links in their lives and how fair or unfair they are.

#### ... And what we might have done differently...

We've learned that every group is different and it is really important to spend time talking to group leaders to find out as much as possible about a group before going to run activities for the first time.

#### Top tips

- Make it fun – use engaging topics such as fashion or chocolate to get people's interest and attention.
- Be flexible – follow the lead of a group and let them take you to their interests
- Stay calm – it might seem like things are heading on a bit too much of a tangent but you'll usually be pleasantly surprised if you go with the flow and see where it takes you
- Empower young people – always ensure young people understand that as consumers and citizens they have power to change things and involve exploring the actions they can take in your activities

Bridges promotes knowledge and learning in Shropshire for a fairer world.

Our vision is a world where all people are respected, learn together and are able to take action.