



OUR RIGHTS OUR FUTURE

GUIDEBOOK



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Project & Contributors

OUR RIGHTS OUR FUTURE BOOKLET

This booklet has been developed as part of the HUMELODY project.



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Introduction

HUMELODY: Creativity for Empowerment

Welcome to HUMELODY, a meaningful project designed to empower youth migrants by combining human rights education with creativity and community engagement. This booklet is part of a collaborative project funded under the [KA210-YOU Small-scale partnerships program] and unites the expertise of several partner organizations across Europe.

What is the HUMELODY Booklet?

This booklet serves as a practical and accessible guide for youth migrants, youth workers, and community leaders. It aims to increase awareness of human rights among young migrants through engaging methods like music, sports, and art workshops.

Our Goals

The booklet is built around six interactive modules, each addressing the challenges young migrants face while promoting creativity and self-expression. These modules will help participants to:

- **Learn Their Rights:** Understand their rights as migrants and how to exercise them effectively.
- **Develop Practical Skills:** Gain tools for integration, such as communication techniques, cultural adaptation, and social engagement.
- **Express Themselves:** Use creative methods like music and art to share their experiences and advocate for their rights.
- **Build Mutual Understanding:** Encourage inclusive dialogue and cross-cultural cooperation.

Who is This Booklet For?

HUMELODY is designed to support:

- Youth Migrants: Helping them adapt to new environments with greater confidence and clarity.
- Youth Workers and NGOs: Providing innovative tools and methods to better engage with young migrants.
- Refugee and Integration Centers: Strengthening their efforts to support migrants and promote social cohesion.

How Does It Work?

HUMELODY combines two key approaches:

- **Theoretical Modules:** These modules focus on providing an in-depth understanding of human rights education through well-researched content and comprehensive data.
- **Activity Modules:** Hands-on workshops in music, art, and sports allow participants to learn and grow through practical experiences.



This booklet will be a core resource for our keynote sessions, webinars, and workshops, helping participants engage with the program's themes and objectives in a meaningful way.

Sustainability and Accessibility

To support environmental sustainability, the booklet will be published as a digital resource, making it accessible to everyone while reducing its environmental impact. It will be freely available online to encourage widespread use.

What Do We Aim to Achieve?

Through this booklet, HUMELODY seeks to:

- Empower young migrants to stand up for their rights and face new challenges.
- Provide organizations and facilitators with effective tools for inclusion and human rights education.
- Create a society where diversity is valued, and everyone feels a sense of belonging.

Module 1: Understanding Youth Migrant Rights

Overview

Definition and Scope of Young Migrants

Young migrants, aged 15–24, migrate within or across borders during a pivotal life stage of transition from childhood to adulthood. This period involves personal growth and increasing independence. Migration is often driven by factors such as the pursuit of education, better economic opportunities, safety from conflict or persecution, and cultural or social aspirations. While rooted in individual ambitions, these decisions are shaped by family dynamics, societal expectations, and structural inequities in their home countries.

Migration presents numerous challenges, including mental health struggles from adaptation stress, separation, or trauma. Interrupted education is common due to migration journeys, language barriers, or unrecognized qualifications. Many young migrants also shoulder adult responsibilities, such as supporting their families or navigating complex legal systems.

Despite these hardships, migration offers opportunities for independence, social connection, and upward mobility, granting access to better education and economic prospects. These experiences build resilience, foster personal growth, and shape their future identities and opportunities. As young migrants adapt to new cultures and systems, their journeys become defining chapters that influence their adulthood and societal contributions.





Rights and entitlements of young migrants

Young migrants possess a range of rights aimed at enhancing their current and future well-being, personal development, and overall safety. These rights mirror those of local citizens but include additional protections due to their unique circumstances. Key rights include:

Right to Education:

Young migrants are entitled to access education at all levels, regardless of their migration status. This right ensures they have the opportunity to build skills, gain qualifications, and integrate socially and academically into their new communities.

Right to Health:

Comprehensive healthcare services are available to young migrants, covering physical, mental, and sexual health needs. This ensures their overall well-being and helps address challenges like trauma or health disparities.

Protection from Exploitation and Abuse:

Laws safeguard young migrants from child labor, trafficking, violence, and all forms of abuse, recognizing their vulnerability and need for special protections.

Right to Family Reunification:

Unaccompanied minors have the legal right to be reunited with family members under international law, acknowledging the importance of family support for emotional and psychological stability.

Right to Non-Discrimination:

Young migrants are protected from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, or migration status. This ensures fair treatment and equal access to opportunities and services.

Access to Legal Protection:

This includes the right to legal representation and safeguards against arbitrary detention or deportation, ensuring due process and respect for their rights in all legal matters.

Right to Work (Under Certain Conditions):

Young migrants can seek employment, provided it does not hinder their education or jeopardize their well-being. This allows them to support themselves and their families while gaining valuable experience.

Right to Participate in Society:

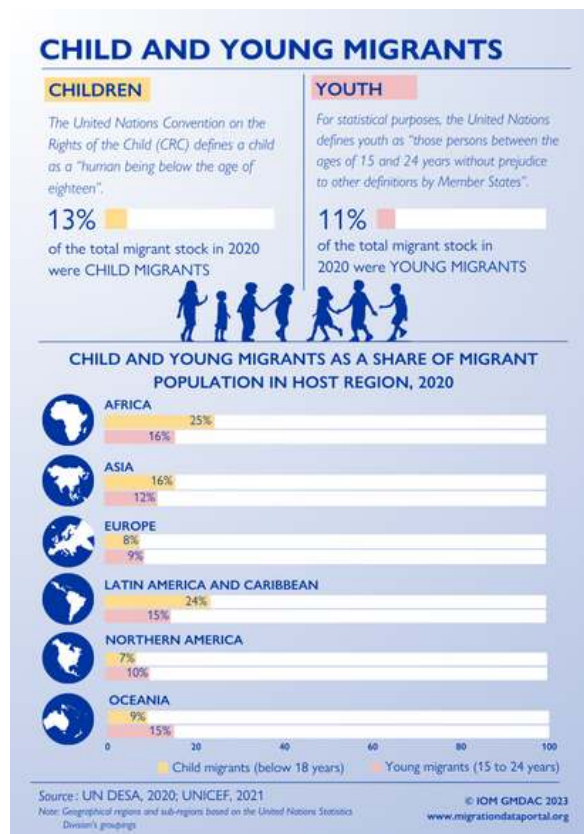
Young migrants can engage in social, cultural, and political activities, express their views, and contribute to their communities as active members of society.

These rights collectively aim to protect young migrants, ensuring they have opportunities to thrive, integrate, and contribute meaningfully to their new environments.



Children and Youth Migration: Europe

The image provides insights into child and young migrants in 2020, focusing on their global distribution and the share they represent in different regions. In Europe, young migrants aged 15 to 24 made up a relatively small portion of the overall migrant population, accounting for just 8%. This is slightly less than the 9% represented by children under 18, meaning fewer than one in ten migrants in Europe were minors or young people. These figures highlight that Europe's migrant population is predominantly adult, with young migrants playing a smaller role compared to regions like Africa or Latin America, where they make up a significantly larger share of the migrant population.



Current Data and Statistics of Young Migrants in Europe

In 2023, young migrants are a considerable share of Europe's population. In early 2021, young non-nationals aged 15 to 29 years old - accounted for 10.7% of the population in this age group in the EU, while foreign-born young people accounted for 12.8%.

In 2022, the European Union had huge migration inflows. About 5.1 million immigrants came from non-EU countries, up by 117% from 2021, and 1.5 million people migrated between EU Member States, up by 7% from the previous year. The dynamic nature of migration flows into and within Europe is underscored by these figures, highlighting that policies relevant to the needs and challenges of young migrants will remain very relevant.

² "Migration and Migrant Population Statistics." Eurostat, European Commission, 2023, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/interactive-publications/migration-2023>. Accessed 4 Dec. 2024.

³ "Youth and Migration." European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), 2020, https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC122402/youth_and_migration_final_online.pdf. Accessed 4 Dec. 2024

Major Problems for Young Migrants:

Young migrants in Europe have to face a number of challenges that strike at the very roots of their existence. One major issue is legal uncertainty. Many, especially refugees, go through anxious moments waiting for asylum or residence permits. Even after gaining legal status, temporary permits often leave them in precarious situations, creating a sense of instability.



Access to education can also be one of those barriers: most of these young migrants struggle with the issues of language, interrupted schooling, and nonrecognition of qualifications, although the determination in this matter could persist.

On the economic side, young migrants face a high rate of unemployment, and if they are working, it is in a low-paid, insecure job. Legal uncertainty and exploitative labor conditions impede economic stability. Integration is also thwarted by social exclusion and discrimination, leading to feelings of isolation and disconnection from communities.

The psychological cost is immense, with several young migrants experiencing mental problems such as anxiety and depression due to past trauma and uncertainty about their future. Limited access to mental health services makes their situation worse.

Beyond this, young migrants usually find limited opportunities for social mobility, and the adjustment to new cultural and legal demands is often overwhelming without any family support. The experience is worse for young migrant females: gender-based violence and access to health services are all key areas where they face significant challenges.

Finally, the restrictive migration policy and political tensions make young migrants even more vulnerable, reducing their rights and increasing feelings of alienation. In general, all these challenges require comprehensive policy measures that pay attention to education, integration, and support as ways of improving the lives of young migrants in Europe.

⁴ "SpringerOpen." *SpringerOpen*, <https://www.springeropen.com>. Accessed 4 Dec. 2024.

Module 2: Education Academy of Human Rights

Overview

The Education Academy of Human Rights is a central component of the HUMELODY project, aimed at equipping youth migrants and youth workers with the knowledge and tools necessary to understand and advocate for human rights. This module blends theoretical knowledge with interactive activities to foster empowerment, social cohesion, and active participation.

Through keynote sessions, webinars, and workshops, the Academy provides participants with a solid foundation in human rights principles while encouraging them to apply these principles in their daily lives. By integrating real-life experiences, expert insights, and practical exercises, this module promotes cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and community engagement.

The Academy also plays an important role in preparing youth workers to lead future workshops and initiatives, ensuring the project's long-term sustainability and impact. By fostering connections between youth migrants, local youth, and community organizations, the Education Academy of Human Rights creates a collaborative space where shared values and aspirations can flourish.





EVENT

When to use it?

This event is ideal for equipping young migrants and youth workers with foundational knowledge about human rights. It aims to create an interactive and inclusive environment to explore, understand, and advocate for human rights in daily life. The sessions can be conducted as standalone workshops or integrated into a series of educational activities..

Skills Addressed

- Understanding Human Rights: Building knowledge about fundamental human rights and their application in everyday life.
- Civic Engagement: Encouraging active participation in community initiatives and decision-making processes.
- Legal Empowerment: Providing tools to navigate legal systems and access resources effectively.
- Cross-Cultural Communication: Enhancing empathy, collaboration, and mutual understanding among diverse participants.

Materials Needed

- Digital access to the "Our Rights, Our Future" booklet.
- Projector and laptop (for offline presentations).
- Flipcharts, markers, and post-it notes for group activities.
- Handouts summarizing key human rights principles and case studies.

Tool Type

Hybrid approach: It can be conducted both online (via webinars) and offline (through in-person keynote sessions and workshops).

Target Group

- Youth Migrants: Aged 16–30, including refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants from diverse backgrounds.
- Youth Workers: Experienced youth workers who guide and mentor participants during and after the workshops.
- Community Organizations: Youth centers, NGOs, and refugee support centers that serve as hubs for youth engagement.

Description

The Education Academy of Human Rights event empowers youth migrants to understand their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for advocacy. By engaging in expert-led discussions, interactive activities, and collaborative exercises, participants will connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The sessions will also include testimonials and real-life experiences from human rights experts and activists, fostering a deeper connection to the topics.

How to use?

Step 1: Introduction (20 minutes)

- Start with an overview of human rights principles (e.g., equality, freedom, and non-discrimination).
- Highlight their relevance to youth migrants and refugees, using real-life examples.
- Discuss challenges faced by participants in accessing these rights and brainstorm solutions collaboratively.

Step 2: Interactive Activity – Case Study Analysis (30 minutes)

- Divide participants into groups and provide each group with a real-life case study related to youth migrants and human rights violations.
- Ask each group to identify the key human rights issues in the case and propose practical solutions.
- Facilitate a group discussion to compare insights and share different perspectives.

Step 3: Collaborative Problem-Solving (40 minutes)

- Introduce a scenario or challenge related to youth migrants' rights (e.g., access to education or discrimination).
- Encourage participants to work in teams to develop action plans or advocacy campaigns addressing the issue.
- Youth workers and facilitators should guide teams and provide constructive feedback.

Step 4: Reflection and Feedback (20 minutes)

- Ask participants to share what they learned and how they plan to apply this knowledge in their communities.
- Encourage an open discussion on how education can empower them to advocate for social justice and equality.

Tips for Learners

- Focus on rights that are most relevant to your experiences or those of your community.
- Collaborate with peers to gain diverse perspectives and develop creative solutions.
- Keep an open mind and be willing to learn from others' stories and experiences.

Resource

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTPzmgWxw3c&t=20s>
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/human-rights-education/>

Module 3: Raising Awareness of Human Rights through Clay Workshops

Overview

The workshop is designed to be conducted during the HUMELODY local activities at each partner site. It can be used as part of an ongoing series of interactive activities that foster social cohesion and empowerment. In this workshop, participants will explore human rights through clay. By engaging in hands-on, creative activities, they will gain a deeper understanding of human rights while expressing their ideas, values, and personal experiences. The workshop aims to engage young migrants and workers in human rights education, supporting them in reflecting on the integration process and promoting self-expression through art.

The session will begin with a discussion on basic human rights principles, followed by a practical clay sculpting activity. Participants will create sculptures that represent human rights themes important to them. This hands-on process allows them to connect their personal experiences and values with global human rights issues, while also developing empathy, social responsibility, and artistic expression.

The "Raising Awareness of Human Rights through Clay Workshop" plays a crucial role in integrating young migrants into the local community by fostering awareness, creativity, and social cohesion. Through artistic expression, young migrants and local youth will come together to explore human rights issues, share their experiences, and build mutual understanding. This collaborative environment promotes social integration and community engagement, empowering participants to advocate for human rights. By reflecting on their rights and responsibilities through creative activities, they will gain a deeper understanding of how these issues affect their lives and communities, inspiring them to drive positive change within their own environments.





WORKSHOP

When to use it?

The workshop aims to create a space where young migrants, refugees, and local youth can come together, interact, and express their ideas and emotions related to human rights through the tool of clay. This workshop seeks to:

- Raise awareness about human rights issues through creative expression.
- Provide a platform for both migrant and local youth to express their common values and aspirations.
- Strengthen social cohesion by breaking down barriers between migrants and locals through teamwork and creative activities.
- Empower young participants by giving them a voice to represent their personal and collective human rights experiences.

Skills Addressed

- Understanding Human Rights: Developing a deeper understanding of human rights and their importance in daily life.
- Creative Expression: Using clay to express ideas, feelings, and cultural values related to human rights.
- Collaboration and Teamwork: Working in groups to create shared sculptures, fostering communication, trust, and understanding between migrants and locals.
- Empathy: Reflecting on personal and collective experiences through creative expression, building empathy among diverse groups.
- Social Integration: Developing a sense of belonging through shared creative and artistic experiences.

Tool Type

Offline (In-person workshop)

Target Group

- Youth Migrants (ages 16–30), including refugees, newly arrived migrants, and young people from migrant families.
- Local Youth (ages 16–30), including young people from the host community.
- Youth Workers: trained youth workers who will facilitate and observe the workshop, ensuring it aligns with the project's goals and helping guide the creative processes.
- Youth Centers, NGOs, and Refugee Centers that support and engage with young people, particularly those from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Materials Needed

- Clay (air-dry clay recommended for ease of use)
- Sculpting tools (e.g., wooden sticks, plastic tools, spatulas)
- Flipchart or whiteboard for brainstorming and visualizing ideas
- Markers and pens
- Optional: Camera or photography equipment to document the finished sculptures and share with the wider community

Description

The Raising awareness about human rights through Clay Workshop invites youth migrants, refugees, and local youth to explore human rights themes through clay sculpting. This creative and safe space allows participants to engage with one another, regardless of cultural or language barriers. Through artistic expression, they reflect on shared experiences as young people and global citizens.

As they shape their clay, participants will think about themes like freedom, equality, peace, and justice. Gender equality will also be a key focus. The workshop concludes with a group presentation where participants explain their sculptures and the human rights themes they represent.



How to use?

Step 1: Introduction to Human Rights and Conceptualizing the Workshop (20 minutes)

- Start with a brief introduction to the concept of human rights. Use a flipchart or whiteboard to highlight key rights such as the right to education, freedom of expression, equality, and protection from discrimination.
- Introduce the theme of the workshop: Human Rights through Clay. Explain that the participants will be creating sculptures that reflect their personal interpretations of human rights and their importance in society.
- Encourage a discussion on how human rights relate to the participants' lives, especially focusing on the challenges they may face as young migrants or refugees.
- Engage participants in thinking about what symbols, shapes, or themes might represent these human rights concepts in their sculptures.

Step 2: Clay Sculpting Activity (40 minutes)

- Distribute the clay and sculpting tools to each participant or group.
- Ask participants to begin shaping their clay into representations of human rights issues that resonate with them. They might create figures, symbols, or abstract forms that represent freedom, equality, or justice.
- Emphasize the importance of collaboration—if the workshop is conducted in groups, encourage participants to share ideas and work together on larger sculptures that represent collective themes of human rights.
- Youth workers should circulate the room, offering guidance and support as needed, while encouraging participants to express their thoughts freely through the clay.

Step 3: Reflection and Presentation (20 minutes)

- Once the sculptures are completed, give each participant or group a chance to reflect on their work. Ask them to think about how their sculpture represents a human rights issue and what message they want to convey.
- Have each participant or group present their sculpture to the wider group, explaining the human rights theme they have represented and the significance behind their creation.
- Conclude the workshop with a group discussion on how creative expression, such as clay sculpting, can be used to raise awareness about human rights and foster social change.



Tips for Learners

- Think about the themes that matter most to you. Which human rights issues are important in your life or the lives of your community members?
- Use symbols or metaphors to represent your ideas. For example, a broken chain could symbolize freedom, while a hand could represent solidarity or unity.
- If you feel stuck, look for inspiration from your personal experiences or cultural symbols that represent human rights to you.
- Don't be afraid to collaborate. Working together can help you generate new ideas and share different perspectives on human rights.

Resources

- "Human Rights and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities" – A comprehensive report on human rights challenges faced by migrants and refugees, exploring policy solutions. [UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency](#).
- "The Role of Art in Human Rights Education" – An article discussing how art can be used as a tool for educating and promoting human rights. [Human Rights Education Associates \(HREA\)](#).



Module 4: Raising Awareness of Human Rights Through Sports Workshops

Overview

This workshop is designed to engage young migrants, refugees, and local youth in exploring human rights themes through sports. Participants will reflect on the values of teamwork, equality, and fair play while actively participating in physical activities. By integrating sports with human rights education, the workshop fosters mutual understanding, collaboration, and social cohesion.

WORKSHOP

When to use it?

The "Raising Awareness of Human Rights through Sports Workshop" is ideal for youth workers, NGOs, and community centers looking to:

- Promote human rights education in an engaging and interactive way.
- Encourage social integration among young migrants, refugees, and local youth.
- Highlight values such as equality, inclusion, and mutual respect through the medium of sports.

Skills Addressed

- Understanding Human Rights: Recognizing human rights principles through sports values such as equality, respect, and teamwork.
- Teamwork and Collaboration: Fostering trust and communication by working together in sports activities.
- Empathy: Reflecting on shared experiences and building understanding among participants.
- Social Integration: Promoting a sense of belonging through collective participation in sports activities.

Tool Type

Offline (In-person workshop)

Target Group

- Youth Migrants (16–30 years): Refugees, newly arrived migrants, and young people from migrant families.
- Local Youth (16–30 years): Young people from the host community.
- Youth Workers: Trained facilitators who guide the workshop and ensure it aligns with the project's goals.

Materials Needed

- Sports equipment (e.g., balls, cones, markers, jerseys)
- Flipchart or whiteboard for brainstorming
- Markers and pens
- Optional: Photography equipment to document the activities

Description

This workshop invites participants to explore human rights values such as fairness, equality, and inclusion through team sports. By engaging in collaborative activities, young migrants and local youth experience the power of sports as a unifying and empowering medium. Participants will reflect on human rights themes during gameplay and connect these principles to their personal and community experiences. The session concludes with a discussion on how sports can foster positive change and build bridges between diverse groups.

How to use?

Step 1: Introduction to Human Rights and Sports (20 minutes)

- Begin with a discussion on the connection between sports and human rights. Use a flipchart or whiteboard to highlight key concepts like fair play, equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination.
- Introduce the theme: "Human Rights through Sports." Explain how values in sports reflect human rights principles in everyday life.
- Encourage participants to share examples of how sports can bring people together or promote social change.

Step 2: Sports Activity (80 minutes)

1. Divide participants into small teams, mixing young migrants and local youth to promote interaction.
2. Choose a simple team sport or activity (e.g., soccer, relay races, or cooperative games) that emphasizes collaboration, fair play, and inclusion.
3. During the activity, youth workers can:
 - Observe interactions and ensure inclusive participation.
 - Highlight moments that showcase teamwork and respect.
 - Facilitate discussions on how the game's principles relate to human rights.

Step 3: Reflection and Group Discussion (20 minutes)

1. After the activity, gather participants for a reflection session.
2. Encourage them to discuss:
 - How the game promoted values like equality, respect, and teamwork.
 - How these values relate to human rights in their daily lives.
3. Conclude with a group brainstorming session on how sports can be used as a tool for advocating human rights in their communities.

Additional Ideas for Engagement

- Introduce role-playing games where participants simulate scenarios involving human rights violations and explore solutions through sportsmanship principles.
- Organize intercultural sports tournaments to bring together diverse groups, celebrate their unique cultures, and foster mutual respect.

Tips for Youth Workers

- Adapt the chosen sport to the group's physical abilities and interests.
- Emphasize the importance of inclusivity, ensuring all participants feel valued and respected.
- Encourage storytelling by having participants share personal experiences related to sports and human rights.
- Use metaphors from the game to connect sports values to real-life human rights issues (e.g., teamwork = community solidarity).



Module 5: Raising Awareness about Human Rights through Music Workshops

Overview

The "Human Rights through Music Workshop" is an engaging and dynamic activity designed to empower youth migrants, local youth, and youth workers through the universal language of music. This workshop highlights how music can be a powerful tool for advocating human rights, fostering empathy, and building social cohesion. Music has long been used to inspire change, unite communities, and amplify voices that might otherwise go unheard. In this workshop, participants will explore the intersection of music and human rights, using creative expression to reflect on themes such as equality, freedom, and justice. By composing and performing music together, they will share their personal stories, values, and aspirations, building connections across cultural and social boundaries.

This workshop not only educates participants about human rights but also empowers them to become advocates for change in their communities. Through collaboration and creativity, it provides a safe and inclusive space where diverse voices can come together, fostering mutual understanding and collective action for social justice.



WORKSHOP

Skills Addressed

- Understanding Human Rights: Learning about fundamental human rights through creative expression.
- Creative Collaboration: Working together to compose or perform music that reflects shared values and experiences.
- Empathy and Expression: Using music as a tool to share stories and build understanding among diverse participants.
- Advocacy through Art: Exploring how music can be a powerful medium for promoting human rights and social justice.

Materials Needed

- Musical instruments (e.g., drums, guitars, keyboards, or any accessible instruments)
- Audio equipment (e.g., speakers, microphones)
- Song lyrics or poetry related to human rights (optional)
- Flipchart or whiteboard for brainstorming
- Pens, markers, and notebooks for participants

Tool Type

Offline (In-person workshop)

Target Group

- Youth Migrants: Aged 16–30, including refugees and migrants from diverse backgrounds.
- Local Youth: Aged 16–30, promoting integration and shared experiences.
- Youth Workers: Acting as facilitators and observers to guide the process and ensure alignment with project goals.

Description

The "Raising Awareness of Human Rights through Music Workshop" uses music as a medium to explore human rights themes. Participants will learn how music has historically been used to inspire change and advocate for social justice. By creating and performing music, they will express their personal experiences and values, fostering a deeper understanding of human rights and building connections across cultural boundaries.

The workshop begins with an introduction to the role of music in advocating for human rights, followed by a collaborative music-making activity. Participants will work in groups to compose songs or create rhythms that reflect human rights themes, such as freedom, equality, and justice. The session concludes with performances and reflections on the messages conveyed through their creations.

How to use?

Step 1: Introduction (20 minutes)

- Briefly discuss the history of music as a tool for human rights advocacy, highlighting examples such as protest songs or global anthems.
- Share examples of how music has brought communities together to address social issues.
- Encourage participants to reflect on their own experiences and the role music plays in expressing emotions and ideas.

Step 2: Music Creation Activity (40 minutes)

- Divide participants into small groups. Each group will brainstorm a human rights theme (e.g., equality, justice, or freedom) to base their music on.
- Provide instruments or other tools (e.g., body percussion or clapping) to help groups create rhythms or melodies.
- Encourage participants to write lyrics or improvise vocal expressions that reflect their chosen theme.
- Youth workers should guide groups, ensuring inclusivity and encouraging creative collaboration.

Step 3: Performance and Reflection (30 minutes)

- Each group will perform their music for the larger group, sharing the human rights theme behind their creation.
- After each performance, facilitate a short discussion on how the music reflects the chosen theme and its relevance to human rights.
- Conclude with a group reflection on how music can unite people and inspire action for social change.

Tips for Learners

- Don't worry about musical skill—focus on expressing your ideas and emotions.
- Use symbols and metaphors in your lyrics to convey deeper meanings.
- Collaborate with others in your group to create a piece that represents shared values and experiences.
- Reflect on how music can inspire change and bring people together.

Resource

Examples of human rights songs and their historical significance (e.g., "We Shall Overcome," "Imagine").

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM39QUiAsoM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkgkThdzX-8>

Module 6: Promoting Civic Engagement

Overview

Civic engagement and community participation play a pivotal role in building inclusive and cohesive societies. For young migrants, these concepts are not merely about participating in society; they represent a pathway to integration, self-expression, and empowerment. Active engagement enables young migrants to contribute their unique skills, perspectives, and cultural heritage to their new communities, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

However, young migrants often face significant barriers to active participation, including language challenges, limited awareness of opportunities, cultural differences, and social exclusion. Overcoming these barriers requires a targeted and comprehensive approach, integrating theoretical knowledge and practical solutions. This module aims to provide youth workers, educators, and policymakers with actionable insights to encourage civic engagement and community participation among young migrants. By addressing the systemic challenges and highlighting opportunities, we hope to promote meaningful engagement and mutual growth in societies like Slovenia, Poland, and Austria.

Understanding Civic Engagement and Community Participation

Civic engagement refers to activities that individuals undertake to address societal challenges or improve the well-being of their communities. These activities can range from volunteering, participating in local governance, and attending community meetings to organizing initiatives or campaigns. Community participation, on the other hand, emphasizes active involvement in the social and cultural fabric of a community, fostering connections and a sense of belonging.

For young migrants, these practices are critical tools for integration and empowerment. They provide opportunities to:

- Build meaningful relationships within their communities,
- Gain access to resources and networks,
- Advocate for their needs and rights,
- Share and celebrate their cultural heritage.



Strategies to Encourage Civic Engagement and Community Participation

1. Promoting Awareness of Rights and Opportunities:

- Provide accessible information on civic rights and participation opportunities in Slovenia.
- Offer multilingual resources and workshops to educate young migrants about local governance, volunteering platforms, and social organizations.
- Include orientation programs where young migrants can learn in detail about their host country's economic, social, and cultural structures. These programs should aim to help them better understand and connect with the opportunities available to them.
- Encourage practical and interactive experiences where young migrants can participate in national, religious, or cultural celebrations significant to their host country. Youth workers can organize visits to events or venues where these celebrations take place, providing young migrants with hands-on exposure and cultural understanding.

2. Enhancing Language and Cultural Competence:

- Organize language courses and cultural exchange programs to help young migrants overcome communication barriers.
- Encourage collaboration between migrant and local youth through joint community projects.
- Highlight what their host country excels in globally, such as innovation, sustainability, or culture. Use statistics or comparisons with other countries to help young migrants appreciate the unique strengths of their new home and develop a sense of pride and belonging.
- Create opportunities for young migrants to host interactive cultural cooking sessions, where they can prepare and share traditional dishes with the local community. These events foster cultural exchange and mutual appreciation in a friendly, engaging setting.

3. Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces:

- Establish youth centers and community hubs where young migrants can interact with peers, share experiences, and engage in meaningful activities.
- Ensure these spaces are culturally sensitive and inclusive of diverse backgrounds.
- Facilitate group visits to the country's natural and tourist attractions, encouraging young migrants to explore and connect with the beauty of their new home.
- Motivate young migrants to participate in outdoor activities such as hiking or cycling, tailored to their physical condition and interests. Youth workers can guide them in selecting suitable routes or sports, fostering physical and mental well-being while deepening their connection to their environment.

4. Facilitating Mentorship and Role Models:

- Connect young migrants with mentors who can guide them in navigating civic systems and community engagement.
- Highlight **their personal stories** by offering platforms such as events, local radio shows, or television segments. Sharing their journeys and successes can inspire both **the migrant and local communities while fostering understanding and empathy.**

5. Supporting Grassroots Initiatives:

- Encourage young migrants to participate and co-lead community projects addressing local challenges.
- Provide funding and technical support for these initiatives to ensure their sustainability.
- Collaborate with local organizations to connect young migrants with clubs, institutions, or groups that align with their interests in sports, arts, music, or other areas. This approach helps them find a personal passion within the community and provides opportunities for self-realization.
- Enable young migrants to form a migrant-led association that they can eventually manage themselves with their fellow citizens from their home countries.

6. Leveraging Digital Tools:

- Utilize social media and online platforms to engage young migrants in discussions, surveys, and community-building activities.
- Develop apps and tools tailored to their needs, such as language support or civic participation guides.
- Use digital content to highlight **success stories of young migrants** who have integrated successfully and contributed positively to their new society.
- Ensure the integration of young migrants without assimilation into their society and support them, they should use social media more actively by preserving their identities and creating their own images.

7. Providing Practical Work Experiences:

- Establish connections between young migrants and local organizations, cafes, restaurants, or similar venues to offer part-time, low-intensity jobs (e.g., up to 4 hours daily). These experiences allow young migrants to share spaces with locals, helping them learn the language, cultural nuances, and societal dynamics through firsthand interactions.

Conclusion

A Collective Step Towards Empowerment and Inclusion

As we reach the conclusion of the Our Rights, Our Future booklet, we reflect on the journey it represents—a collaborative effort to empower youth migrants, foster inclusivity, and promote human rights through education and creativity. Each module in this guide has been carefully designed to provide participants with the tools, knowledge, and inspiration needed to navigate the complexities of their lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

This booklet serves not only as an educational resource but also as a call to action. By exploring themes such as human rights, social cohesion, and creative expression, we aim to inspire participants to advocate for a more inclusive and equitable society. The activities and discussions outlined here encourage both individual growth and collective engagement, laying the foundation for lasting impact.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the youth migrants, youth workers, experts, and partner organizations who contributed their time, energy, and insights to make this booklet a reality. Your dedication and passion have brought these ideas to life, ensuring they resonate with diverse audiences and inspire change.

Looking Ahead

This booklet is just the beginning. The ideas, tools, and activities presented here are meant to evolve and adapt as they are implemented in different contexts and communities. We encourage readers to use this guide as a stepping stone—to build on its content, create new initiatives, and continue the dialogue around human rights and social justice.

Together, we can amplify voices, break down barriers, and create spaces where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered. Let us carry forward the spirit of Our Rights, Our Future in our daily lives, ensuring that human rights remain at the heart of all we do.

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