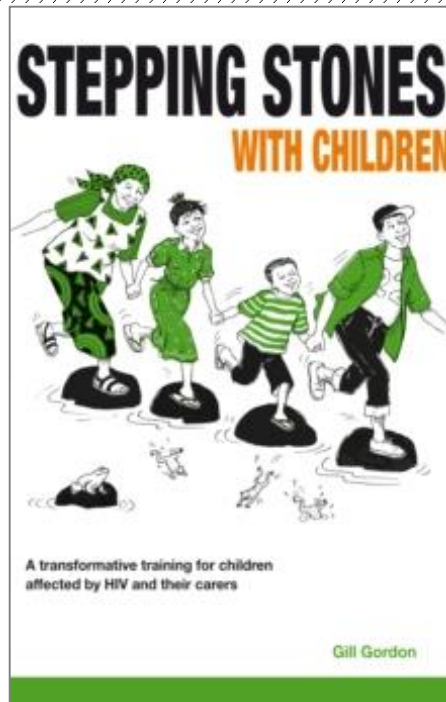


Handouts for *Stepping Stones with Children*



This *Handout for Stepping Stones with Children* is to be used with the *Stepping Stones with Children* training manual published by Practical Action Publishing, 2016.

You can download this handout for free for use with this training manual from the www.stepsstonesfeedback.org website.

On this website there are also many other resources to support you with this training manual and the original *Stepping Stones* training manual.

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CHILD AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1. What is justice?

We're practising justice when we:

- think for ourselves, and act fairly;
- avoid gossip and backbiting;
- see with our own eyes and don't judge something or someone by what other people tell us, or by their gender, race, religion, or health status;
- see people as individuals;
- own up to our mistakes and accept the consequences;
- share fairly with others;
- stand up for people's rights, including our own.

Without justice, people get away with hurting or taking advantage of others and keep on doing it. This is why justice is important for achieving rights. Without justice the world can be a cruel and dangerous place. When justice is practised, everyone has a fair chance to tell their side of the story and be listened to.

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension. It is presence of justice."
Martin Luther King

2. Children's rights

Human rights are about respect for everyone. They are about having our needs met, staying safe, and having a say in what happens in our lives. They also involve saying what we think and feel, and living life as we want to, as long as we act responsibly and respect the rights of others.

In 1989 almost all the governments in the world signed a special agreement called the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It says that governments should make sure that children enjoy all their rights, of which there are three types:

1) Rights to things children need:

- life;
- to be healthy and to use health services;
- information;
- education.



- 2) Rights for children to be kept safe from harm:
- to feel well and happy in body and mind;
 - to freedom from abuse, violence and being used for another's benefit;
 - to be protected from violence and harmful practices;
 - to refuse to have any kind of sexual activity.
- 3) Children's rights to take part in deciding how they live their lives:
- to say what they think;
 - to meet and talk with others;
 - to have confidentiality and privacy;
 - to be part of important decisions that affect their lives.



Our governments have a duty to give children support and protection in order to live safe, healthy, and happy lives. But other people can use **justice** to achieve children's rights. They include caregivers, families, children, teachers, leaders, churches, communities, police, and health institutions.

QUESTION

How can we practise justice in our communities to support and protect the rights of children?