



OCTOBER Equality

Definition:

When everyone has the same opportunities, power, rights, resources, and freedoms.

Why is it important?

Working to improve equality means ensuring everyone is valued and respected the same amount, despite our differences. Increasing equality is essential to solving many global issues, such as poverty, racism, conflict, exploitation, and bad leadership.

Class activity - Learn about the lives of children around the world:

Half the students take a character profile of a child in another country (profiles available on Global Dimension, search 'Welcome to my life'). The others take part in character as famous, wealthy young people of your choice. All students stand side by side

in a line across the middle of the room. Students take turns reading out their character profile to the class. The teacher then reads through the questions below, pausing after each to allow students to step forwards or backwards as appropriate for their character:

- Step backwards if you are not male.
- Step forwards if you have your own bedroom.
- Step forwards if you can get healthcare easily when needed.
- Step forwards if you have money for occasional fun activities or toys.
- Step backwards if you had to drop out of school because you needed money.
- Step forwards if your family has a TV.
- Step forwards if it is safe to play outside in your community.
- Step backwards if a family member relies on you to care for them.

Now look around. Which characters are at the back? Are they there because of their own choices or abilities? Are the differences fair? How does it feel standing where you are?

Make a change:

How could the characters standing nearer the front use their position to empower those at the back move to closer to them? What **personal** action could you take to increase equality in your local community? How could your **local** community take action to support less privileged communities? What could wealthy countries do to increase equality **globally**?