

## The Right to Participate

### Objectives:

- To explore the importance of participation in society.

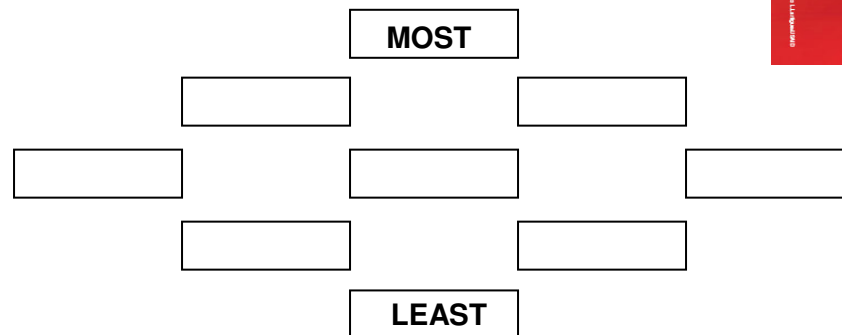
### You will need:

- Copies of the Statements sheet cut up (one set of statements for each group)

**Time required:** 25-30 minutes

### Instructions:

- Divide the class into groups of four and give each group a set of the statements.
- Write on a board or flipchart: 'Young people should have the right to participate because...'
- Ask the groups to read the statements they have been given and decide which they think are the most and least important.
- Tell the groups to arrange their reasons in the shape of a diamond with the most important reason at the top and the least important reasons at the bottom.



- When the groups have placed their statements in a diamond shape ask them to explain the reasons for their choice. Is it possible for the class to agree on the three most important statements?

### Discussion:

- The activity can lead into a more general discussion of the value of participation and practical ways that young people can participate in different aspects of their own lives and the life of their community. They could also explore which rights they actually have to participate as identified by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- To link participation with Africa ask the group:
  - To what extent do young people participate in the UK?
  - Do they think young people in Africa participate more or less than young people in the UK?
  - What do they think is stopping young in the UK and Africa from participating more?



## Reasons

Young people should have the right to participate because...

<b>Things are fairer if everyone has a voice</b>	<b>It will help them be more responsible citizens</b>
<b>It makes them feel better if they have a say, even if no-one takes any notice of what they think</b>	<b>If young people are able to participate they will be able to make sure that their other rights are put into practice</b>
<b>Things work better when everyone is able to participate</b>	<b>It helps them to learn about the process of participation and citizenship</b>
<b>It gives them experience of the real world</b>	<b>At the moment adults have too much power</b>
	<b>They should be able to have a say in decisions which affect them</b>