



## 1.5. JIGSAW OF HUMAN RIGHTS

“Human rights are like a jigsaw; if one piece is missing, the jigsaw is incomplete. This is the same for people living in poverty; take one of our rights away and you threaten them all. You can’t give people their rights bit by bit and expect them to improve things for themselves bit by bit too” – Young member of ATD Fourth World

### Aim

---

This group activity can act as an energiser but its main role is to increase awareness of the scope and indivisibility of human rights.



#### Time needed

Approximately 30 minutes



#### Resources needed

Card/cardboard (or plywood),  
about 1 to 1.5 metres long

Paint

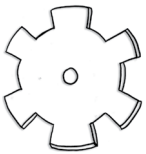
Markers

Cutter (or fretsaw)



#### Group size

Up to 30 people



### Step-by-step description

---

#### *Preparation:*

1. Paint a side of the cardboard (or wood) in a different colour than the other.
2. Make a drawing or painting of a person or a group of people on one side. Draw jigsaw pieces (five or six) over the painting and cut up the painting.
3. Turn all pieces around and write an article (simplified if necessary) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on each piece.

#### *Exercise:*

4. When the participants enter the room, give each of them a piece of the puzzle. Some might receive two or more, depending on the group size. Explain that all of them have received one (or more) human right, but that you need all of them to be a complete person.
5. Ask the participants one by one to read out what is on their piece and explain (or ask someone to explain).
6. When all pieces are read, invite the participants to make a whole person out of these articles by turning the pieces around and putting them together to complete the jigsaw.
7. When the jigsaw is finished, discuss why human rights are important, and what they mean in practice.

## Reflection and evaluation

---

- ▶ Did you understand the human right on your piece?
- ▶ What do you think it means to you in practice?
- ▶ Do you think human rights are important? Why or why not?

Have you ever had the feeling your rights were being violated? If one right is violated or is inaccessible for an individual, what would be the effect on the individual's other rights? Over the long term, what would be the consequences of living without one or some of your human rights? What is the relationship between our human rights and our human dignity?

## Some further tips

---

When using this exercise to start a training course, you might also give one piece to each of the participants at the end of the day so that, on the next day of the course, everyone can start putting the jigsaw together again. People will remember what they were working on and, additionally, you can see if everyone is present.

At the end of the activity you could give each participant a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (to keep if possible) and ask them to take a few minutes to read the preamble, or alternatively, ask someone who is willing to read out the preamble to the group and the first three articles that together establish the link between human rights and human dignity.

