

## GOAL 16: PEACE & JUSTICE

### Conflict and the Global Arms Trade

#### INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?

The Global Goals are a great way to engage students in global justice issues. As WWGS is a Global Citizenship Education programme-it's important to use the Global Goals targets and thematic areas that are relevant to global justice. The Peace and Justice Goal covers a lot of ground. As with every theme, it's important to get to the root causes of issues of conflict and violence and build peace wherever and whenever we can.

Toni Pyke's blog <https://developmenteducation.ie/blog/2017/09/peace-look-like/> helps to get your thinking started on it. Toni reminds us that "the world continues to spend enormous resources on creating and containing violence but very little on peace", and that over the last decade the world is becoming less peaceful.

The world cannot afford war. People cannot stand by while the numbers of war and environmental refugees soar, while poverty spreads like an epidemic and money for education, health, job training and other needed services are stolen to pay for weapons.

Conflict is an issue that we cannot seem to escape, whether it be a personal disagreement or turning on the news to hear about wars that are taking place in the world. Peace and stability are central to sustainable development. Whilst some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence often propped up by arms being supplied by countries not directly involved in the conflict. Not to mention proxy wars-wars instigated by a major powers which do not themselves become involved.

Violence and insecurity affect economic growth and likewise economic growth can cause violence and insecurity! Both can often result in long standing grievances that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

#### STEP 1: Identify Target Group

##### SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS:

Religious Education, English, Music, CSPE, Politics and Society, History, Economics, Geography

#### STEP 2: Pick a Global Theme

##### GLOBAL GOAL INDICATOR:

**Target 16.1:** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

**Target 16.4:** Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

**Target 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

**Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

**Target 16.8** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

#### SUGGESTED AREA OF FOCUS:

1. War and Conflict-root causes
2. Global Arms Trade
3. Fair Institutions
4. Representative Decision Making
5. Laws & Policies on Sustainable Development.

### STEP 3: Explore Theme-TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS:

When exploring any theme, be sure to read for guidance on the approach:

- **WWGS How to Guide** <http://www.worldwiseschools.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GCE-How-to-guidebook-web.pdf>
- Teaching for sustainable development through ethical global issues pedagogy: <https://globaldimension.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-teaching-complex-global-issues-resource-for-secondary-teachers/>

A good starting point for exploring this issue is looking at the news. The students will gain a lot from exploring and digging deep into the nuisances of a current conflict or war.

A selection of resources on this theme can be found here with activities and resources to help your students understand:

<http://www.worldwiseschools.ie/resource-item/goal-16-peace-justice/>

Development Perspectives have a very good overview of the Peace and Justice goal <https://www.developmentperspectives.ie/SDGChallenge/InformationPacks/SDG%2016%20Peace,%20Justice%20and%20Strong%20Institutions%202020.pdf>

The NYCI have a good selection of activities you can do with students:

<https://www.youth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/PeaceJusticeSDGsResource-Web.pdf>

#### Short Video Clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e0a7rpp1sw>

#### Podcasts:

<https://www.ipsc.ie/the-palestine-podcast>

#### Blogs:

<https://developmenteducation.ie/blog/2017/09/peace-look-like/>

#### ORGANISATIONS:

- Contact AFRI for good workshops on Peace and Conflict [www.afri.ie](http://www.afri.ie)

### STEP 4: Students Sharing Learning

Have Peace Day Events in your school <https://www.peaceday.org/Main/>

## STEP 5: CREATE CHANGE

- Go to [www.Uplift.ie](http://www.Uplift.ie). This is a good platform to find out what grassroots campaigns are happening. You can also start your own campaign here too.
- [Ireland is now on the UN Security Council](#)-this is a great opportunity for us to influence peace around the world. Contact UN Ambassador Geraldine Byrne-Nason to express any concerns you have about peace and conflict in the world today-Email her at [ireland@un.int](mailto:ireland@un.int)
- **Campaign with the [Irish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign IPSC](#)** 'End the Irish Arms Trade with Israel'.
- [Campaign for tax justice](#) so much needed tax can be used for government spending therefore better distribution of resources therefore peace.
- Every campaign at your school should include:
  - Getting in touch with your local politicians - Make an appointment with your TD, phone, use emails and Twitter to contact them directly.
  - Facilitate discussion in your school and local community - Invite along local TDs and community members and start stimulating discussion on
  - Reach out to local business, civil society and NGOs and tell them about your learning and offer solutions.
  - Organise activities and demonstrations - it is important to increase the frequency and quality of media coverage on these issues
  - Encourage Discussion - Despite the many risks, issues of global inequality are still not very well known. Talk with your friends, family and community about these issues!
  - Use social media to share information –creating your own # on it. Have you heard any debates on the radio or news? If not, contact radio and TV broadcasters to ask for the debate to be publicised.