

Informal Education Programme for Young People on Living Wage

LENGTH: 60 MINUTES

AGES: FOR SCHOOL YEARS 3 AND UP

AIMS:

- To introduce the topic of Living Wage and demonstrate a connection between Living Wage and Liberal Judaism
- To demonstrate the values within Liberal Judaism that Living Wage connects to
- To have fun
- To think about the purpose of standing up for what you believe in

TRIGGER: (15mins)

To begin with get the group sitting in a circle. Use a Piece of string to visually divide the circle in two. Have two people opposite each other hold the string straight as to split the circle in half. Tell them that you are trying to work out what is fair that people who have a job should be able to afford. You will call something out and then the group have a minute to discuss which side of the line that product should be. (It is a similar game to Right Vs. Privilege). If they think the product is essential/fair/important for someone to be able to afford if they work they place the piece of paper with a picture of the thing on one side of the string - if they think it is a luxury that isn't necessary they place it on the other side.

Somewhere to live/A really nice house/ A place big enough for their family/ A TV/ A Radio/ Sky TV/ a HD TV/ A mobile phone/a smart phone/ The internet/ A car/money to afford public transport/ Time to spend with your family/ Nutritious food/take away food/ fresh fruit/ Cinema tickets/ theatre tickets/ tickets to sport events/cake/the freedom to have only one job

Feel free to add other items as you go through the discussion. By the end we should have a visual representation of the difference between what the group believes is fair for people who work to be able to afford and what is considered a luxury. Try and draw out these conclusions – and talk about what minimum wage is. Minimum Wage is £6.60 an hour, explain how today we are going to talk about something called Living Wage, but first we are going to play a game.

METHOD: (30 mins)

Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament

Explain that you are going to have a Rock, Paper Scissors Tournament. Draw up a mock tournament draw. Write people's names down on a piece of paper and have an official draw to see who is playing who. Explain the rules and clarify what beats what and when you show (on three or after three). Every duel is best of three and to make sure people don't lose interest if they get knocked out, it is the responsibility of the person who has lost to become the chief supporter of the person who has beaten them. The competition should culminate with two people left and equal number of people cheering on either competitor.

The winner of each tournament is given monopoly money; the runner up is given some as well. You can give 20 to the winner and 10 for the runners up.

Repeat the tournament three times. Inform people that those with monopoly money will be able to purchase some sweets at the end of the final game. Finish the third tournament and go round and ask people how much money they have earned over the three tournaments. Set a price for your sweets and sell them to the winners. Hopefully by this point you might get some "that is not fair" comments- feel free to play a part and propagate this feeling by being extra nice to the winners.

Return to a circle.

DISCUSS HOW THIS GAME RELATES TO LIVING WAGE AND EARLIER DISCUSSION

- Is this a game of luck?
- Did you feel that it was fair how people got rewarded considering this is a game of chance?
- How did the winners feel? Did they deserve what they got?
- How did the losers feel? Was it fair?
- Is this in anyway like real life?
- Is it fair that some people have to work two jobs?
- Is there luck involved in how our lives turn out?
- If a lot of the opportunities we get in life are luck, how should we reward those who have bad luck?

Talk about how minimum wage isn't always enough for people to live on. Which is why lots of people (Liberal Judaism included) are committed to something called the Living Wage) The Living Wage is £8.80 in London and a little bit less outside of London – The idea behind the campaign is that people should be able to afford certain things,

be able to spend time at home and lead a life of dignity. Raising the wage ensures security and peace of mind for those receiving it.

Do you think the Living Wage is fair?

[SIKKUM](#): (summary) (12 mins)

Split the group in two. Tell them they have five minutes to look at the quote they have been given (one group is given A and one group is given B). Group A is told they have to argue for a Living Wage from this biblical source, whilst group B is told they have to argue for a Living Wage from the more modern Lily Montagu Source. (You might want to recap on who Lily Montagu was, depending on the group you are working with. Depending on the age of the group, you might want to help them formulate their points more or less.

A. *[Leviticus 19:13]*

Do not oppress your neighbour and do not rob him. Do not keep the wages of the worker with you until morning.

B. Lily Montagu, *'The Girl in the Background'*, 1904

*They peep down the abyss in which the underfed, the ill-housed, and badly clothed work out their life's drama, and then they turn their energies to surface polishing. They try to make their girls conduct themselves well in the clubs, and interest them and amuse them as best they can during their evening's leisure. But they are inclined to ignore the industrial life; they like to forget the grim truth that if girls work for less than a **living wage**, in a vitiated atmosphere, they are not likely to become the strong, self-controlled women whom we desire the clubs to train...*

After 5 minutes, the groups come together and discuss for 5 minutes which source they feel gives more validation to the Living Wage campaign. The final two minutes are spent summarising the discussion and showing that we should be using both sources to back up our points of view.

(3 minute tidy up)

[RESOURCES](#):

- String/ Paper/ Monopoly money/ Sweets for Prizes