



Groupwork Programmes with Gangs

Building on the success of the pilot phase of the Gangs and Territorialism project, *Leap* is continuing to work in partnership with projects working with gangs and antagonistic groups of young people. Partnership Projects will combine the specialist skills of local practitioners and the *Leap* team to devise a programme appropriate to the local context. We have found inter-agency work to be a key to success in our past projects and offer adults training as well as coaching and delivery opportunities.

Benefits of past Partnership Projects include:

- **Reduced levels of conflict and violence in the lives of young people that we work with**
 - "It will make me think before I react" (responses from young people)
 - "I learnt that fighting is not the way to solve problems"
- **Increased skills and confidence amongst young people to take leadership in their communities in new ways**
 - participating in an active gang-focussed programme which facilitates young people to address their own conflicts in creative ways builds self confidence; builds transferable skills which can be used to address a range of conflicts; challenges violence, resignation and despair; offers experience through which young people can grow and mature.
- **Increased skills and confidence of local practitioners to engage in active confronting conflict work**
 - training in understanding the dynamics of gang conflicts and territorialism challenges fear and prejudice; enhances confidence in dealing with young people; offers tools and techniques for reaching severely marginalised youth; inspires new local opportunities to meet local needs.

Costs

The Gangs and Territorialism Project is able to offer two specialist gangs workers free of charge. We would hope that projects would be able to fund other project costs, e.g. *Leap* worker expenses, activities, room/equipment hire.

For more information please contact Jessie Feinstein

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