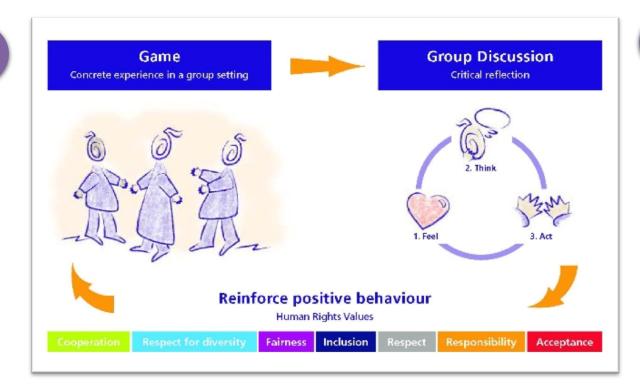
### **Equitas' Educational Approach with Children and Youth**

1

Children and youth participate in activities that promote human rights values (e.g. respect for diversity, equality, fairness, inclusion, acceptance).



2

They discuss how an activity made them **feel**, what it made them **think** about, and what they can change (act) in their own attitudes and behaviours (and those of their peers).

Together they **take action** to promote greater understanding, respect and inclusion in their classrooms, school playgrounds and community.

### Equitas' work across Canada contributes to building inclusive, equitable and safer communities where children and youth are taking leadership to promote respect for diversity and human rights

Building children and youth leadership means supporting the development of attitudes, behaviours, knowledge and skills that enable children and youth to participate in positive social change in their communities. Equitas develops children and youth leadership through a collaborative and participatory process that is grounded in a human rights-based approach and promotes the values of inclusion, equality and non-discrimination.

Equitas works to shift attitudes & behaviours, build individual & organizational capacity, and strengthen networks that are crucial to systemic shifts that reinforce inclusive, equitable, and safer communities.

# Educate Building attitudes, knowledge & skills

## **Empower Creating opportunities**

Change
Contributing to inclusive, equitable,
safer Canadian communities

Children and youth (including those who face barriers to participation: newcomers & refugees; girls & young women; Aboriginal children & youth; LGBTQI children & youth; children & youth in care).

Promoting:

- Human rights values
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Gender equality
- Local and global issues
- Leadership & life skills (e.g., critical thinking, conflict resolution, active citizenship)

#### Partner organizations and institutions

(e.g. CBOs, municipalities, schools). Promoting:

- Human rights values
- Gender equality
- Rights and responsibilities
- Integration of human rights education and participatory approach into programming to support child and youth leadership & participation (e.g., Community Action process)

- Capacity-building (e.g., offline & online training, educational tools, coaching & evaluation support)
- Children and youth-led Community
   Action Projects (incl. mentorship and engagement with decision makers)
- Networking and convening spaces for children and youth, partner organizations, and decision-makers to connect, share ideas, good practices, and develop solutions to community issues

- Increased participation & leadership of children and youth who face barriers in communities (including newcomers & refugees; girls & young women; Indigenous children & youth; LGBTQI children & youth; children & youth in care) taking action on issues that impact on their lives
- Increased ability for partner organizations to respond to emerging community issues through their programming with children and youth (e.g., bullying, exclusion, discrimination, violence)
- Strengthened collaboration between decision-makers, children and youth and community members to create strategies to respond to emerging issues affecting children and youth (e.g. Truth and Reconciliation, integration of refugees, gender inequality, safe and inclusive communities)
- More effective communities of practice supporting children and youth rights, wellbeing and heathy development

#### **Decision-makers and community**

**members** (e.g. government officials, children's advocates, management and boards of CBOs, academia, media, families).

Promoting:

- Children's rights and human rights-based approaches, gender equality
- •Integrating principles of participation and the best interests of the child into decision-making processes

We define 'children' as those aged 6-12 and 'youth' as those aged 13-24, in line with the UN definition

#### **Indicators of change include:**

- Children and youth have the attitudes, behaviours, increased skills and knowledge, to participate and make more informed decisions about their future
- Emerging young leaders have increased knowledge about community issues, human rights, gender equality and how to take action to educate their peers and address issues with decision makers in their community
- Organizations have increased access to learning opportunities to build knowledge and capacity in promoting human rights, gender equality, and children and youth participation and leadership in communities
- Changes in partnerships reflect more collaboration and strategic implementation of human rights education and opportunities for children and youth participation and leadership
- Partners and stakeholders are more engaged in a community of practice to explore new solutions and solve problems in the community/national level
- Children and youth, partners, have an increased motivation to engage with decision makers and community members to take action on an issue for social change

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets that Equitas' work in Canada contributes to: (for indicators for targets see here)

#### SDG #4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

#### SDG #5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- **5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

#### SDG #10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

#### SDG #11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

#### SDG #16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- **16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements