



# Youth Rights in a Pandemic

Activities and resources for exploring youth rights in a rapidly changing landscape

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# Human Rights Quiz

An activity to develop knowledge of human rights.



# Instructions

The following slides will address some questions related to human rights. Please share the answer you think is best in the chat.



# The Youth Criminal Justice Act applies to youth at what age?

- A) Younger than 18 years old
- B) Younger than 19 years old
- C) Younger than 21 years old

**Answer: A) Younger than 18 years old**

The Youth Criminal Justice Act applies to youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who break laws passed by the federal government. For example, crimes such as theft, drug dealing, violence and bullying are punishable under the law.

# If a youth is arrested by a police officer, is the youth entitled to know why?

A) Yes

B) No

Answer: **A) Yes**

The police may only arrest someone if they think that they have committed a crime. The police must tell youth of their rights immediately upon detention. If a youth is arrested, the police they have to tell them why they are being arrested. A youth has the right to know the reason for their arrest in clear, understandable language, and the youth is entitled to ask a police officer calmly to explain the reason for the arrest. The police also must immediately advise the young person of their rights to speak with a lawyer and to remain silent. Youth also have the right to contact their parents or guardian and have them present when they talk to the police.

# Can police officers ask a young person for an ID card during an arrest?

A) Yes

B) No

Answer: A) Yes

The police may ask for an ID card, but in Canada, as in some other countries, there is no official ID card required by law that people must carry. The youth may not be carrying identification. It is important for all youth to provide their true identity (i.e. first and last names, address, date of birth, phone number, etc.) and to cooperate while under arrest. Lying about your identity is a criminal offence. Youth do not have to answer any other questions and they have a right to say nothing further to the police. Young people should be cautious about providing any information beyond their name because anything they say to the police could be used against them in any court proceedings that may arise.

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# Do youth have the right to remain silent during an arrest?

A) Yes      B) No

Answer: **A) Yes**

After a youth has provided their identification information to police upon arrest, they have the right to remain silent. This right provides protection against self-incrimination. The youth does not have to say anything to the police and it is usually best to stay quiet even if the police continue to ask questions. The police can record anything an individual under arrest says and they sometimes use audio or video recorders to do so. The young person has the right to ask for and to see a lawyer before speaking any further. Youth should remember that anything they say to the police can be used against them in court, and that they have the right to say nothing except to identify themselves. Youth also have the right to contact their parents or guardian and have them present when they talk to the police.



# Under what circumstances can the police ask you to identify yourself?

- A) You are under arrest
- B) You are being given a ticket
- C) You are driving a motor vehicle
- D) ) You are a minor and under the influence of alcohol
- E) You are in a public place at night
- F) You are riding public transportation with a reduced-fare
- G) All of the above

Answer: **G) All of the above**

While circulating in a public place at night, refusing to identify yourself could get you charged with loitering according to certain regulations. During the pandemic, the new regulations for giving tickets mean that people may be asked to identify themselves more often.

# Are police required to identify themselves to youth during an arrest?

A) Yes

B) No

Answer: **A) Yes**

Police are required to identify themselves to everyone, including their names and badge numbers, usually on their vests.

# Discussion



How did this activity make you feel?



Did you know about these rights? Why is important to know your rights?



How can we educate other youth about these rights?



# How Violent?

An activity to think about violence, its manifestations and its consequences during the pandemic.



# Consider the following:

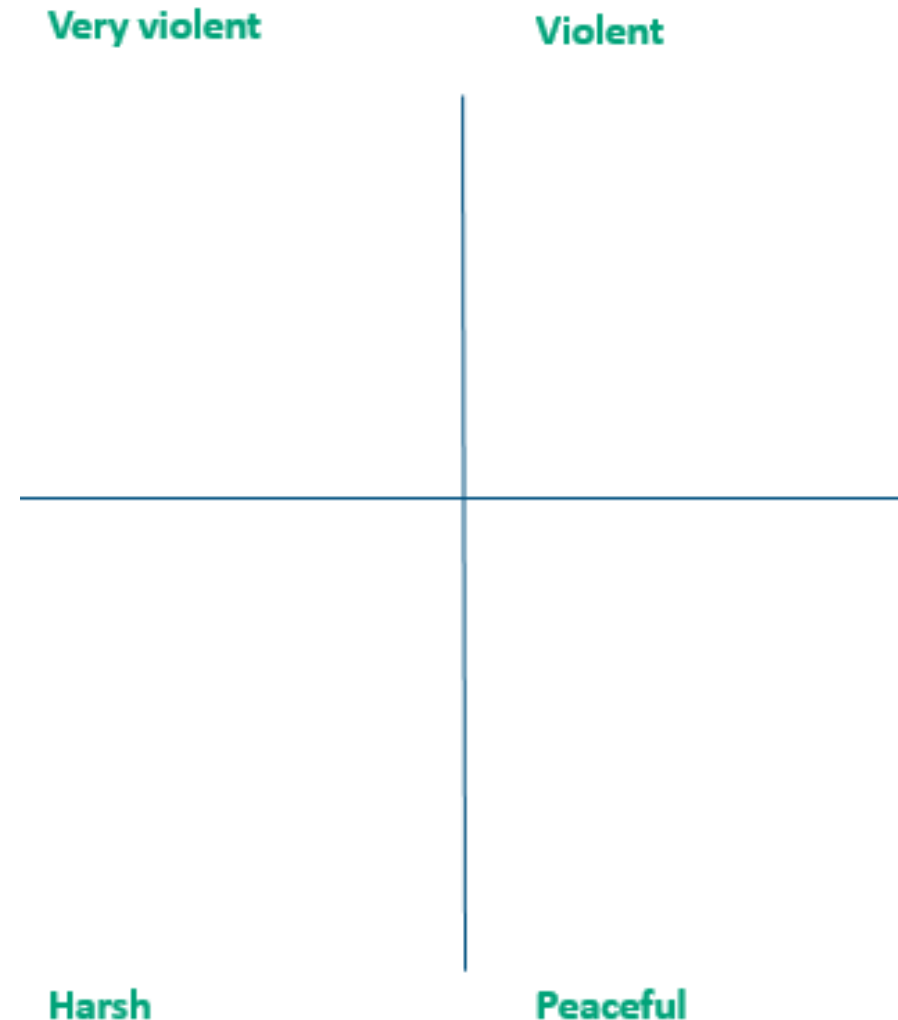
What are some ways your world has changed during the pandemic? How has your "virtual" world and your "physical" world changed?

How has your sense of safety changed within the virtual and physical worlds you inhabit?



# Instructions

The following slide will contain statements. Please consider how violent the statement feels to you and place the number of the statement in the corresponding quadrant, using Zoom's 'annotate' function.



Very violent

Violent

1. Asking to borrow money
2. Being given a ticket for violating physical distancing
3. Being stopped by the police
4. Being made to return to work without hazard pay or Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
5. Virtual meeting hacking (aka Zoom bombing)
6. Being ghosted
7. Sneezing or coughing without covering your face
8. Having someone eavesdrop on your conversations
9. Defying stay-at-home orders/ physical distancing measure to meet a friend at the park
10. Defying stay-at-home orders/physical distancing measures to play a game of soccer in the park
11. Protesting stay-at-home orders
12. Getting angry and slamming your bedroom door
13. Ignoring your parent or guardian when they are talking to you
14. Graffitiing the side of a building
15. Sharing a private photo or video of someone online without their permission
16. Writing a negative post about your ex on social media
17. Asking someone to prove their address
18. Giving police extra-ordinary powers
19. Cyber-bullying someone
20. Calling the police on a group of people sitting in a park
21. Reporting individuals to COVID "reporting" lines
22. Being kicked out of your home because you can't afford rent
23. Being forced to turn your camera on during a virtual meeting

Harsh

Peaceful



# Group discussion



Was it difficult to decide where to place your statements? Why?



Why do you think participants felt differently about how violent some of the statements were?



What can you do to create a greater sense of safety in your community during the pandemic?





# Resources

For immediate assistance:

- Kid's Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 (Confidential and free phone support for youth)
- [Ending Violence Association of Canada Resources](#) (Repository of federal and provincial resources)

For additional sources on how pandemic restrictions are impacting human rights:

- BC Civil Liberties – [Your Rights in a Pandemic](#)
- Migrant Rights – [Digital guide](#)
- [Children's rights suffer under pandemic restrictions](#)

For some additional sources on racism:

- [Many have written to the specific racialized experience of COVID-19](#)
- [This brilliant resource to support black youth: Black Legal Action Center](#)
- [Talking to kids about race](#)
- [Anti-racism resources](#) for white people

