

October 2017

# FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

## 1. Think about safety

Hold your event/ activities in a space which is physically and emotionally safe for the girls you are inviting. Make sure girls can arrive and get home safely.

## 2. Be flexible

Consider the time of day to ensure girls can attend without missing school, work or responsibilities in the home. Acknowledge that girls' time is important and valuable.

## 3. Not all girls are the same

Consider girls' ages, development stages and capacity to engage in the activities you are running. It may be useful to have a variety of activities or ways for girls to engage. Make sure each girl has a chance to share or ask questions (even the quiet ones!)

## 4. Gain consent

Ensure you have consent from girls and their parents before running your activities. If you are engaging girls who are vulnerable this will require extra levels of care and preparation.

## 5. Be sensitive

Talking about issues such as child marriage may be difficult and upsetting for some girls. Consider doing some warm up activities so everyone feels relaxed and is aware that everyone has different experiences and reactions. Consider girls' mental health and psycho-social needs by making sure girls feel comfortable, giving them an option to step-out at any point and providing them with support if needed.

## 6. Ensure staff are equipped

Make sure staff are confident in facilitating discussions around sensitive issues and know how to react if a girl becomes upset and requires additional support. Having an approachable female member of staff on hand who is able to fulfil this role is a good idea.

## 7. Treat girls as powerful agents of change, make sure you follow up after the activities and make sessions fun and informative.