



## Possible challenges

**Building a safe and supportive environment to discuss sensitive issues**

**Keeping the momentum going and keeping the group engaged and active over the time period**

## Suggested approaches/strategies

- Use of exercises and activities to create a 'safe space' before the core work starts

- Clear communication and reminders about times of meetings
- Supporting young people to attend the sessions
- Young people creating their own WhatsApp groups to remain in contact and remind others to join sessions
- Being flexible and adapting - showing the young people that you are listening to them and trying to meet their needs
- Going where the young people want to go
- Showing how young people's contributions have an impact
- Working together with young people to find solutions
- Being clear that there is a start and end to the project and concrete products that young people have responsibility over
- Providing remuneration

## Possible challenges

Frustrations in the group when people miss sessions and the difficulties of them then 'catching up'

Catering to different needs/ interests/ ages in the group

Losing people due to the sensitive nature of the project

The exclusion of certain groups from participating

## Suggested approaches/strategies

- Being clear that everyone can make a contribution
- Determining that it is ok to have a 'core group' and those who can also contribute as and when they can

- Being flexible

- Providing support and supervision for participating young people (e.g. weekly supervision with project staff, a project worker always accessible to young people who they know they can speak to)

- Mediating between service providers and the community, having a focal person, especially when working with minoritised groups and communities



## Possible challenges

The 'taboo' nature of sexual violence when working in conservative countries

That even though young people are developing and learning, teachers and other professionals may not have the knowledge or understanding to support them

The challenge of recognising young people's rights to protection and participation

## Suggested approaches/strategies

- Acknowledge this and 'start from where your country is at'
- Put the ground work in where possible with other professionals

- More specialist training, roll out of learning/resources to wider audiences

- Joint risk assessments with professionals and young people together exploring potential risks and challenges



