

CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE



Kummissarju għat-Tfal
Commissioner for Children



LEGAL AID
MALTA

LESSON PLAN 2

The **Office of the Commissioner for Children** works to promote and protect the rights of all children, as outlined in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. In collaboration with the **Legal Aid Malta Agency**, the Office is raising awareness about children's rights within the justice system.

Children may come into contact with the justice system in different ways, whether as victims, witnesses, or when accused of a crime. In every case, children's rights must be respected. They must be given the support they need, treated fairly, and protected from harm.

The justice system can often be intimidating and confusing for children. Many find themselves in situations they do not fully understand, and without the right support, this experience can be overwhelming. In response to this, the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Legal Aid Malta Agency have developed this Child-friendly Justice Toolkit to promote a justice system that upholds the rights and needs of every child.

The toolkit includes:

- A series of **four educational videos** that explain key aspects of the justice system in a way that is accessible and engaging for children.
- Two lesson plans designed to accompany the videos and encourage classroom discussion on children's rights.



This toolkit is built on the **core principles** as outlined by the Council of Europe. All justice processes involving children must be:

- **Accessible** – ensuring all children can seek and obtain help and support.
- **Age-appropriate** – using language and approaches that children can understand.
- **Speedy** – reducing delays that can negatively impact children's well-being.
- **Diligent** – treating every case involving a child with care and professionalism.
- **Adapted** to and **focused** on the needs of the child – prioritising the child's best interests.
- **Respecting** the right to due process – guaranteeing fairness, legal safeguards and action in a timely manner.
- **Respecting** the right to participate in and to understand the proceedings – empowering children to be heard and to meaningfully engage.
- **Respecting** the right to private and family life – protecting children's privacy and supporting family involvement where appropriate.
- **Respecting** the right to integrity and dignity – ensuring every child is treated with respect, safety, and compassion.

The Office of the Commissioner for Children expresses sincere thanks to all educators for their continued support in promoting children's rights.

LESSON PLAN CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE



Level: year 1 to year 11

Timing: 45 minutes to 1 hour

Resources: Videos, A3 blank papers, markers

1 - Learning Outcomes:



- ✓ **Identify** at least two adult roles within the justice system.
- ✓ **Understand** children's rights in the justice system as a victim, witness or accused.
- ✓ **Reflect** critically on the importance of fairness, cooperation, and listening to children's voices

2 - Learning Intention:



- ✓ I can **understand** the different roles adults (such as lawyers, social workers, judges, parents/guardians, and police officers) play in protecting children's rights and how child-friendly justice works.

3 - Success Criteria:



- ✓ I can **name** and **explain** the role of at least two adults in the justice system
- ✓ I can contribute ideas and reflect on the importance of children's rights
- ✓ I can name professionals that help protect children's rights.

4 - Keywords:



Rights
Justice
Professionals
Court

5 - Introduction: 10 minutes



- ✓ Start the lesson by **reminding** your students that during the previous lesson you discussed children's rights in the justice system focusing on fairness, listening, respect, and safety for children.
- ✓ **Ask** your students to share **one word or idea** they remember from the previous lesson. Write these on the board.
- ✓ **Inform** your students that this lesson will focus on the adults responsible to make the justice system child-friendly.
- ✓ **Show** Video entitled Adults Responsible.

6 - Discussion: 25 minutes

- ✓ **Ask** the students to work in groups of three or four, provide them with A3 blank sheets of paper and ask them to draw an outline of an adult.



- ✓ **Ask** them to discuss between them and write down the qualities adults should have to help children in the justice system.
- ✓ **Use** these questions to help children engage in discussion:
 - What **qualities** should an adult in the justice system have?
 - Why is it important for adults to **listen** to children and everyone involved?
 - How can adults help make the justice system **safe** and **fair**?
 - How do adults in the justice system make people feel **respected** or **understood**?
- ✓ **Ask** each group to share some of their ideas in the whole group.

1 - Role of Adults: 10 minutes

- ✓ **Explain** to your students that there are a number of adults who are responsible for the protection of children's rights in the justice system. These include lawyers, social workers, judges, parents/guardians, and police officers. They all have different roles to support children.
- ✓ **Show** video entitled Role of Professionals.
- ✓ **Process** the video and ask if anything stood out to them in the video.

Conclusion: Recap the key points

- ✓ **What** did we learn today?
- ✓ **Why** is it important for adults to protect children's rights in the justice system?
- ✓ Following all the information you have received and discussions, what do you **think** is the most important quality an adult should have when working in the justice system, and why?
- ✓ **Who** can children ask for help?

Follow-up Activity (Optional)

Child- friendly Justice Chain – Give each student a strip of paper, ask them to write one quality an adult in the justice system should have (as discussed in the lesson). Link the strips together to form a 'Justice Chain' showing how all the qualities connect to make the system stronger.

