THE WASHROOM GAME

Age: 6-15
Group Size: 15+
Duration: 30 minutes

Overview
Simulating visa and immigration policies and practice to engage children to reflect on the challenges when applying for visas.

Objectives
- Explore visa application challenges
- Understand that rules are not the same for everyone

Materials
- 3 Tables and chairs
- Post-its (Green and Red)
- A4 Papers and markers

Preparations
- Block the entrance of the room or open space where the activity is going to take place with 3 tables and put the chairs behind the table to look like a formal interview setting.
- In front of the table, put a visible or large sign that reads ‘Washroom Application Point’, in another part of the room put another sign that says, ‘Washroom Officer’ and in another corner of the room/space, put a sign that reads ‘Washroom’.

Step-by-step instructions
1. Explain to participants that they are going to play a game about accessing the washroom. Set aside three of the participants to act as the interviewers at the washroom application point and one participant to act as the washroom officer. (These roles could also be played by facilitators.)
2. To get to the washroom, all participants need to go through the Washroom Application Point and be interviewed. Whether or not they pass the interview will depend entirely on the person interviewing them. The interviewer can ask the participants the following questions:
   - Why do you want to use the washroom?
   - Have you ever used the washroom before?
   - How long do you plan to use the washroom?
   - How can you prove that if we allow you to use the washroom, you are going to leave the washroom after using it?
   - Any other question that the interviewer will like to ask.
3. If the interviewer thinks that the participant has answered the questions rightly, and grants them a pass to use the washroom, they will give the participant a green post-it. If the interviewer does not grant the participant a pass to the washroom, they will be given a red post-it. Participants with green post-its will take it to the Washroom Officer who will examine it and allow them to use the washroom while participants with red post-its will have to return home.

Debriefing
- How did you feel participating in the activity?
- Do you think that you answered all the questions correctly? Where these questions necessary?
- Was your application to use the washroom accepted or rejected? Why?
- How did it feel to really want to use the washroom but not being able to?
- Were the people conducting the interview nice to you?
- Do you know of situations in real life where despite meeting all the requirements, your application is still rejected?