

# SPACESHIPS

## Instructions for facilitators

**NOTE:** The activity alternates moments of narration from the facilitator with moments of action. The different phases are marked by **N for narration** or **A for action**.

### N:

- It is the year 2318 and the world has been overpopulated for centuries. Natural resources have long been used up and humans live in awful conditions: The survival of the species is under serious threat.
- Scientists have been working on ways to preserve humanity and in the past few years a new plan has been set by Earth United Confederation, the global government. The Jupiter moons have been studied, explored and new space-cities have been built there by robots: The time has come to send a group of human settlers to each of them to build new societies.
- **Spaceships will be leaving to the moons soon and today the crews will be enlisted.**
- In order to create consistent and cohesive societies, the crews will be formed according to morality and shared beliefs. In each spaceship you will find a few sentences that explain the foundations of each society. Choose where you want to be enrolled according to how deeply you believe in the sentences displayed in the spaceship.
- But beware: There is a maximum number of people that can join each crew, so whenever you come to a decision, sit next to the poster you have chosen because when a spaceship is already full, you must choose another one.

### A:

- Give the participants 5 to 10 minutes (depending on the size of the group) to look at the posters and to choose where to sit.
- Once the groups are formed and sat down, each group has to come up with a name and a motto for their spaceship and write them down (15 minutes).

### N:

- The spaceships need to be prepared for launch. Adjust your seats in a circle. Everybody needs to sit down. Hold hands with your crew mates, close your eyes and concentrate. At the end of the countdown the ships will leave the Earth and all of you will enter hibernation. You will sleep throughout the journey.
- 10 ... 9 ... 8 ... 7 ... 6 ... 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1
- The ships are in space. [PAUSE]
- The journey begins. [PAUSE]
- Everyone is sleeping. [PAUSE]
- BAM! [Make a loud noise either shouting or beating something on a table]
- There is an unexpected emergency: The ships have taken a dangerous route and have now entered the Asteroid Belt that lies between Mars and Jupiter. The ships are built to resist the damage, but it is very important that all the settlers make it safely to the colony.  
**So, it is now necessary to tie yourselves safely to one another.**

**A:**

- Give the participants 5 minutes to tie themselves as closely as possible to each other and, if possible, to the chairs, tables or any other structure they are sitting close to. They have to use their clothes or any other personal item they have with them. An alternative might be the "human knot".

**N:**

- The Asteroid Belt has been safely passed. Now you have to free yourselves as quickly as possible, to get back to work.
- There is one rule: One cannot untie him/herself; you can just untie your neighbours.

**A:**

- Give 5 minutes to untie themselves.

**N:**

- Jupiter is quite close; in a few days the spaceships will reach their destination. Once you arrive at your designated colony, you have to be prepared for settling down and starting the new society you are responsible for. So, you now have to write your own constitution.
- **The Constitution needs to be structured as following:**
  1. The first chapter will be about "**Fundamental Principles**" and you will need to take inspiration from the sentences you were given at the beginning.
  2. The second chapter will cover the subject of "**Rights and Duties of the Citizens**". To write this section, you need to look back at the fundamental principles and convert them into practical laws that determine what the citizens are asked to do for society (duties) and what society will guarantee to them (rights).
  3. The third chapter will be about "**Government**": In this section you need to explain how this new society will be governed: Will it be a democracy? A monarchy? Will there be elections? A parliament? Who is going to have the right to vote?
  4. The last section will be about "**Behavioural Laws**" and will cover what is accepted and what is forbidden by the law.
- **Each section should include at least five and maximum eight articles**, so pay attention to what you are going to put inside it: It is necessary to keep things brief and clear in order not to forget anything. Also keep in mind that, in case of disagreement, you need to decide how to proceed in order to still be able to decide what to include and what to leave out.

**A:**

- Participants are given 90 minutes to write down the Constitution. Remind them that they should write it down on a poster or a large sheet, because it has to be visible for the following phases. When everyone has finished, ask them to hang up the Constitution close to the poster with the initial sentences.

**N:**

- A few years have passed, and each colony is living according to their Constitution. The Earth United Confederation has sent robots to build space highways and it is finally possible to move between colonies. This is a great opportunity: every society might acquire new citizens, but it is also a chance for every single person to go out and see what other societies have built on their moons.
- Each one of you can decide to do one thing: **Either stay in your colony, set up a welcoming committee** that explains how things work in your hometown and try to win some new citizens among the travellers; **or leave the colony to discover different societies.**

**A:**

- Allow a couple of minutes to decide what to do.
- Then ask the travellers to stand up and start their journey. Travellers have about 15 minutes to go around, read other Constitutions and talk to other people about their own society.
- Then ask everyone to go back to their colony and to sit down.
- If no one stands up, skip the following phases up to the last narration and action. If no-one remains in one or more societies, keep the activity going as it is.

**N:**

- Travellers have discovered new worlds. **It is now time to decide whether to stay on the moon you first arrived at, with the people you travelled with, or if you want to move somewhere else.** Maybe on a different moon you found a Constitution that is closer to your beliefs, one that contains principles you recognise as your own. You may choose to move to the society you like best, be it the one you joined a long time ago and helped building or a new one that maybe fits you better.
- You will now have one minute: You should remain in silence, close your eyes and think about what to do. *[One-minute pause]* Now the ones who want to change society will stand up and move to their destination.

**A:**

- Allow a couple of minutes for people to change position.
- Ask the new groups to shake hands with each other.

**N:**

- It is now time to recognise the society you have chosen to live in front of your fellow countrymen/women. Each of you should sign the Constitution of the colony and say out loud **"I declare myself a citizen of [name of the colony]"**.
- Then, when everybody has finished, give yourself and your group a huge round of applause: Try to be louder than the other groups!

**A:**

- Allow a few minutes for the "declarations", then give the signal and allow for one minute of cheering to round off the activity.

## List of sentences

Adapted from the Treaty on European Union or Maastricht and the Lisbon Treaty (Sources: 1 to 6 taken from the Maastricht Treaty, 7 to 28 taken from the Lisbon Treaty)

1. Consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law.
2. Preserve peace and strengthen international security.
3. Improvement, in particular, of the working environment to protect the workers' health and safety.
4. Eager to deepen the solidarity among the peoples respecting their history, their culture and their traditions.
5. Determined to promote economic and social progress for people.
6. Reaffirming the goal of facilitating people's free movement.
7. Everyone has the right to life.
8. No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
9. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
10. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
11. Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal previously established by law. Everyone shall have the possibility of being advised, defended and represented.
12. Everyone has the right to have respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
13. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
14. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.
15. The right to marry and the right to found a family shall be guaranteed in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of these rights.
16. Everyone has the right to own, use, dispose of and bequeath his or her lawfully acquired possessions. No one may be deprived of his or her possessions, except in the public interest and in the cases and under the conditions provided for by law.
17. Everyone has the right to education.
18. Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.
19. The freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected.
20. The arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint. Academic freedom shall be respected.
21. Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.
22. Equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay.
23. Children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. They may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.
24. Every worker has the right to working conditions which respect his or her health, safety and dignity.

25. Every worker has the right to limitation of maximum working hours, to daily and weekly rest periods and to an annual period of paid leave.
26. The family shall enjoy legal, economic and social protection.
27. Everyone has the right of access to preventive health care and the right to benefit from medical treatment.
28. Everyone who has been charged shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

## Samples of posters

### POSTER 1

1. Everyone who has been charged shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
2. Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.
3. Children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. They may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.
4. Eager to deepen the solidarity between their peoples while respecting their history, their culture and their traditions.

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### POSTER 2

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
2. Everyone has the right to life.
3. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
4. Reaffirming the objective to facilitate the free movement of persons.

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### POSTER 3

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. Every worker has the right to limitation of maximum working hours, to daily and weekly rest periods and to an annual period of paid leave.
3. Equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay.
4. The freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected.

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### POSTER 4

1. Improvement in particular of the working environment to protect workers' health and safety.
2. Everyone has the right of access to preventive health care and the right to benefit from medical treatment.
3. Determined to promote economic and social progress for the people.
4. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

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### POSTER 5

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
2. Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.
3. Everyone has the right to education.
4. The family shall enjoy legal, economic and social protection.

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## POSTER 6

1. Every worker has the right to working conditions which respect his or her health, safety and dignity.
2. Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal previously established by law. Everyone shall have the possibility of being advised, defended and represented.
3. Everyone has the right to own, use, dispose of and bequeath his or her lawfully acquired possessions. No one may be deprived of his or her possessions, except in the public interest and in the cases and under the conditions provided for by law.
4. Consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law.

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## POSTER 7

1. Preserve peace and strengthen international security.
2. The right to marry and the right to found a family shall be guaranteed in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of these rights.
3. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
4. The arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint. Academic freedom shall be respected.

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