

Fearless Futures

UNLEARN INEQUALITY. TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

This is the only UK organisation running multi-week equality and leadership development programmes for girls in schools

Target groups:	Female students aged 14 to 18 years old, NEET young people, disengaged and disadvantaged learners, high achievers with low confidence, adults and companies
Focus:	Female student support and motivation

Objectives: The main inspiration for this school programme has been that ‘society does not afford girls and women the status, opportunities, representation or power that they deserve’. Issues such as the gender pay gap, women making up over half of the minimum wage workforce and relatively small numbers of women following STEM careers have driven this scheme. The sessions are delivered by ‘TrailBlazers’ – women who are experts in gender equality and social justice with expert communication skills and trained in pedagogy - who deliver the sessions in schools. Sessions can also be delivered to adults and companies: ‘they deal with issues head on, foster a culture of openness and offer support’.

Methodology: Trailblazers run multi-week equality and leadership development programmes for girls in schools. The two programmes (8-week Peer Power programmes and 13-week Peer Power Multipliers – which builds on the Peer Power programme) are delivered to groups of 12 girls, so that a safe space is developed, encouraging deep discussion and supporting confidence building. The programme helps girls to develop a deeper understanding of gender and its connected inequalities as well as develop confidence and leadership skills, through the development and delivery of a workshop to younger peers.

The main strength of this programme is that girls and young women are encouraged to learn, critically think and ‘become comfortable with the uncomfortable’, a needed skill to address ‘the confines of a world that wasn’t designed for so many of us’ (Alyssa Ordu, Fearless Futures). These sessions are held in the spirit of learning and participants are motivated to make mistakes in order to grow. A potential limitation is that these are only for girls and young women when gender equality is an issue for all genders.

Impact: ‘Courage, Knowledge, Power’: each programme is delivered to a group of 12 girls. In the peer power programme, they work to create a workshop that will be delivered to up to 36 girls who are younger than them. In the Peer Power multiplier, as well as creating and delivering a workshop to 36 girls, they will create two more workshops and deliver them to up to 72 girls. This spreads the message



of what they have learned and develops confidence and leadership skills. The programmes help girls to enhance their critical thinking, build confidence, grow resilience and refine their leadership abilities.

From participants:

'I've realised the importance of putting my opinion across and that I shouldn't be afraid to do this'

'I learnt from the peer workshop that it's very important to teach others and show them that they are worth more than they think they are'

'The programme gave me the ability to critically think about things through a gender lens, and an intersectional lens, and you cannot un-see that – you notice things every day that demonstrate inequality'

'Fearless Futures has made me realise that I am much more capable than I thought I was'

Conclusion:

The sessions empower girls and young women by educating them about gender inequalities in society and developing their leadership skills.

Contact:

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