

The Purim Spiel

For Shabbat

1 to 1.5 hours

Note to the facilitator: In order to familiarise yourself with some of the key issues that come up during this play, please read the attached document containing “background information” on worker rights.

Through this role-play activity, participants translate their knowledge of the characters and events of Purim as well as the realities of world trade into a modern-day (fun) trade re-enactment of Purim. This activity is “shabbat-friendly.”

1. Explain to participants that they are going to take part in a role play, based on the story of Purim, but adapted to the realities of world trade.
2. Hand out copies of the background information for the Purim Spiel and read this through with participants - this sets the scene for the spiel. - *Attached and from “Purim and Trade KS3&4” Education Resource, page 18.*
3. Split participants into 3 groups, each group performing 2 scenes. Tell participants which scenes their group will be doing and give them their relevant “information sheets”. Different participants will play the same character (e.g. Esther).
4. Let participants decide who should take which role in their scenes and then hand out the appropriate “Character Cards”. Using their individual “Character Cards” participants should decide how they will perform their scenes. - *Attached and from “Purim and Trade KS3&4” Education Resource, page 26-27.*
5. Participants will prepare their role play in their separate groups. Ensure everybody understands key terms associated with world trade that come up throughout such as fair-trade, a merger and child labour.

6. Start the activity. Participants who are not acting in a particular scene will be part of the audience.
7. Allow audience to ask questions after each scene, in particular scenes 1, 2 and 6. Participants acting in the scene will remain in character, with the audience having the opportunity to ask them what motivated their actions. The audience can also ask more general questions about certain issues such as how common the problem of low wages for factory workers is. As a facilitator, you should encourage discussion around issues about world trade.
8. Bring all the participants back together as one group and ask:
 - How does this Purim Spiel link to the story of Purim? See *“Background information for teachers” attached and page 6 in “Purim and Trade KS3&4”*
 - Do we persecute others unconsciously or indirectly, through the things we buy?
 - Does this force others to play by our rules?
 - How do you think we could be more conscious of the things we buy? See *“What can we do?” attached and page 16 in Purim and Trade KS3 & 4 Education Resource.*