

## ANALYZE THE NEWS REPORT

- ▶ Group/groups and/or identity /identities discussed in the news report

Syrians and Turks

- ▶ Approach adopted in the news report towards these groups and/or identities (based on stereotypes, generalisations, prejudice etc.)

The news report adopts an approach that is based on positive and negative generalisations regarding these identities. Two separate incidents, which took place in different cities, are lumped together in a way that would lead to discrimination between Syrians and Turks. The 'Syrian' identity is associated with street begging and exploitation of children while the 'Turkish' identity is associated with altruism and integrity. Forcing children into street begging is portrayed as a problem which is a natural part of the Syrian identity while the socio-economic factors driving the situation are ignored. A dangerous dichotomy of 'good vs. bad' and 'us vs. them' is created between their identities.

- ▶ The tone of the discourse (provocative, sarcastic, threatening, official, scientific etc.)

The news report uses a provocative style. Using phrases such as "Great sacrifice despite the freezing weather", "makes a scene", "forced into begging for hours", "Your help is priceless!" it appeals to the readers' sense of anger and sympathy.

## TOWARDS A NEW DISCOURSE AND DIALOGUE

- ▶ Sources of information and data that the news report is based upon

The news report does not indicate any data sources used in the report.

- ▶ Social, political and historical background (any past or current conflict and/or prejudice etc. between the groups)

The war which began in 2011 initiated an influx of migrants into Turkey, which had repercussions on social life. Both communities have prejudice against each other. There is a prejudice in Turkey that most Syrians would prefer to beg or force their children into street begging. There is a widespread division of 'us vs. them'. Societies are being compared with each other. Negative traits are attributed to the entire Syrian community. Syrians are held responsible for societal problems such as street begging

- ▶ Impact of channels which play a role in disseminating the discourse generated in the news report

This news report, which was published in a newspaper, which is an influential mass communication channel, may also have been shared on the newspaper's website or in social media. The news article and the discourse it generates, has the potential to reach print media readers as well as social media users affecting people from different age groups, professions and viewpoints.

- ▶ Possible impacts and implications of this discourse

This discourse leads to dissemination of a misconception that everyone who is engaged in street begging and forces their children into street begging is Syrian and / or a refugee. Such misconceptions could prevent identification of the root causes of problems such as the exploitation of children by associating such problems with certain groups. Such discourse would make it more difficult for different groups to come closer, start a dialogue and coexist as it creates a hierarchy of 'good and bad' and a dichotomy of 'us vs. them' between different identities.

## BUILD AN ALTERNATIVE DISCOURSE

- ▶ What aspects are overlooked and should be highlighted in this news report? (correcting inaccurate information, rights violations, historical facts etc.)

This news report presents two separate incidents together in order to compare two identities. Instead of making such a comparison, it should discuss the challenges and exploitation children face in both Batman and Istanbul due to the socioeconomic context. Child rights and intercommunal dialogue should be highlighted.

- ▶ How should an alternative perspective look like and what values should it be based upon? (human rights, coexistence, social cohesion, equality etc.)

A perspective which defends coexistence and diversity could be developed. A perspective that is based upon equality and children's rights could be adopted regarding the incident discussed in the news report. The issue could be discussed from the perspective of socioeconomic inequalities, child protection and equal access to opportunities in order to highlight the challenges that children are facing.

- ▶ Who would you like to reach with your alternative discourse? (youth, educators, public officials etc.)

I would like it to reach the general public. Therefore, I will be using tools and implementing a style that will enable me to address people from different age groups, professions and viewpoints.

- ▶ Which media are you going to use? (newspaper, social media, TV, concerts etc.)

I will be using social media and organize cultural-arts workshops which bring together disadvantaged children representing different identities.

- ▶ Your alternative discourse:

campaign hashtag: # \_\_\_\_\_  
#strongertogether, #childrencoexist,  
#childrencreatecoexistence

I could organise a campaign for children which brings together Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens.

The first sentences of the text you will be drafting to inform your target audience about your campaign (for example: awareness-raising activities in social media or within your organization)

It is our collective responsibility to leave children a world that is just and free of conflict. To achieve this, we need to learn to coexist and see our differences as an asset rather than a barrier.

## COOPERATE

- ▶ Who can be the possible partners in disseminating and increasing the impact of this discourse?

I can cooperate with teachers, parents and NGOs working with refugee children to both reach children and have a wider audience share this discourse. The impact of the campaign will grow as those involved include media professionals who are effective in disseminating discourse and as public officials working in the area of education support it.