

# TAPORI NEWSLETTER

Tapori is a worldwide friendship network which brings together children from different backgrounds who want all children to have the same chances. They learn from children whose everyday life is very different from theirs. They think and act for a fairer world by inventing a way of living where no one is left behind.



LEGAL IDENTITY

GENDER

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

RACISM

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With our Tapori Newsletter, we are inviting you focus on the injustices we see around us. We want to show that girls and boys can **change for the better certain situations** they encounter in their every day lives.

In many parts of the world, children hear insults thrown at their families, they hear criticism of themselves and their neighbourhoods. They are pushed aside, as if they were different, simply because **they live in poverty**.

Why are children living in poverty treated badly? Why such hatred against them? Why is there **aporophobia**?

## APORO- PHOBIA



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Hello, my name is Clara. I live in social housing, in **Parla**, Madrid. Many of the apartments are squatted because the families can't afford the rent. In some parts of our building, the paint is peeling, the doors don't lock. Everything looks run down. But still, it's our home.

Some people outside our neighbourhood look at us strangely. Once, in a shop, I heard a lady say that we're always causing trouble. I hid behind my Mum and wished I could just disappear. **We don't go out of our neighbourhood much but when we do, we try not to be seen. And that hurts too.**

In school, some kids make fun of me and say bad things about my family, about my neighbourhood. That gets me into fights, because I feel I have to stick up for my family. But that doesn't help, it just makes me feel more angry. I want to understand why this is going on, why people treat us like that, why do they insult us when they don't even know us.

**It's as if there's something different about me and my family. I look like everyone else,** but others make me feel different when they point their fingers at me, when they won't let me play with their own kids. They say I'm a bad influence on them. When they say rude things about my Mum and Dad, that makes me feel ashamed of them and I blame them for everything that is happening to me. **It upsets me not to understand why people do that.**

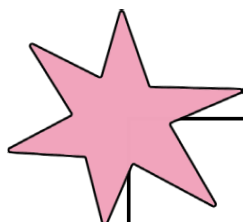
One day, one of the neighbours invited me to join a Tapori group. It took me a long time to make up my mind, because I thought it would be more of the same. But when I went that afternoon, **I felt something different.** It didn't matter that my clothes were old or that my family wasn't like the others. During the games, we were all equal. We laughed, we pushed each other around a bit, only playing, and when it was over, someone said, 'Next week, we'll meet here again, Clara. Don't miss out!'

I went home with such a big smile on my face that my Mum asked me what had happened. While she was washing the dishes I told her all about it. She gave me a kiss and said: **'You see? Sometimes, all it takes is a bit of courage, and you see you're not on your own.'**



# What do children think about...?

## POLITICS



**Benjamin**

EMAP/MUHUNGU

Politics is complicated. We have no roads or hospitals and teachers are badly paid.



**Grâce** aged 14

E'KABANA

I dream of policies that will ensure children's rights are respected, and that all children, rich or poor, can study in the best schools.



**Bénite** aged 11

KADUTU/Lumière

Politics is when people argue over what everyone should do.



**Jenovic** aged 14

GOMA

Politics is about having the authority to be listened to and convince others for the common good.