

SURVIVORS

- Young childwelfare developers

02.09.2016, NOFCA-meeting, Helsinki



Helena Inkinen

Survivors / Expert by experience
Skills to make a difference
Pesäpuu ry

"Let me believe in you while you work on believing in yourself."



Pesäpuu ry, Finland

- Centre of expertise in child welfare

Nationwide child welfare association bringing expertise to the field of child welfare.

The activities are for the public good, and our work is economically supported by the Slot Machine Association, RAY

VALUES:

The voice of a child
Permanent and safe relationships
Diversity is richness
Experiences are important
Belief in teamwork

Pesäpuu ry was founded in 1998



THE TEAM

- Skills to make a difference



Focus group consisting of youth around the ages 18-29

Varied backgrounds from child welfare

Some of the group members are still in child care while some have already started their independent life

THE AIM OF THE GROUP

- to develop child welfare in Finland on a national level
- help engaging young people in care more in their lives holding national youth forums for young people in care
- set up national network of local focus groups of young people in care
- promote the rights of children and young people in care in Finland.

TOOLS WE HAVE DEVELOPED

Me and My mates -feelings cards

We believe in you - you should too –material

Checkpoint* -cards





The purpose of Survivors -team is to improve the participation amongst the children and young people in child protection on three levels:

1.

We promote children's and youth's knowledge of their rights, so that they are able to be active participants in their own lives

2.

We use the knowledge and experience of youth to benefit other children and youth in child protection.

3.

We are building a national network of children and adults, who work together to promote the rights of children and youth in Finland.

Survivors-team co-operates with several national and international partners, as Ombudsman for Children in Finland, Welfare and Central Union for Child Welfare (in Finland) and Power4Youth.



YOUTH FORUMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- The peer support model by young people for young people

The forum offers space for

- peer experiences, feelings and thoughts
- sharing your life and everyday events



"Everybody has the right to dream!"



- Local and nationwide forums.
- The basic elements are permanent, but the themes and working methods differ depending on the people attending.
- The forums are well documented.
- The messages from young people are conveyed to adults and decision makers



The idea is to include young people in child care development.

"We do lots of exercises in small groups where there is always one member of the survivors in the group with 4-5 participants. Different kinds of exercises help them to go through their lives and at the same time makes it possible for us to collect their opinions on various things."

"We always work with the young people with their dreams, so that they get to realize the importance of dreams and think what their dreams are, and sometimes even set goals to strive for."



I am
important
and
unique

"Adults"

THE EFFECTS OF EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE



“Participation is stopping, seeing and hearing children's needs, thoughts and feelings”



VOIMA VAIKUTTAA!

- THE NETWORK OF YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS IN FINLAND



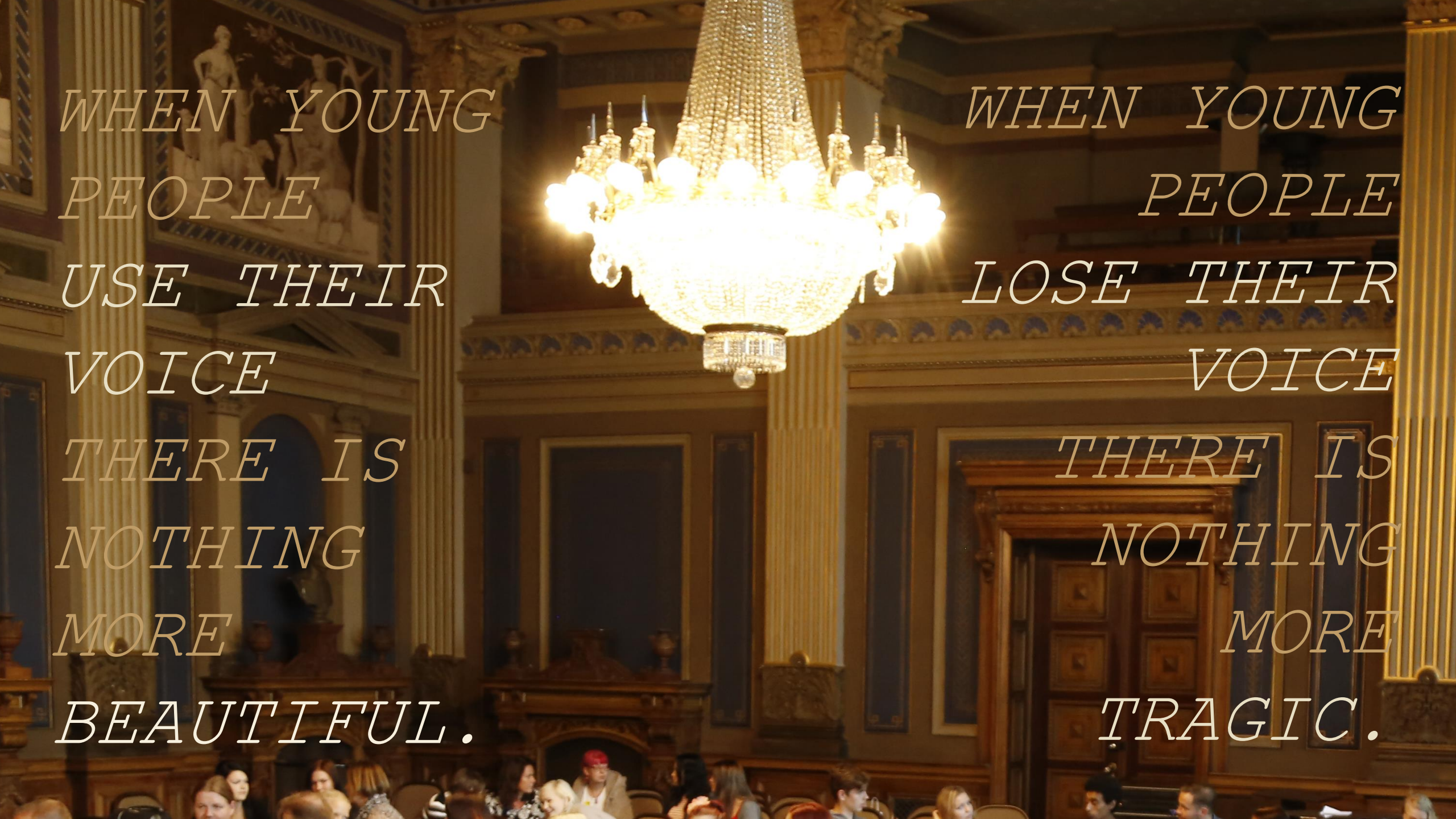
16.1.2016 network meeting in Tampere, Finland

Over 10 groups around Finland

Over 50 young people



“Participation is feeling.
Without it,
it’s not real.”



*WHEN YOUNG
PEOPLE
USE THEIR
VOICE
THERE IS
NOTHING
MORE
BEAUTIFUL.*

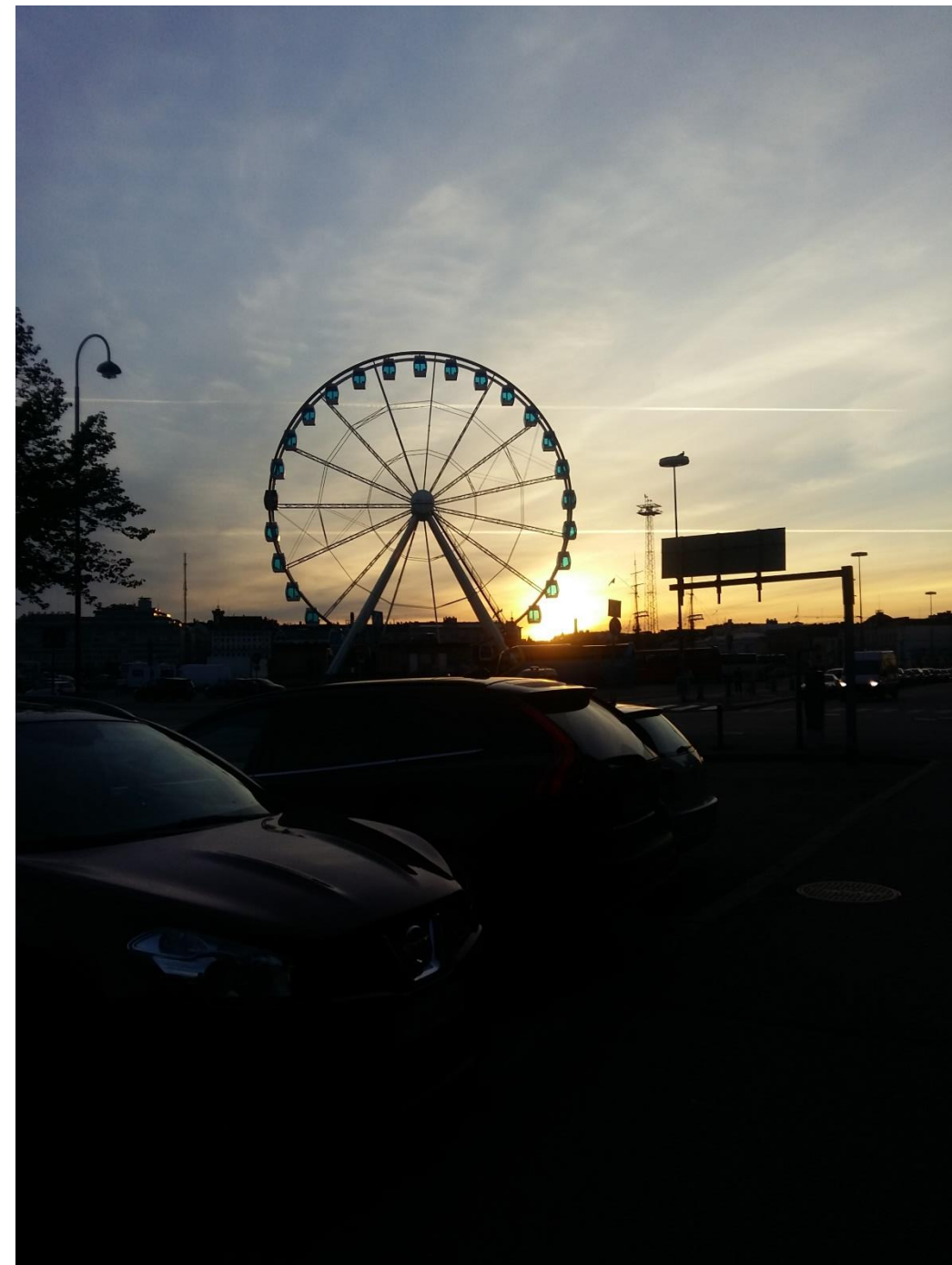
*WHEN YOUNG
PEOPLE
LOSE THEIR
VOICE
THERE IS
NOTHING
MORE
TRAGIC.*

Ethical sustainability

- ❖ Values and attitudes
- ❖ Skills and abilities
- ❖ Multitude of views
- ❖ Security as the foundation
- ❖ Respect and caring
- ❖ Collaboration, cooperation and creativity.

WHAT IS FRIGHTENING ABOUT PARTICIPATION?
WHAT PREVENTS PARTICIPATION?

- ❖ Fear of rejection
- ❖ Fear of failure
- ❖ Lack of time, attitude and interest



THANK YOU!



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