

## **The Ten Sing Idea**

- A common agreement -

### **Abstract**

*Ten Sing is an international Youth programme within the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), which focuses on getting young people to express themselves by using their own culture through creative performing arts.*

### **The main aims**

The underlying objectives are leadership training, democracy training and personal and social development of body, mind and spirit. Ten Sing invites young people to a creative work process that uses different cultural expressions in a Christian context.

### **The three C's**

The three C's "Culture, Creativity and Christ" are equally important parts of the Ten Sing idea.

### **By young people, for young people.**

Young people know best what young people think, dream of, feel and desire. Therefore, young people should be active in the management of Ten Sing and take responsibility for running programmes themselves.

### **Young responsibility, adult presence**

Ten Sing is for young people, with young people and run by young people. Even though the young people are responsible for the programme, it is important to have adult presence. Adults should act as mentors for the youth leaders. The adults should be a resource for help, support and advice when needed.

### **The whole human being**

Everybody has talents that can be used in Ten Sing, and everyone should get the chance to be creative and active with his or her own mind and body, thus stimulating their spirit. This happens through a great variety of performing arts, such as music, dance, drama, video and other creative expressions. The Ten Sing programme focuses on "the whole human being", with *spirit*, *mind* and *body*. The YMCA-logo - the triangle - illustrates that all parts are equally important.

### **Process before product**

To reach the goal of developing young people, Ten Sing focuses on the process of making a creative performance. The process is the tool to make everybody contribute. Therefore, the young people should develop both social and creative skills.

This is why the process itself is the key: Letting the young people work together regularly in a safe environment, trying and failing, challenging each other, developing and growing, whilst creating a product that the young people can enjoy and be proud of. This enables them to reflect and value their achievements and skills gained through the process.

### **Open membership, Christian leadership**

Ten Sing is open to everyone irrespective of gender, beliefs, abilities, talents, ethnic and social background. It is not necessary to be a Christian to be a member of Ten Sing.

Nevertheless, to secure the Christian context of Ten Sing it's important that at least one of the key leaders is a Christian.