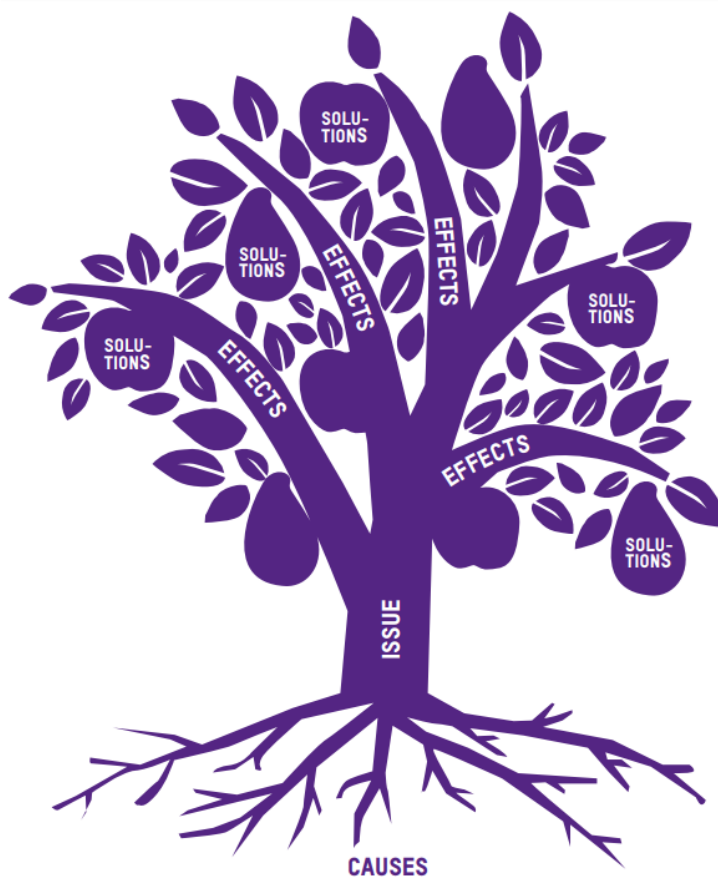# Activity 2 – Children in danger, issue trees

Schools everywhere should be peaceful and safe places for children and teachers. In many places this is true. However, for millions of children around the world school can be a place of violence and danger.

This activity asks young people to begin to analyse the reasons why schools are not peaceful and safe everywhere, and to begin to propose solutions.

An issue tree is a way of structuring an enquiry to encourage young people to explore the causes, effects and solutions of a given issue. The issue of school safety is complex. Therefore, the class should be divided into groups, with different groups working on the separate issues listed below.

How to do an issue tree

- Young people draw a fruit tree in outline (see left)

- They label the trunk of the tree with the chosen issue, the roots of the tree with the causes of the issue, the branches with the effects of the issue and the fruit with their proposed solutions to the issue.

- When each group has finished their issue tree they should present their ideas to the rest of the class. There are two alternative ways of doing this activity.

ALTERNATIVE ONE

Pupils label their issue trees with the issue 'Make Schools Safe'. Selected students read out the four case studies of children who have been placed at danger in and around

school. As the case studies are read out the rest of the class completes their issue trees. The information they present can come from the case studies and their own ideas.

ALTERNATIVE TWO

Groups are presented with different issues to work on. These issues are

1. **Schools experience life-threatening armed attacks during wars and armed forces occupy school buildings**

2. **Schools are vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storms and floods**

3. **Girls experience bullying and sexual violence both inside and outside the school**

4. **Vulnerable groups of children – e.g.: children with disabilities, ethnic minorities etc – face bullying and physical harm**

After each issue tree is presented ask the class if they can prioritise one issue for attention over the others. What information is needed to be able to do this? Is it even a good idea to try to prioritise one issue over another?