

# Kelidas Character brief: You are **Lena / Leonard**, leader of CoKiToo



## **Instructions**

*Prepare carefully and enthusiastically for your role:*

- *Work out what motivates your own character and their organisation and the people you are working to help*
- *‘Stand in the shoes’ of Lena and Leonard – they may have very different views and experiences than you. What would Lena/Leonard be thinking and feeling? What would Lena/Leonard’s values and beliefs be?*
- *Read each brief carefully before the relevant role play. Imagine what Lena/Leonard would say in that meeting. How would Lena/Leonard react to and interact with others?*
- *Finally – have fun exploring through these role plays!*

## **Your Resources:**

1. You, your own experience and ideas that you bring to this simulation
2. Handout: The Role Play Introduction “Education challenges in Kelidas Ward” and specific instructions for each role play
3. Handout: Your Character Brief (here): Background, Role Plays 1 - 3

**Before Day 2** make sure that you have read the Character Brief ready for the Internal Dialogue and Role Play 1.

**Before Day 3** make sure that you have revised the Character Brief and read the details for Role Plays 2 and 3.

**Before Day 5** make sure that you have revised the Character Brief and read the details for Role Play 4.

## Introduction

You came from the streets as a youth, and were supported and mentored by some elders and leaders who helped you to set up CoKiToo. You are very proud of your organisation, and know its practical strengths and experience.

You are angry at the injustice of children and youth who are increasingly trapped without skills, access and options, often working unprotected in the streets, informal jobs, private residences and factories. And you are alarmed at the gap between current education services and the actual needs of the growing populations of vulnerable children and street and working youth.

Because of your own experience, you believe deeply in the possibilities of transformation in Kelidas Ward. You see the poorest Kelidas residents themselves – families, households, street children – taking the central role in their own transformation.

But will outsiders who are older or more educated really understand the expertise that CoKiToo brings? Will they be willing to partner and give CoKiToo an equal position?

## Background for CoKiToo:

**You and your colleagues have different views on this network and the collaboration space, and it is important that you all reach consensus on COKiToo's participation in it.**



Your civil society organisation *Count Our Kids Too* (COKiToo) its mission are a small but real beacon of hope in Kelidas Ward. You are a highly dedicated team member. Most of you are long-time residents of Kelidas Ward. You were raised in Kelidas, became street kids yourselves in Bellabria, and came back to Kelidas Ward to become community facilitators.

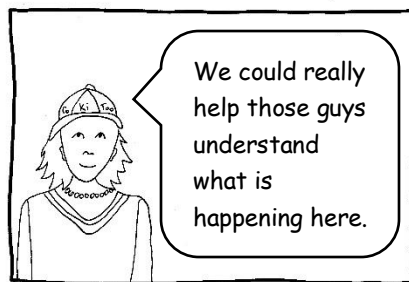
You understand the issues. You live the issues. You see the issues in your daily life. Because of this, your youth and children's groups embody the real possibility of change. For years no one in government or business has listened; in fact government and business are at the heart of the problem.





Some of the team are pleased to have been approached about COKiToo's interest in exploring the possibilities of a multi-stakeholder networking and collaboration. Some of the 'older and wiser' CoKiToo team members are astonished at the enthusiasm for collaboration options like this cross-sectoral network KeliNetYC. They believe that those collaborations will cause trouble for a range of reasons.

Your team's deep desire to see Kelidas Ward and Bellabria District transformed for children is causing much internal debate about the effectiveness of COKiToo's tactics in fighting local corruption, inadequate service delivery, poor education services and child poverty. A joint dialogue with local businesses, the local government and CSOs could be very challenging. But is CoKiToo big enough to fight alone?



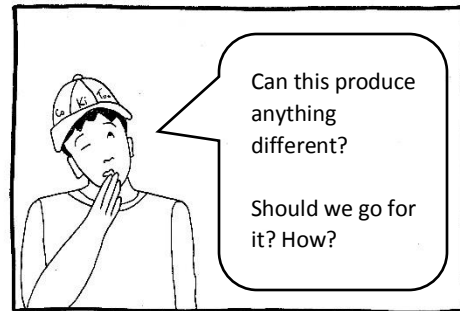
Your team is nervous about COKiToo being overwhelmed by the influences and resources of large organizations. But you know that the values and traditions of Kelidas residents, and of COKiToo members, are strong. These anxieties are outweighed by the belief that a collaborative space with KeliNetYC might bring not just resources, but also change your partners, so that they understand better your people and Kelidas Ward.

Your all know from long experience that the interests of the vulnerable and poor of Kelidas Ward are not a priority for the businesses and employers. For years, many of those businesses have refused to move beyond using the low-wage, day labourer system that dominates Kelidas workers. They have refused to discuss child rights and child labour issues, or acknowledge their influence over the injustice of city budgets for local services.



What could the involvement of CFC in KeliNetYC mean? Too often NGOs have arrived with their projects in Kelidas, "consulted" the people, hired their own professional staff, spent their money, written their own self-congratulatory reports, and departed without changing a single system or structure. And yet CFC's resources and expertise are significant...

Some in CoKiToo are nervous of promises but no actions. They feel that Kelidas Ward has suffered broken promises delivered by local politicians about better education and all other forms of services and rights. Why will networking through KeliNetYC and this collaboration space with the same organisations produce anything different?



## Role Play 1

Your experience as a street youth, and as a leader in COKiToo, tells you that breaking the cycle of poverty and vulnerability for children in Kelidas Ward means education. You want to ensure that children and young people in Kelidas benefit from the new investments in alternative approaches to education that the latest assessment recommended. You are very proud of your organisation, and know its practical strengths and experience on the ground.

You get on reasonably well with Kamea / Kwame, and with Maria / Mario, but you are also aware of their higher qualifications, better clothing and professionalism of the others. You wonder if you will gain their respect, and whether this can ever be a partnership with equity.

You have had some difficult confrontations in the past with some BBA members, around issues of child protection and labour. You are not sure whether anything will change about the way they work. You are very concerned about working in close collaboration with them.

Will the others be able to listen to what really matters for the children and youth in Kelidas? Do they really know who they are talking about? Will they be able to listen to what really matters for the children and young people in Kelidas?

## Role Play 2

COKiToo only has a few funds available for this potential partnership, however, you are bringing several other important resources to the table. You have extensive networks in Kelidas ward. You can mobilise many households and other CSOs to join in the project. You can organise volunteers. Several local teachers are active members of COKiToo. These teachers provide important advice, and links to the Department of Education. They can help with the certification of alternative education approaches.



BBA's Edwina / Edwin and the Ward Council rep Kamea/Kwame seem far more concerned about money, and about using traditional approaches – more school buildings, teachers and books. You know from experience that these are not going to fill the gap. Kelidas needs solutions that are actually going to work well for vulnerable youth, and that will bring the children of Kelidas back from the streets of Bellabria. You strongly believe that trying to send these children back to formal school is just not going to work.

You are looking for long term, sustainable change in informal education for street children. You are not sure about the CFC Youth-Lit programme. Is this Youth-Lit going to be an unhelpful literacy programme that doesn't really help youth? Or can it be the education that they need? It is clear that Youth-Lit offers significant possibilities if it is done in a way that matches your needs.

You want this partnership to invest its resources in alternative educational lifelines – not in formal classrooms and teachers. You are able to help the other players identify some important non-financial resources in their own organisations which they might bring to the partnership

Any solution must respect the needs of the youth who must work in agriculture and industry to maintain family incomes. If not, they won't come!

*NOW READ THE YOUTH-LIT BROCHURE AGAIN. WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE? HOW WILL IT HELP YOU?*

## Role Play 3



You are really excited about this project, and you want the concrete commitment of others to contribute to its long term success. You have received informal agreement from the leadership of COKiToo to proceed with co-drafting an MoU with the partnership, identifying any areas that need clarification and may require compromise from the group.

You want to see BBA offering really useful training and mentoring opportunities to large numbers of young people.

There are still a number of traditional education options on the list which could use up significant resources but will have little positive benefit for COKiToo members and groups. You want to ensure that the best alternative education approaches are resourced and strengthened as much as possible.

You are convinced this project will work, if all partners pull together. You think that promoting the project and celebrating its successes will be important.