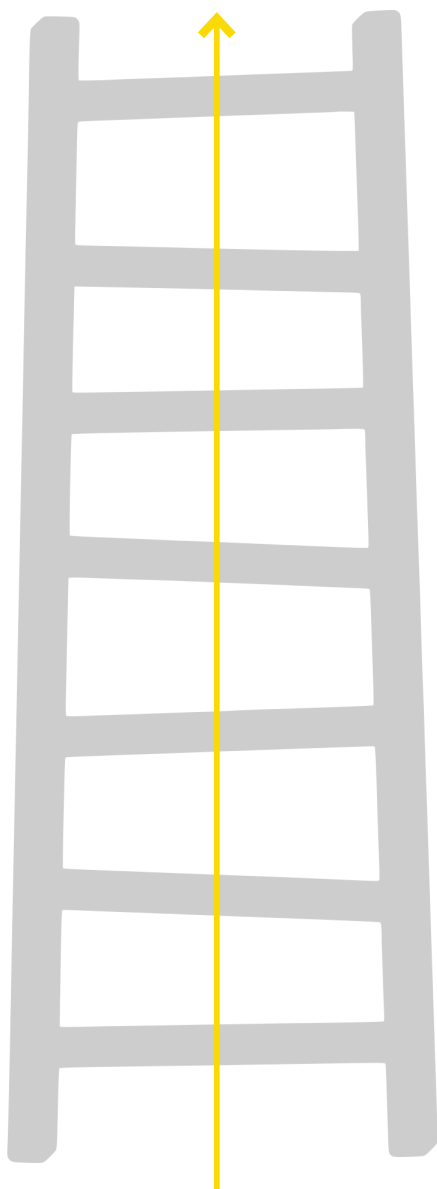


## HANDOUT 6.1

### Ladder of Youth Participation<sup>1</sup>

Youth participation and leadership can exist on a spectrum: from the bottom, where youths' voices are used or co-opted by adults to send their own message to the top, where youth lead projects with buy-in and support from adults

**How do youth contribute to your work?**



#### **DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION:**

Youth-initiated and shared decisions with other stakeholders

Youth-initiated and youth-directed

Stakeholder-initiated and shared decisions with youth

Youth are consulted and informed

Youth are assigned but informed

#### **NON-PARTICIPATION:**

Youth are "tokens"

Youth are "decoration"

Youth are manipulated and not informed

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Jutta Dotterweich, "Positive Youth Development Resource Manual" (Ithaca, New York: Act for Youth Upstate Center of Excellence) and Roger Hard "Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship" Innocence Research Center (Florence: UNICEF, 1992).