

## **Borders, margins and bridges: Possibilities for change for marginalized young women**

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### **Abstract**

This paper interrogates the notion of exclusion with a particular focus upon the experiences of young women. It focuses on the potential that community processes hold for drawing marginalized young people back into mainstream life. It considers two examples that were each concerned with the development of community facilities. One sought to remove young people from an inner city area, the other was intended to provide community facilities for young people. Each adopted a different approach to the participation of young people and had different outcomes. The discussion explores the potential that public planning processes hold for encouraging the participation of young people and for providing effective avenues for the diverse realities of young people to be validated and to contribute to decision-making. The successful participation of young people in public life is a challenge, yet they are rarely encouraged to participate in defining solutions to the problems they are identified as causing. The experiences reported in this paper therefore offer insights into effective strategies for engaging young people in the resolution of community issues.