

Activity 2.11 Forum Theatre

Module: 2. Intercultural Dialogue

Duration: 35 Minutes

Social Development Themes: Core, Conflict Resolution

Summary

Role-play activity that allows participants to put into practice the skills and approaches they have learnt by listening to and giving an opinion on situations of tension.

Learning Outcomes: Understand Active Citizens

Understand dialogue, how and when it can be used

Ability to support, learn and share through, dialogue

Approach:

1. Ask the group to reflect on what have they experienced in Active Citizens so far that could help them have successful conversations, in which they are learning and sharing. For example: holding our assumptions lightly, asking powerful questions, acknowledging cultural baggage, revealing parts of our hidden identities, listening at different levels, holding multiple perspectives. Write the points on a flip chart and display it prominently.
2. Share with the group that they are now going to role-play putting some of these ideas into practice. Explain the process.
3. Split participants into four groups and tell them they have 15 minutes to complete the following task.
4. Groups 1 and 2 work alone to come up with a three to five-minute role-play scenario where a situation or conversation escalates into conflict. For example, somebody borrowed property without asking first, or somebody said something hurtful to a friend about you.
5. Groups 3 and 4 work alone to think of how in a possible conflict scenario they could express opinions in a way that would help to resolve the situation and avoid conflict. They should practise examples of how they would respond, paying

attention to the language they use and body language.

6. Put each 'performance group' (1 or 2) together with an 'expressing opinions group' (3 or 4). You should now have two groups.
7. The two groups deliver their performances and give five minutes for the expressing opinions groups to discuss the conflict scenario they have just seen and to plan an 'intervention'.
8. Interventions: this is where the performances are repeated and a member from each of the expressing opinions groups makes an intervention. An intervention is when someone calls out 'freeze', the role-play freezes and the audience member comes up to take the place of a central character. They then act in the role-play to resolve the situation using the skills they have discussed in their group.
9. Tell the performance groups to avoid making it easy and no unrealistic, magical solutions should be used – it should feel real.
10. One rule is that no one may offer violence as a solution.
11. It is best to have a facilitator present at each role play.

Debrief:

- What did we value about this experience?
- What worked for us and what was difficult?
- How can we use this experience in our daily lives and as Active Citizens?
- Explore issues in relationship to conflict:
 - What did we learn about conflict?
 - Is conflict always negative?
 - In what ways can conflict be positive?

– Is conflict experienced differently by different people? If so, how?