

Title of the activity : Living library

For who : Everybody would like to share some life experience or events, especially related with prejudice and marginalization

Duration : Between 15 and 30 min each round

Number of players : N.I

Place : outside/Inside

Type of game : quality tool and non-formal education activity to challenge prejudice and discrimination

Educational interest :

- Development of curiosity and critical thinking.
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Discovering of different cultures, identities and pluralisms.
- Teaching in a non-formal way the importance of democratic participation in the civil society.

Learn how to understand and respect diversities

Materials :

- People, stories, desire to share and describe itself.
- Papers and pens

Goal :

The Living Library gives people an opportunity to speak in a private and personal way to a 'stranger' in a structured, protected, yet practically unconstrained environment. This framework is probably one of the main reasons for the popularity and success of the Living Library: the readers can predict the 'risk' they are taking by meeting the 'other'.

The Living Library provides a unique venue for intercultural experience and interaction. There are precious few other occasions where one would have the opportunity to ask to a complete stranger to describe important and personal experiences and life events he lived and, even more importantly, it is hard to think of another situation where one would be encouraged to ask a stranger delicate questions in a such a direct way.

The goal of this activity is to promote intercultural dialogue, human rights, pluralism, and democratic participation in a 'new' and inventive way, that could attracts widespread attention and makes genuine impact.

Introduction to purpose: The Living Library is an equalities tool that seeks to challenge prejudice and discrimination. The Living Library attempts to challenge prejudice by facilitating a conversation between two people: "Books" and "Readers". Books are volunteers who have been subjected either to discrimination themselves or represent groups or individuals within society that are at risk of suffering from stereotype, stigma, prejudice or discrimination. Living Books often have personal experiences of discrimination or social exclusion that they are willing to share with Readers.

It works just like a normal library: visitors can browse the catalogue for the available titles, choose the Book they want to read, and borrow it for a limited period.

After reading, they return the Book to the library and, if they want, they can borrow another. The only difference is that in the Living Library, Books are people, and reading consists of a conversation. Most importantly, “Books” give “Readers” permission to enter into dialogue with them, in the hope that their perspectives and experiences will challenge commonly held perceptions, stereotypes, and therefore, affect the attitudes and behaviours of wider society