

A STATEMENT GAME

PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE:

To raise awareness regarding your own frame of reference and that of others. During the game participants reach a higher level of awareness of their own and others values and standards. They learn to express their opinion in a respectful and reasoned manner and learn how to deal with different frames of reference.

TIMING:

This depends on the amount of statements you discuss and the depth of the discussion.

NEEDED MATERIAL:

Make sure you have enough statements.

HOW TO CONDUCT THE EXERCISE:

Participants stand in a straight line. They close their eyes while the course leader reads the statement. If they agree with the statement, they put one big step forward, if they don't agree they put one big step back, if they don't know or don't have an opinion they stand still. When everyone has made a choice, the participants open their eyes again. The course leader asks for opinions and arguments of participants that agree, disagree and don't have a clear opinion. Everyone can ask questions to try to understand the different views better, giving examples where this helps. The course leader makes sure that the discussion evolves in a respectful way, encourages everyone to join in to ensure that no one dominates the discussion.

EXAMPLES OF STATEMENTS:

1. Gay men can kiss in public
2. Watching porn is good for young people
3. Prostitution should be banned
4. People with mental disabilities have the right to be parents
5. Abortion should be free of charge
6. Condoms should be easily accessible in a home for elderly

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Start with an ice-breaker to create a pleasant atmosphere
2. Make time to agree on some communication rules together (use Piccasol; for more info download the document in the 'Background for teaching' segment)

