

# PLISSIT ASSIGNMENTS

## UTILITIES

Prints of assignment with case histories to be given to subgroups.

## HOW TO CONDUCT

A lot of (social-) care workers find it hard to discuss sexuality professionally. To discuss sexuality and relationships you need excellent communicational skills. It is important that you find it normal to discuss sexuality and relationships. It could be helpful to apply the PLISSIT approach, take a look at [this video](#) and learn more about it.

## EXPLAIN ASSIGNMENTS:

Exercise: How would you react?

Purpose: Discuss with your co-workers how you would react in these situations

Amount of participants: in groups 5 to 6 participants

Situation 1:

- In the living room of a residential group finds Ahmed a magazine with two kissing men on the cover page. He says that it his religion (Islam) forbids to be homosexual. It is dirty and disgusting. Discuss with each other how you would react to Ahmed in this situation.

Situation 2:

- Karen, 13 year old girl, doesn't want to talk about sexuality. She's raised strictly Christian. How do you explain to her that sexuality is an important subject to speak about? Discuss with each other how you would explain this to Karen

Situation 3:

- At the residential care setting tells Donna, a 14 year old girl with a history of sexual abuse by the partner of her alcoholic mother, tells you that she is sexually harassed by two boys at the group (they tried to French kiss her and tried to undress her. One boy touched her breasts underneath her bra and her genitals. How do you react on what Donna tells you and what will you discuss with Donna? Discuss with each other how you would react to Donna and what would you do?

Teacher wrap up:

Let the subgroups tell their solution;

## POSSIBLE TEACHER REACTIONS AND GOOD SOLUTIONS

Situation 1:

It is important to have clear rules about respect on the group for each other's religious backgrounds, sexual orientation, etc. It is also important that you pay attention to the way the group is decorated. For instance to have a rainbow flag on the wall. It is also important to know that personal values due to your own socialization and religious background always matter while providing sexual education. It is also important to know that differences in values to these subjects always will exist. But it your task as residential care worker to provide the correct

information to Ahmed. In situations like this it is helpful to have a conversation instead of giving a lecture. So you could ask him what he thinks homosexuality means to him. It is probably important for Ahmed to know that 1 out of 10 persons have a homosexual orientation.

Ahmed says that homosexuality is dirty and disgusting. It often appears that the idea of sex between two men is the reason that homosexuality is rejected. Emphasize that gay men and women are not only focused on sex with each other. Like everyone else, they can be in love and just want to be together (Ohlrichs & Van der Vlugt, 2013).

Situation 2:

You could explain to Karen that sexuality is a normal part of life and being human. And that she has the right to get sexually educated. It could be helpful to mention that most Christian churches approve sexual education. But to speak about masturbation and extramarital sex is disapproved by the Catholic church. It is also important to keep in mind that a lot of strictly religious Christians feel ashamed talking about sexuality. For Donna it could be helpful to get her mother's approval for sexuality education (Ohlrichs & Van der Vlugt, 2013).

Situation 3:

It is important that you mention that if you don't consent to sex and someone forces you to do something sexual, this is sexual assault, abuse, and/or rape. Someone hurting you like this is never your fault. It doesn't matter if the person doing those things is a family member, your friend, or even someone you're dating — it's still wrong. Everyone has the right to decide what happens to their own bodies. It is important to create a safe place for Donna.

What Donna have had overcome is illegal, speak with your team members and supervisor about what happened. Make an actionplan to ensure Donna's safeness and who is going to report to the police.

## SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

