

Language barriers



Brief description of the activity

This activity simulates the problems refugees face when applying for asylum. The topics that are stressed out are the following: frustration and emotional factors the refugees face, overcoming language barriers, discrimination in the process of asylum application. With this activity we are focusing on the right to asylum and non-discrimination.

Language barriers

Topics, objectives and methodology:

Discrimination, human security, education and xenophobia. Aims of the activity are to create awareness of the types of discrimination which competent institutions are dealing with when proceeding with applications for asylum, to demonstrate the meaning of the language and intercultural learning and to develop empathy through the awareness of frustration the refugees are facing with when applying for asylum.

The activity aims at raising awareness of the difficulties that refugees deal with when approaching the competent institutions to apply to asylum, to demonstrate the meaning of language and intercultural learning and to develop empathy through the sense of frustration the refugees face when applying for asylum.

Duration:

30 minutes.

Costs:

No costs, except for copies and pencils.

Location:

Preferable indoor, a room which may also be tiny and uncomfortable to increase the effects of the outcome of the activity. This room may be placed within a youth center or anywhere else.

Materials:

One copy of the paper 'The application of asylum' per participant, and pencils. You may create the application as you wish. Make sure it is written in a few languages which are non-understandable nor similar to participants' native languages. For instance: if there are Spanish participants, they should not be given the application form in Spanish, Italian or Portuguese, as both Portuguese and Italian are quite similar to Spanish. Instead, they should be given the form either in Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, Slovene or any other languages that are completely different from their native language.

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

A coordinator and an assistant. At first stage, it is preferably to only involve the coordinator who will deliver the material to participants and proceed with applications. An assistant may stand at the side of the room and observe the proceeding. Afterwards, when the simulation ends and the discussion starts, the assistant may join the conversation. It is good if at least the coordinator has wide knowledge about right to asylum and human rights in general. In order for the final discussion to proceed according to human rights.

Participants involved:

Unlimited but preferably up to 20 people in order for the discussion to proceed in a reasonable time.



Steps

Before

Preparation of the location/room

The room shall be prepared in a way that allows the coordinator to sit around the table and act as a strict bureaucratic official.

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During

When the participants arrive in the room, pretend to not acknowledge their presence. Do not tell them what will happen. After some minutes deliver the photocopies of the "asylum application form" and pencils. Explain that they have five minutes to fill in the application form. Be really quite and ignore every question and possible protests they may rise. If you really have to communicate, talk to them in a language they do not understand (which you may even create at the moment) and gesture a lot. Decrease every commu-

nication to minimum and remember - the problems of refugees are not your problems. Your job is only to control the applications and after 5 minutes to collect them. If someone arrives late, be though with them (for instance: You are late. Here is your application form. Fill it quickly! You have only one minute to do it!). When the five minutes are over, collect all the applications. Be exact on time and try to avoid any personal contact or any communication. Sit behind your table and call each applicant by his/ her surname, one by one. Look at this application and create a story or imagine something unreal over this application (for instance: 'You did not answer to the 8th question.' or, 'I see you answered with no on 6th question. Your application is refused.'). Do not start or allow any negotiations and immediately call another applicant, So proceed quickly during this step. Repeat this action a few times with a few people. You don't need to check all applications. Keep doing it until all applicants/participants understand what is happening. Finally, stop simulation and invite partici-

pants to sit around your table in order to discuss about this situation that has just happened to them.

After

Firstly, ask the participants about their feelings and then start discussing about that has just happened and what they have learnt.

Ask them: Do you understand the difference between migrant, refugee and asylum seeker. See the definition available at

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-wedo/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/migrant_en

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/refugee_en

<https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/>

[networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/asylum-seeker_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-wedo/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/asylum-seeker_en)

- How did you feel when you had to fill the application which you did not understand?
- Do you think this simulation represents what asylum applicants face in reality?
- Do you think that the asylum applicants are treated better than this in your country? Why? Why not?
- What are the consequences for the person whose asylum application has been refused?
- Have you ever faced a situation where you found yourself in front of a state authority (police for instance) and have not spoken their language? How did you feel then?

Do's and don'ts

The activity is very simple. You do not need much material nor money to create it. However, there is one thing that is needed for a successful proceeding of the game and it is to be 'strong' enough while acting your role and be as strict and bureaucratic as possible.

In case the migrants are taking part of the activity take caution as they may be emotionally weak and under considerable stress. You wish to use this activity to promote right to asylum as a human right and thus acknowledge that they need to be treated in a human manner. Also, be aware of the conflicts that may occur and the topics that you think may bring the participants in conflict situation.

Hereafter some samples of Asylum application form in different languages. Choose the one that fits better with your group of participants.





ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

SURNAME: _____ SURNAME AT BIRTH: _____ FIRST NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____ COUNTRY OF BIRTH: _____ CURRENT NATIONALITY: _____

NATIONALITY AT BIRTH, IF DIFFERENT: _____ OTHER NATIONALITIES: _____

SEX: MALE FEMALE | CIVIL STATUS: SINGLE MARRIED DIVORCED SEPARATED REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP WIDOW OTHER

AUTHORITY/ LEGAL GUARDIAN (IN CASE OF MINORS): _____

NATIONAL IDENTITY NUMBER WHERE APPLICABLE: _____

TYPE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT: _____ NUMBER OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT: _____

DATE AND PLACE OF ISSUE: _____ VALID UNTIL: _____

PERSONAL DATA OF THE FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS AN EU, EEA OR CH CITIZEN IF APPLICABLE: _____

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WITH AN EU, EEA OR CH CITIZEN IF APPLICABLE: SPOUSE CHILD GRANDCHILD DEPENDENT ASCENDANT REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP

APPLICANT HOME ADDRESS: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

NUMBER OF ENTRIES REQUESTED: _____

COST OF TRAVELLING AND LIVING DURING THE APPLICANT'S STAY IS COVERED BY: _____

Date and place signature



ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

APELLIDO: _____ APELLIDO AL NACER: _____ NOMBRE: _____ FECHA DE NACIMIENTO: _____

LUGAR DE NACIMIENTO: _____ PAÍS DE NACIMIENTO: _____ NACIONALIDAD ACTUAL: _____

NACIONALIDAD DE NACIMIENTO, SI ES DIFERENTE: _____ OTRAS NACIONALIDADES: _____

SEXO: MASCULINO FEMENINO | ESTADO CIVIL: SOLTERO CASADO DIVORCIADO SEPARADO UNIÓN REGISTRADA VIUDA/VIUDO OTRO AUTORIDAD

PARENTAL/TUTOR LEGAL (EN CASO DE MENORES): _____

NÚMERO DE DOCUMENTO NACIONAL DE IDENTIDAD, SI ES APLICABLE: _____

NÚMERO DE DOCUMENTO DE VIAJE: _____

FECHA Y LUGAR DE EXPEDICIÓN: _____ VÁLIDO HASTA: _____

DATOS PERSONALES DEL MIEMBRO DE LA FAMILIA QUE ES CIUDADANO DE LA UE, EEE O CH, SI CORRESPONDE: _____

RELACIÓN FAMILIAR CON UN CIUDADANO DE LA UE, EEE O CH, SI CORRESPONDE: CÓNYUGE, HIJO/HIJA, NIETO/NIETA, DEPENDIENTE, ASCENDENTE, UNIÓN REGISTRADA

DOMICILIO DEL SOLICITANTE: _____ OCUPACIÓN: _____

EL COSTO DEL VIAJE Y VIVIENDA DURANTE LA ESTANCIA DEL SOLICITANTE ESTÁ CUBIERTO: _____

Fecha y lugar

Firma



ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

NACHNAME: _____ NACHNAME BEI DER GEBURT: _____ VORNAME: _____ GEBURTSDATUM: _____

GEBURTSORT: _____ GEBURTSLAND: _____ DERZEITIGE STAATSANGEHÖRIGKEIT: _____

NATIONALITÄT BEI DER GEBURT, FALLS UNTERSCHIEDLICH _____ ANDERE NATIONALITÄTEN: _____

GESCHLECHT: MÄNNLICH WEIBLICH | ZIVILSTATUS: LEDIG VERHEIRATET GESCHIEDEN GETRENNT EINGETRAGENE PARTNERSCHAFT WITWE/WITWER SONSTIGE

ELTERNBEHÖRDE / ERZIEHUNGSBERECHTIGTER (BEI MINDERJÄHRIGEN): _____

NATIONALE IDENTITÄTSNUMMER, FALLS ZUTREFFEND: _____ ART DES REISEDOKUMENTS: _____

NUMMER DES REISEDOKUMENTS: _____ DATUM UND ORT DER AUSSTELLUNG: _____

GÜLTIG BIS: _____ PERSONENBEZOGENE DATEN DES FAMILIENMITGLIEDES, DAS GEGEBENENFALLS

EU-, EWR- ODER CH-BÜRGER IST: _____

FAMILIENBEZIEHUNG MIT EINEM EU-, EWR- ODER CH-BÜRGER, FALLS ZUTREFFEND: EHEPARTNER KIND ENKELKIND ABHÄNGIGER ASZENDENT

REGISTRIERTE PARTNERSCHAFT

WOHNADRESSE DES ANTRAGSTELLERS: _____ TÄTIGKEIT: _____

ANZAHL DER ANGEFORDERTEN GESAMTHEITEN: _____

DIE REISE- UND LEBENSHALTUNGSKOSTEN WÄHREND DES AUFENTHALTS DES ANTRAGSTELLERS WERDEN ÜBERNOMMEN: _____

Datum und Ort

Unterschrift



ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

PRIIMEK: _____ PRIIMEK OB ROJSTVU: _____ IME: _____ KRAJ ROJSTVA: _____

DRŽAVA ROJSTVA: _____ TRENUTNO DRŽAVLJANSTVO: _____

DRŽAVLJANSTVO OB ROJSTVU, ČE JE DRUGAČE: _____ DRUGE NARODNOSTI: _____

SPOL: MOŠKI ŽENSKA | **STATUS:** SAMSKI/SAMSKA LOČEN/LOČENA ŽIVI LOČENO OD PARTNERJA/PARTNERKE REGISTRIRANO PARTNERSTVO VDOVA/VDOVEC DRUGO

STARŠ/ZAKONSKI SKRBNIK (V PRIMERU MLADOLETNIKOV): _____

NACIONALNA IDENTIFIKACIJSKA ŠTEVILKA, ČE OBSTAJA: _____ VRSTA POTNE LISTINE: _____

ŠTEVILKA POTNE LISTINE: _____

DATUM IN KRAJ IZDAJE: _____ VELJAVNO DO: _____

OSEBNI PODATKI DRUŽINSKEGA ČLANA, KI JE DRŽAVLJAN EU, EGP ALI CH, ČE OBSTAJA: _____

DRUŽINSKI ODNOS Z DRŽAVLJANOM EU, EGP ALI CH, ČE OBSTAJA: ZAKONEC OTROK VNUK/-INJA PREDNIK REGISTRIRANI PARTNER

DOMAČI NASLOV PROSILCA: _____ POKLIC: _____

ŠTEVILO ZAPROŠENIH VSTOPOV: _____

KRIJEJO SE STROŠKI POTOVANJA IN BIVANJA V ČASU BIVANJA PROSILCA: _____

Datum in kraj

Podpis



ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

APELIDO _____ APELIDO DE NASCIMENTO _____ NOME _____ DATA DE NASCIMENTO: _____

LUGAR DE NASCIMENTO: _____ PAÍS DE NASCIMENTO: _____

NACIONALIDADE ATUAL: _____ NACIONALIDADE DE NASCIMENTO, SE DIFERENTE: _____

OUTRAS NACIONALIDADES: _____

SEXO: MASCULINO FEMININO | **ESTADO CIVIL:** CASADO/A SOLTEIRO/A DIVORCIADO/A PARCERIA REGISTRADA VIÚVO/A OUTRO

AUTORIDADE PARENTAL / RESPONSÁVEL LEGAL (NO CASO DE MENORES): _____

NÚMERO DE IDENTIDADE NACIONAL, SE FOR O CASO: _____ **TIPO DE DOCUMENTO DE VIAGEM:** _____

NÚMERO DO DOCUMENTO DE VIAGEM: _____

DATA E LOCAL DE EMISSÃO: _____ **VÁLIDO ATÉ:** _____

DADOS PESSOAIS DO FAMILIAR QUE É CIDADÃO DA UE, EEE OU CH, SE APLICÁVEL: _____

RELAÇÃO FAMILIAR COM UM CIDADÃO DA UE, EEE OU CH, SE APLICÁVEL: CÔNJUGE FILHO/A NETO/NETA DEPENDENTE ASCENDENTE PARCERIA REGISTRADA

ENDEREÇO DO REQUERENTE: _____ **OCUPAÇÃO:** _____

NÚMERO DE ENTRADAS REQUERIDAS: _____

O CUSTO DA VIAGEM E DA VIDA DURANTE A ESTADIA DO CANDIDATO É COBERTO POR: _____

Data e local

Assinatura



ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

FAMILINOMO: _____ FAMILINOMO ĈE NASKIĜO: _____ ANTAŬNOMO: _____ NASKIĜDATO: _____

NASKIĜLOKO: _____ LANDO DE NASKIĜO: _____

NUNA NACIECO: _____ NACIECO ĈE NASKIĜO, SE MALSAME: _____

SEKSO: VIRA INO | CIVILA STATO: UNUNURA EDZIĜINTA DISIGITA REGISTRITA PARTNERECO VIDVINO/VIDVO ALIAJ

GEPATRA AŬTORITATO/JURA KURATORO (EN KAZO DE NEPLENAĜULOJ): _____

NACIA IDENTA NUMERO, KIE APLIKEBLAS: _____

TIPO DE VOJAĜDOKUMENTO: _____ NOMBRO DE VOJAĜDOKUMENTO: _____

DATO KAJ LOKO DE LA ESENDO: _____ VALIDA ĜIS: _____

PERSONAJ DATUMOJ DE LA FAMILIANO, KIU ESTAS EU, EEA AŬ CH-CIVITANO, SE KONVENE: _____

FAMILIO RILATO KUN EU, EEA AŬ CH CIVITANO SE APLIKEBLA: GEEDZO INFANA NEPO DEPENDA ASCENDANT REGISTRITAJ PARTNERECO

HEJMA ADRESO DE LA KANDIDATO: _____ OKUPO: _____

NOMBRO DE ENIROJ PETITAJ: _____

KOSTO DE VOJAĜO KAJ VIVADO DUM LA RESTADO DE LA PETANTO ESTAS KOVRITA: _____

Dato kaj loko

Firmao



ASYLUM APPLICATION FORM

COGNOME: _____ COGNOME ALLA NASCITA: _____ NOME: _____ DATA DI NASCITA: _____

LUOGO DI NASCITA: _____ PAESE DI NASCITA: _____ NAZIONALITÀ ATTUALE: _____

NAZIONALITÀ ALLA NASCITA, SE DIVERSA: _____ ALTRE NAZIONALITÀ: _____

SESSO: MASCHIO FEMMINA | STATO CIVILE: SINGLE SPOSATO/A DIVORZIATO/A SEPARATO/A UNIONE CIVILE VEDOVO/VEDOVA ALTRO

AUTORITÀ PARENTALE / TUTORE LEGALE (IN CASO DI MINORI): _____

NUMERO DI IDENTIFICAZIONE NAZIONALE OVE APPLICABILE: _____

TIPO DI DOCUMENTO DI VIAGGIO: _____ NUMERO DEL DOCUMENTO DI VIAGGIO: _____

DATA E LUOGO DEL RILASCIO: _____ VALIDO FINO A: _____

DATI PERSONALI DEL FAMILIARE CHE È CITTADINO UE, SEE O CH SE APPLICABILE: _____

RELAZIONE FAMILIARE CON UN CITTADINO UE, SEE O CH, SE APPLICABILE: CONIUGE FIGLIO/FIGLIA NIPOTE ASCENDENTE UNIONE CIVILE

INDIRIZZO DI RESIDENZA DEL RICHIEDENTE: _____ OCCUPAZIONE: _____

NUMERO DI ELEMENTI RICHIESTI: _____

IL COSTO DEL VIAGGIO E DEL SOSTENTAMENTO DURANTE IL SOGGIORNO DEL RICHIEDENTE È COPERTO DA: _____

Data e luogo

Firma

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

Respect to human rights is one of the most important aspects when talking about asylum. Respecting the right to asylum means acknowledging that the law respects interculture, equality regardless race, colour, religion and gender. It means that when someone has the right to apply for asylum the receiving country needs to be respectful and accept the new culture, person with different background. Interculture and equality is being respected by allowing that person to express his or her need to apply for asylum. For this reason this activity is a powerful tool to give the participants an highly empathetic first-hand experience about the delicate aspects abovementioned.

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Possible follow-up or links with other activities

This activity is a powerful tool to make participants, especially locals, walk in other people's shoes, those who do not have their same means to face bureaucracy due to language barriers. You may replicate this activity with other forms to be filled, as soon as you get their sample forms - for example at your city hall - and provide for some translated versions according with your audience.

This activity can be followed up by the activity International dictionary.