



We are IFM!

What divides us? What unites us?

Age	14+
Duration	120 minutes (you might want to have a break after debriefing the power flower)
Group size	8+

Overview

In this activity the participants reflect individually about the privileges and power they (don't) have and use this as a basis for discussing what solidarity means to them.

Objectives

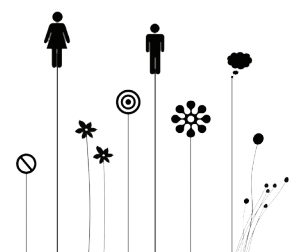
- To reflect on one's own power and privileges in relation to others
- To define solidarity
- To come up with ideas on how to show international solidarity

Materials

Flip-chart paper, blank paper, coloured pencils, pens, little pieces of paper, a copy of the text 'International Solidarity'

Step-by-step instructions

1. As an energizer: Stand in a circle. Throw a ball to someone, saying their name. They then throw it to someone else, who has not had the ball yet, saying the next person's name. When everyone has had the ball it comes back to the first person. Repeat the same circle again (and maybe a third time). Increase the speed. When people feel comfortable, start to bring in a second, third, fourth ball to the circle.
2. Ask the group if they have ever heard of the terms 'power' and 'privilege' before. Encourage participants to take a moment to really think about this question before answering.
 - What do these terms have in common?
 - What are the key differences between privilege and power?
3. Write the two words 'power' and 'privilege' in two corners of a flipchart paper and record participants' responses in key words on the flip-chart.
4. Ask the group to come up with common working definitions for these two terms.
5. Give each participant a copy of the 'power flower' and explain that this is a tool to identify who we are (and who we aren't) as individuals and as a group in relation to those who have power in our society. The flower has 12 segments or petals, each representing one facet or category of our social identity. Every petal has one outer and one inner part. Colour the outer part if you feel you have an advantage compared to other people in this segment of life. If you think you are not privileged or you have a disadvantage, colour the inner part of the petal.





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6. After everyone has filled in their power flower, come back to the circle and compare. Ask:
 - Was it hard to colour the power flower?
 - How did you decide if you are privileged in a certain area of life?
 - In what situations and contexts are you most aware of your own privilege?
 - Whether consciously or unconsciously, how have you used your privilege, both as an individual and as a member of various groups?
 - When you look at each other's power flowers: Are we a privileged group? Where are we different?
 - How can people from the outer and the inner petals be brought together?
 - How to support the ones in the inner petals without patronising?
7. Ask the group to define solidarity: Give 5 small pieces of paper to each person. Everyone should write down 5 key words to define solidarity.
8. Ask the participants to meet in pairs, share their cards and together agree on five cards that they want to keep. Now every pair meets another pair. They share their cards and agree on 5 cards as a group. Every group again meets another group and agrees on five cards. This goes on until the whole group has agreed on five cards that explain solidarity for them.
9. Ask the group to think of examples of solidarity and write them down on a big flipchart. If you want you can read the introduction on international solidarity (also in the membership campaign pack) as inspiration.
10. Together agree on one act of international solidarity. This can be very small, but you really need to do it. Plan the next steps. What do you need to make it happen?

Definitions

What is power?

A good definition of 'power' is 'the ability to get what you want.' Groups and individuals both pursue and exert power. On an individual level, people find power within themselves in different ways; what makes one person feel powerful may not make someone else feel the same way. For example, one person might find power in being tall, while another person might feel that being tall diminishes their ability to get what they want.

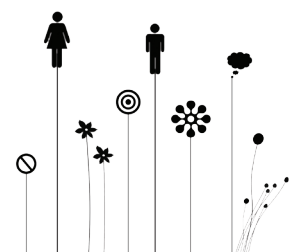
What is privilege?

Privilege is a special advantage or right that a person is born into or acquires during their lifetime. Privilege is not available to everyone in society. Privilege and power are closely related: Privilege often gives a person or group power over others.

What is solidarity?

A union of interests, purposes, or sympathies among members of a group; fellowship of responsibilities and interests.

For example: Factory workers voice solidarity with the striking students, Members of IFM-SEI show solidarity with Vilmos Hanti from the 'Hungarian Childfriends' who was beaten up by neo-fascists after having joined a demonstration against discrimination.





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Appendix: Colour your Power Flower

This is your personal power flower: It has 12 petals, each representing one facet or category of your social identity. Every petal has one outer and one inner part. Colour the outer part, if you feel you have an advantage compared to other people in this segment of life. If you think you are not privileged or you have a disadvantage, colour the inner part of the petal.

You can also choose a different colour for each category.

For instance, when completing the 'Ethnic Group' category, it would not be too difficult to agree that 'white' should go in the outer petal. The same might go if your mother tongue is the dominant & official language of the country you live in. If you are a migrant or a refugee, your 'Legal Status' might be a disadvantage for you.

