



3.3. POSTCARDS

A practical exercise in small groups to explore issues of social injustice and action.

Aim

This exercise aims to explore, through visual imagery, specific examples of social injustice and to explore possible and appropriate action.



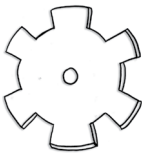
Time needed
40 minutes



Resources needed
Postcards, from the examples that follow or of your own devising



Group size
Small groups of three to five people



Step-by-step description

1. Give each group member a postcard. You can copy and cut out the examples below, or you can devise your own. Ask each group to come up with a series of tableaux representing the card's message. With each image a sound effect should be created that the group feels sums up its core emotion or feeling. (15 minutes)
2. The groups share their tableaux. The audience for each tableau gives accounts of what they think might be written on the card. Only then does the demonstrating group read out its card. (15 minutes)
3. Some groups might feel that they did not quite capture the essence of their card, or that their tableau was misinterpreted. These groups could go back and, taking on board suggestions from the audience, try to improve or change their work. (Extra time needs to be allocated for this.)

Reflection and evaluation

How do the groups feel about the issues raised by the cards? What action would they take if they were in similar circumstances? Are there similar things happening today? If so, what action are people taking? If participants were to sum up each card in one sentence, what would it be? (10 minutes)

Some further tips

It is important for the facilitator to choose cards that cover a subject matter appropriate to the group. The group could develop this work and produce its own postcards or posters.



Postcards: three examples

POSTCARD

When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint.

When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.

.....

– Dom Hélder Câmara, Brazil

POSTCARD

We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but

our worst crime is abandoning the children,

neglecting the fountain of life.

Many of the things we need can wait. The

children cannot. Right now is the time their

bones are being formed, their blood is being made

and their senses are being developed. To them we

cannot answer "Tomorrow". Their name is

"Today".

– Gabriela Mistral, Nobel Prize-winning poet from Chile

POSTCARD

First they came for the Jews and I did not speak

out – because I was not a Jew. Then they came

for the communists and I did not speak out –

because I was not a communist. Then they came

for the trade unionists and I did not speak out –

because I was not a trade unionist. Then they

came for me – and there was no one left to speak

out for me.

– Martin Niemöller, victim of the Nazis