

Barometer of violence

Aim	To learn about and to reflect on violence
Duration	45 Min (The bigger the group the more time you will need for the discussion.)
Number of participants	10-30
Difficulty	medium
Conditions	Indoors, possibly separate rooms for group work
Material	Sheets of paper depicting or describing situations of (potential) violence (possibly differentiating between psychological and physical violence). Cards with single numbers on them, each referring to one of the situations of violence. You can find examples of such situations on the right or on makeITsafe.ecpat.at -> Materialien -> Handbuch für Peer Experts. Pick examples which could really affect the participants' lives.

Preparation

Prepare different pictures or case stories containing a situation of (potential) violence. It is important to use situations that are unclear and leave room for interpretation. Prepare sheets with numbers written on them (from 1-10 depending on the number of cases/pictures). Split participants up into groups of a maximum of 10 people each. Be prepared to facilitate and possibly limit extensive discussions, especially if adults are involved.

Description

Each group needs some space within the room. Lay out the numbered cards in a row on the floor. Explain that these numbers stand for the "barometer of violence" – from 1 ("not too bad") to 10 ("brute violence"). Distribute the case sheets top down around the barometer. Let each participant select one sheet with a case story/picture and ask him/her to explain what is on it. Then ask her/him to lay down the sheet next to a number depending on the degree of violence. Explain that there is no "right" or "wrong" and that this exercise is about perception and personal opinion. After the first round, ask the participants if they are satisfied with the placement of each situation in relation to the others. If not, ask them to reallocate the sheets and explain why they think a situation should be rated higher or lower on the barometer of violence. The discussion will demonstrate that people perceive and experience violence in different ways. Just because something is not a big deal for me, it does not mean that it is acceptable for everybody else. The individual interpretation often reflects our prior experiences.

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Link	http://peerbox.at/?p=304