

One Step Forward

An activity about prejudices & privileges in the society. Developed as a part of an EU-funded project by the Swedish “ESF Jämt” which strives to promote integration and equality. Translation (and slight adaptation to an international crowd) by Julia.

<http://www.jamstall.nu/verktygslada/ett-steg-fram/>

How-to in short:

- All participants start standing in a line next to each other. The “game leader” reads out the statements one by one, and the participants take one step forwards if they think that the statement is true for them
- It is recommended that you use the ready written (or other pre-written) roles, but in a group that knows each other well you can also let everyone make the choices based on themselves (and then lying should be allowed – nobody has to reveal anything they don’t want to about themselves).
- Before starting, give the participants a moment to think about their character and fill in the “gaps” not mentioned on the character cards (gender, age, dreams, occupation, ethnicity, hobbies...)
- Afterwards there should be some time for debriefing. Who is standing far in front/way back? How did you fill in the gaps on the characters – based on yourself or using some other criteria?
- Ideas for discussion questions:
 - Was some statement difficult to interpret and act upon? Why?
 - How did it feel to take a step forwards/stay in place? What could you see from where you stood?
 - What does it mean to be far ahead? What privileges do you get?
 - How does it affect the society in total that some people have more privileges than others?
 - How can information on privileges and disadvantages help counter the inequalities in society?

Roles:

- You are a Jewish man in his thirties. You are an actor, but have a job as an assistant for disabled people
- You are a 15 year old boy who has come with his family from Iraq as a refugee. You are a pupil in a local school and dream of becoming a medical doctor.
- You are married and a member of the municipal council/municipal government. You are dyslectic. You have three children and employ an au-pair to help take care of the children.
- You are a single in your thirties. You are a school teacher and live in the city where you grew up
- You are a boy who lives in the suburb of a large city. Your mother works as a cleaner, your father is unemployed.
- You are a 21 year old Sami* woman. You work in an office and sit in a wheelchair (*Sami are the native people of northern Scandinavia. You can replace this with some other native ethnic minority if you want to!)
- You are a heterosexual mother of two children who works as a salesperson for office material. You live in a large house.
- You are the chairperson in a party political youth organization. Your parents emigrated from Chile in the 70's.
- You are a woman in her thirties. You study at the university and have lived in the country for five years.

- You were born in a girl's body, but since kindergarten you have felt that you are actually a boy. Your parents are teachers.
- You are a Muslim girl. You live with your deeply religious parents. You study at the university to become a lawyer.
- You are a heterosexual man who works as a dancer at the opera. You have grown up in a small town society.
- You are a 17 year old girl who never finished school. You work at a fast food chain.
- You are 17 years old and specialize in Society and Politics at school. You have just become a parent.
- You are a 15 year old girl. You live at home with your parents in a small village. You are adopted.
- You are the daughter of an American ambassador. You are Christian and go in a school for visually impaired.
- You are the daughter of an assistant nurse and study economics at the university. In your free time you play hockey.
- You are a man in his fifties. You work as a police. You are recently divorced.
- You live as a hidden refugee. You live together with your family in one room in a flat.

Statements (you don't need to use all of these!):

- My Holidays are marked with red numbers in the wall calendar
- Nobody has aggressively asked me whether I'm a boy or a girl
- Nobody has explained my mood with me having my periods
- I'm not afraid to be stopped by the police
- I can buy band aids that are the same color as my skin
- I have never been called anything degradative that refers to my skin colour or which part of the world I come from
- I got into this building and room without thinking of thresholds and stairs
- I can walk hand in hand in the city with my partner without getting strange looks
- Every day I can read stories in the newspaper about successful people who have the same skin color I do
- If I visited the parliament building people could easily believe I was a member of parliament.
- I don't need to look for special offers when I buy food
- I live in an area with relatively low unemployment
- I have never had to be nervous about showing my sexual orientation
- I am not on my guard when I walk past a group of young men late in the evening
- I travel where I want without having to find out on beforehand whether there are any barriers or stairs on the airplane, train or bus.
- I don't need to worry that my salary is lower than that of my colleagues just because of my sex
- My future looks bright
- My name does not make it harder for me to get a job
- I still have money left on my bank account after the end of the month
- Nobody has ever asked me if I'm a boy or a girl
- My parents help or helped me with homework and encourage me in my studies
- Most people think I would make a good parent
- I have never been ashamed of my home or my clothes
- I and my friends often send photos to each other via social media
- Near where I live there are senior homes and youth centers where they speak my first language
- People never give me skeptical looks when I walk in the city
- I can go to a cinema with my friends without any problems