



# Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity



**Purpose:** To help participants understand and explore their diverse community.


**Participant learning objectives:**

1. Understand and explore diversity within the community
2. Be familiar with contributions diverse groupings make to society
3. Understand advantages of living in a diverse society

3

CONTENT	METHODS/ RESOURCES <i>Slides 25-32 can assist with this session.</i>	APPROX. TIME
<p><b>What is Community?</b></p>	<p>Remind participants that last week we learned about how we are all unique and that we share lots of similarities and differences with one other – variety is what makes life fun! This session will look wider than diversity within our friendship groups/ youth club and will look at diversity within the wider community/ society.</p> <p>Ask participants to brainstorm what they think community means? This can be done as a whole group discussion.</p> <p>Provide participants with definitions of community. Explain that when we talk of community, we are either talking about the place where you live e.g., your village, street, town; or we are talking about a specific group of people who share a part of their identity/ have something in common e.g., Protestant community, Catholic community, school community, football community etc.</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>



<p><b>Northern Ireland to the Outsider</b></p>	<p>You can carry out this activity in smaller groups or as one large group discussion.</p> <p>Ask participants to think about how people, who don't live in NI, would describe here. Discuss what they would say about the culture of NI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food we eat</li> <li>- What we drink</li> <li>- Clothes we wear</li> <li>- Music we listen to</li> <li>- The people who live here (Are we friendly, helpful etc.?)</li> <li>- Famous things about NI</li> <li>- Famous people in NI</li> <li>- What people think of when they hear NI</li> </ul> <p><b>Debrief:</b> Are these true reflections of the society we live in? Did this activity help you to explore Northern Ireland a bit further?</p>	<p>20 minutes</p>
<p><b>Community Mapping Exercise</b></p>	<p><b>Resources:</b>  <a href="#">Flipchart</a>  <a href="#">Markers</a>  <a href="#">Creative art materials</a>  <a href="#">Blu Tac</a>  <a href="#">Reflectors/ safety equipment/ torches etc. if taking a walking tour</a>  <a href="#">Smart phones for photographs</a>  <a href="#">Notepads/ pens</a></p> <p>The purpose of the community mapping exercise is to encourage further reflection on what comprises community, what assets are available in the community (both places and people), and opportunities for positive encounters with diversity and difference.</p> <p>This task works best when participants take a walking tour of their local community/ communities. If this is not possible, google maps can be used to assist participants. Ensure boundaries and routes are established prior to leaving your base and ensure an adequate risk assessment is carried out to safeguard staff and participants.</p> <p>Before you begin, discuss with participants the neighbourhood you want to focus on – what streets/ area will be visited.</p>	<p>90 minutes</p> 

**Ask participants to look out for:**

- Resources in the area including places/ spaces/ buildings (libraries, shops, community halls, churches, youth clubs, schools, parks etc.)
- People (community groups, minority groups, people with influence, skills or talents, sports teams etc.)
- Opportunities to socialise
- Opportunities to get to know others from different backgrounds
- Evidence of diversity
- Places which are only used by one section of the community
- Significant memories/ events/ flags/ symbols
- Places where you feel safe/ unsafe

Provide participants with notepads/ pens and encourage them to take notes and/or pictures as they walk.

Once back at your base, divide participants into small groups (4-5). Keep participants from the same local area together. Provide each group with a Flipchart page and some markers and/ or creative art materials. Ask them to complete their community map.

Once back at your base, ask participants to reflect on their findings and discuss the following:

- What are the positive things about living in the area? Think about what resources/ amenities are available and what positive things or opportunities diverse groupings bring to the area.
- Is there any separation or segregation between different community groupings? Why? How could we help to integrate and welcome everyone better into the community?
- Does your community celebrate diversity? If so, how?
- What are the advantages of living in a diverse society? Think about the different languages, cultures, food, etc.

Ask each group to present and discuss their ideas to the rest of the group.

**Debrief:** What aspects of their community make them feel proud?  
What aspects make them feel frustrated? What are the opportunities for sharing and learning from diverse groups?  
How can we better celebrate diversity?



<b>Icebreaker - Word Chain Memory Game</b>	<p>This activity will help participants refresh some of the learning from last week on the advantages of a diverse society.</p> <p>The leader starts a sentence with 'Thanks to diversity, I... ' and each participant adds their own personal contribution. It should run something like: 'Thanks to diversity, I tried vindaloo curry, X went to salsa classes, Y marched in the gay Pride festival, Z learned martial arts' etc. Each participant must remember what the person/ people before them said. The person who is last must recite everyone's thanks when it is their turn.</p>	<p>20 minutes</p>
<b>Check-Out/ Evaluation</b>	<p><b>Resources:</b> <a href="#">Informal evaluation ideas</a></p> <p>Choose an activity from the list provided.</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>

