

Hopes and ambitions

Downloadable guidance notes for group facilitators of activists or campaigners

To be used in conjunction with *“inspiring action – a guide for practitioners”* created by the everyone foundation with Oxfam and the WI

Title: My hopes and ambitions

Purpose

To enable people to appreciate the fact that most of the human beings on this planet share similar hopes and ambitions. To enable each of us to feel more connected by looking at everyone through this lens.

Context

It is often hard to see past the differences that separate us, whether that is the way we look, speak or behave.

In order to empathize with people who are different it can be useful to look for similarities – what are your hopes and dreams for your children? What concerns wake you up at night? What plans do you have for your own future... Many of these elements are common to all of us, irrespective of our circumstances.

This activity works best with groups of activists who feel some distance from the people that they will be campaigning for.

Objectives

- To encourage people to look for similarities rather than differences.
- To create conversations that humanize people that we might be campaigning or advocating for.
- To encourage people to examine the assumptions that they make about people they are campaigning for.

Instructions

This activity can be done alone or as part of a group.

1. List the things that are really important in your life and put them in the grid overleaf
2. Identify the hopes and dreams you have for each of these areas and write these in the second column.
3. Select those areas that you can imagine other people might also have hopes and dreams
4. Put yourself in their shoes, how might they articulate that same hope or dream and write this in the fourth column
5. To debrief, have a discussion about the differences and similarities. Explore with questions like,
 - a. What were some of the most powerful shared hopes and dreams?
 - b. What are the main differences?
 - c. How has this exercise altered the way that you feel about the people and situation we are campaigning about?
6. As with many exercises there are several ways that this exercise might debrief – a connected one will relate to the ways in which despite vastly different circumstances, the areas we care about and the hopes and dreams we have for our lives can be very similar. Another valid debrief might look at the impact of context on the level of our hopes and dreams, and help people understand the privileged position they currently hold.
7. Review the other tools and resources that are available on the everyonefoundation.org website, including the ‘connectedness’ workshop and ‘facilitation skills to create deeper connections’ workshops or speak to the team about what the next steps might be in this conversation by calling 0207 836 8142

Areas of importance for you	Your hopes and dreams in this area	Likely matches	How they might articulate their hopes and dreams in this area
e.g My children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That they are happy, safe and fulfilled in their lives ▪ That they have exciting careers and get to travel 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That they are happy, safe and fulfilled in their lives ▪ That they survive childhood, and develop the skills to provide for me and their wider family