

Bus

Game

Empathy

Fairness

Compassion



This activity is a good way to introduce the idea of stereotypes and judging people unfairly, which provides a nice 'way in' to the activities focusing on the virtue of Justice. This could also link with the empathy activities in the module on compassion..



"We shouldn't judge people through the prism of our own stereotypes."

Queen Rania of Jordan

Activity 1

Aim(s)

- To introduce the idea of judging people unfairly.

Resources

- 1 x set of *Bus Cards* for the whole group.

Delivery Guide

 This ideally works best as a group activity. However, you can deliver this as a 1-2-1 activity by following the Alternative Delivery Option explained below.

 Facilitators and other staff members can get involved in this and play the part of a bus passenger.

Set up the top deck of a 'bus' using chairs, as below:



If you have enough facilitators/members of staff, give them a *Bus Card* each and ask them to sit on the bus so that there is an empty seat next to them. Ask them to only reveal the text written on the **RED** side of the card and to keep the details on the picture side of the card a secret.

Go through each of the descriptions on the cards; if you have staff members acting as the bus passengers, they can act the part as well as announce who they are (this may require some imagination!).

Once you have explored each description of each person, ask the young people to imagine they are getting on the bus and they have to choose who they are going to sit next to:

A man just released from prison talking about war and Islam	Mohammad Ali
A radical feminist	Prince Harry
A group of women shouting and cheering	England Women's Football Team
A drug dealer talking about making millions	JayZ
A man carrying a dove in a cage	Ozzy Osbourne
A successful premiership footballer earning millions	Adam Johnson
A man convicted of domestic abuse	Chris Brown
A woman suffering from severe bi-polar disorder who has had suicidal thoughts from age 7	Demi Lovato
A community organiser from America, raised by a single parent	Barack Obama
A family supported entirely by money from the taxpayer and living in a house provided by the state	The Royal Family

If you have the bus layout set up, ask the young people to go and sit by the person they have chosen. This also means that if they don't choose quickly enough then they may be stuck with a seat they wouldn't have chosen.

Who would they choose to sit next to? Who would they choose to avoid? What are their reasons for this? Once they have made their decisions and given their reasons, turn over the relevant cards or ask the staff members to reveal their identity.

Are the participants surprised? Does it make any difference to their decision now they know who it actually is and have more information?

Talk about what this means for how we judge people in life every day? Is it unfair to judge people on limited information? Ask them to think about what the disadvantages are of doing this, but also to consider the benefits. Sometimes we need to make a snap decision about someone and we have to act on limited information.

Ask them whether they have they ever felt judged? Encourage them to particularly think about times on public transport, where groups of young people can often be viewed with suspicion. Is that unfair?

! *Alternative Delivery Option*

If this more practical way of delivering the activity is not appropriate in your context, or you are working in a 1-2-1 situation, you can deliver this activity differently. Place the *Bus Cards* on the table or floor in front of you with only the red side of the card visible, and go through the different descriptions to check understanding. Ask the young people to choose who they would sit next to or, if you're working 1-2-1, their top three people and then the three people they'd most like to avoid. Once they have decided, turn over the relevant cards and follow the Delivery Guide as above.

Points to highlight

- People are not always what they seem.
- Are we unfair to others because of assumptions we make? We should challenge stereotypes and not make assumptions.
- How are stereotypes and assumptions useful? Sometimes we can't have all of the information so we have to make assumptions/quick decisions.



Extension Activities

You could extend this activity by asking the young people to come up with their own 'bus passengers' who are judged unfairly or who defy stereotypes. They could be people in the public eye, or people they know. Olympic and Paralympic Athletes are often a good source of inspiration for this.