Pimpoleo and the Goodstan States

Step: Three - Explore more!

Time: 45 min

Space and materials:

None

Description of the tool

This tool aims to help the participants to understand better the topic of refugees and asylum seekers by participating in a theatre activity.

1. Explain to the participants that they will be divided into three groups and will be performing the following scene:

   During a cold, rainy night, at the border between Pimpoleo and Goodstan, there was a group of asylum seekers trying to escape the war. They were hungry, wet and exhausted. They had neither money nor food, only their passports. Immigration officers from Goodstan, where the group wanted to enter, had different opinions. Half of them thought they should let them enter, while the other half were of the opposite opinion. The asylum seekers were desperate and used different arguments to convince the officers to let them in.

2. Divide participants into 3 groups and assign them the roles: immigration officers who want to let asylum seekers in, officers who are against and asylum seekers. Give them 20 minutes to make the list of arguments that they can use during the scene.

3. Ask the group to play the scene. If you have time, you can play one more scene switching the roles of the groups.

4. Ask the participants to get out of their roles and open a discussion using the following questions:

- How did you feel as asylum seekers?
- How did you feel as Immigration officers?
- According to the Geneva Convention of 1951, asylum seekers have a right to protection. Did they use it in their scene?
- Why did we get to the point that situations like this happen in real life? Aren´t there any other ways? Can this be prevented? How?