

Materials:

- Boat outlines on newsprint (1boat/work group)
- tables (1 table/work group...floor can be used in absence of tables)
- tape
- sets of 14 identity index cards (1 set/work group)
- colored markers (7 different colors; see below to coordinate colors with identities)

one set of 14 identities:

- *drag queen (red)
- *jehovah witness (brown)
- *korean market owner (green)
- *hiv+person who continues to have sex (orange)
- *welfare recipient for 15 years (orange)
- *illegal alien (black)
- *pregnant black womyn (blue)
- *a 330lb person (green)
- *an epileptic (black)
- * feminist (purple)
- *15 year old convicted twice for robbery (red)
- *person carrying life savings (purple)
- * hasidic jew (brown)
- * a person disfigured by fire (blue)

Set up:

- Divide community into separate work groups, approx. 6-10 people/group at each table
- Give one boat and one set of 14 identity index cards to each work groups asking people not to turn the cards over yet.

Instructions:

- Inform community that this will be an exercise where everyone will try to solve the same problem...to see who can come up with the best solution.
- Before reading the passage ask people what would be important in working with together with other people, in developing good friendships, or building trust (the point is to get them to acknowledge the importance of *good listening skills*. (this will become important as they will need to listen very carefully to the passage that you will be reading).
- Tell people that you will read a short passage/story about a crisis situation and their job is to find the best solution for this crisis/problem but **they will only have 10 minutes** to solve the problem...remind them to *listen carefully* because you will only read the passage **once**...a crisis situation never happens twice...(we will end up giving them more time but 10 mins allows us to get them moving...)
- Ask people what is the best way a group of people make decisions in a crisis situation...get a few suggestions...then question them on if “voting” or democracy/”majority rules” is the best way...ask people if there is another way (consensus decision-making)...encourage work groups to use consensus decision-making, reminding them that majority vote is not really democracy (this we all know as “minorities”...recall the Florida vote!)...reaching a consensus decision means that everyone has a say and that everyone can live with the decision...

Describe setting: _____

A storm is raging and a flood is developing.... Many people are trying to save themselves... in your community 14 people are left and all are trapped on the roof of a building with the waters rising. At this point there is only one boat left and only 10 people can fit in the boat... your job is to decide who gets to be in the boat.

*You are **not** in the group of 14... your work group is in charge of deciding what to do with the 14 people on the roof.... Remember **only 10 people can fit in the boat**...*

You have 10 minutes, GO!

Processing involves having 3-4 work groups share their solutions to the larger community...describing who they put in the boat and who they left out and why...discussion can then move in many directions...e.g. what made it difficult...which people were put off in most of the boats...be aware that the facilitators always get blamed for “setting people up”...the real point is that there is a way to save everyone...what keeps us from solving our problems is our unintentional biases...the more vigilant we are about fighting discrimination will be reflected in our ability to solve the problem (save everyone!).