

4 MONSTER IN THE MIDDLE

Aim

To explore the variety of groups to which we belong and our attitudes to people in these groups

Time

10 minutes

Note to Leaders

Some participants may find the comments made by others regarding particular groups upsetting. Ensure that the debrief after the activity provides an opportunity for these participants to share any reactions they have to these comments and that it addresses any anger or frustration that the game may provoke.

What to do

- Choose two people to be the monsters. Ask half the rest of the group to go to the top of the room and the other half to go to the bottom. The monsters stand in the middle.
- Read out the first set of groups from the list below, for example vegetarian/ meat-eater. (Choose those sets which are most appropriate for your group).
- Participants belonging to the first group in the set (vegetarian) should go to the top of the room and participants belonging to the second group in the set (meat-eaters) should go to the bottom of the room. Participants have to go to one end or the other.
- As participants change places the monsters each catch someone. Those caught become the new monsters and the old monster go to which ever side they belong to.
- Ask the groups to call out any feelings they have towards the other group.
- Repeat for each of the sets of groups.

Discussion Questions

- Which of the groups are you pleased to be in? Are there any groups you are not pleased to be in?
- Did you like/ dislike any of the comments you heard?
- Were there any sets of groups that you didn't feel happy being on one side or another?

GROUPS

vegetarian/ meat-eater

Irish/ migrant

Chinese food lover/
Chinese food hater

cat lover/ cat hater

female/ male

under 18/ over 18

musical/ not musical

sports fan/ not into sport

smoker/ non-smoker

cook/ can't cook

can roll tongue/ can't roll tongue

like liquorice/ liquorice hater

religious/ not religious

live in rural area/ live in city

people who drink/ don't drink