



Discrimination & derogatory language

action: videos

Discrimination occurs when people are treated less favourably than other people are in a comparable situation only because they belong, or are perceived to belong to a certain group or category of people. People may be discriminated against because of their age, disability, ethnicity, origin, political belief, race, religion, sex or gender, sexual orientation, language, culture and on many other grounds. Discrimination, which is often the result of prejudices people hold, makes people powerless, impedes them from becoming active citizens, restricts them from developing their skills and, in many situations, from accessing work, health services, education or accommodation.

Language is our main form of communication and it plays a powerful role both in contributing to and in eliminating discrimination. People can be hurt, demeaned and offended by discriminatory and derogatory language.

Derogatory language is often dismissed as 'harmless banter' that isn't intentionally hurtful. However when such language goes unchallenged, this has a clear negative impact on young people's sense of belonging, self-esteem and attainment at school.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Our global issue is discrimination and derogatory language. This is a serious issue that affects many people very severely.

What is it:

What is discrimination? Discrimination is an unfair judgment of someone resulting in treating them differently. Common grounds for discrimination are sexual preference, religion and race.

Importance:

This is a big problem and can result in severe consequences and this issue should not be taken lightly. Victims of discrimination can be scarred for the rest of their lives. And the problem is that discrimination is not uncommon.

Effects:

The effects of discrimination are severe. Discrimination can lead to extreme feelings of guilt, anxiety, depression and sadness to both the victim and the tormentor.

LOCAL ACTION

We did multiple actions to spread awareness about the importance of Discrimination and derogatory language and how impactful it has on today's generation.

As a group, we made two videos per person explaining in our own words the following two questions:

- Have you ever experienced discrimination or do you know someone who has and how did that make you feel?
- Why is discrimination bad?

We also conducted a survey for the entire year 9 asking them to answer some questions about their own personal encounter with discrimination in their lives and what impact did that have on them. These answers were anonymous and we were glad that people took it serious and answered honestly.

And finally our last one would be more of an experiment that we are going to do to the audience. We'd separate everyone based on their eye color. So everyone with different eye colors would get separated from each

EXPERTS CONSULTED



The LaChat APPEAR team (Association de Parents pour la Promotion d'une Education Anti-Raciste)
From left to right:
Karen Eugeni, Kindy Sylla and Alexandra Braum

other. We would then select random individuals and ask them to say hurtful comments to about them. Then we would lecture how brown eyes is superior than other eye colors. Then we would let them say how it felt for them to be discriminated because of your eye color. Then show them a video of the same experiment tested on older students and how they felt.

Why did we decide to do these actions: for the first action, we wanted to simply raise awareness and tell them about our own personal experience with discrimination. For the second one, we wanted to let people have a voice to speak. To let them share their own stories with us because that helps them reflect.

And lastly, the third one was to let them feel what discrimination is like and how terrible this could affect one's future life.

THE TEAM



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