

# PLANET WITHOUT GENDER

## AIM:

Thinking about one's and other's gender identities, to identify stereotypes, privileges, pros and cons and discrimination.

## TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

opening and in-depth activity

## TARGET GROUP:

3 to 15 people, 14 years and older

## DURATION:

▶ 50 to 60 minutes

## ACCESSIBILITY:

▶ none

## MATERIALS:

▶ posters  
markers  
printed or written questions

## PROCESS:

The opening: "You meet a person from a different planet on which there are no genders. You have a lot of questions for this person."

Next, in smaller groups, participants discuss this or additional questions and create a presentation and/or a poster.

It is wise to choose a few from the following questions:

- ▶ How do you explain to a person from another planet what it means to have a gender?
- ▶ What defines a boy/man or a girl/woman?
- ▶ How should people of a certain gender behave?
- ▶ What are they allowed to do; what are they not allowed to do?
- ▶ How many genders do you know? Try not to think of biological, i.e. physical characteristics but of social expectations and behavior.
- ▶ Why do many people find that gender does not play a major role in their everyday life, and yet they insist on two genders/gender as something "natural"?
- ▶ The person would like to try out a gender. All bodies on their planet are different – what would you advise them to do?
- ▶ Everybody is treated with respect on the planet this person comes from. What changes would there
- ▶ have to take place on Earth for this to be the case here as well?

After this, the groups will present and discuss their outputs in the whole group.

Possible questions for the discussion could be:

- ▶ (Why) Did you attribute certain characteristics to certain genders? (Specific examples from the presentations can be given here.)
- ▶ If a woman/man does not behave according to a stereotypical pattern, does he/she suddenly have a different gender?
- ▶ Who can determine what gender a person is? (This question aims at the fact that only you yourself can know and feel what gender you are.)
- ▶ Why do you think people are laughed at or bullied if they don't adhere to gender norms?
- ▶ When did you realize what gender you were?
- ▶ Why do you think so many people think that there are only two sexes?
- ▶ What do you want from society in terms of gender?