

“Me and my opinion” | Warm-up

Short description	The participants take a position on what thinking and behavior seems ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ to them in relation to humanitarian actions, the Humanitarian Principles and dealing with personal values.
Topics	Humanitarian actions, the Humanitarian Principles, personal values
Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance of group exchanges • Recognition of the variety of viewpoints within the group
Setting	Unlimited, whole group
Time frame	15 - 20 min.
Materials	Key questions, possibly coloured adhesive tape for floor markings
Instructions	<p>The teacher makes verbal assertions ‘in the room’ concerning the above mentioned topics, considering both the past and the future, and asks the participants to express their opinions on these assertions. The participants do this, matching them as near as possible with their own opinions. Example: Hearing the statement “We all have exactly the same basic values”, all the participants who agree with this assertion move to the left side of the room, all those who are undecided go to the middle and all those who disagree move to the right. The important thing is that each individual decides where he or she wishes to stand and how they wish to express this. Subsequently each individual will be asked why they have taken this particular position. The group images which the participants produce in the respective line-ups and the participants’ statements when asked to explain their position create meaningful snapshots. They are meaningful in various ways: personal standpoints in the group, the ability of the participants to explain, diversity within the group, an indication of the state of knowledge concerning the various topics, group dynamics, the interest of the participants, their ability and desire to approach the topics in different ways, etc. This exercise can be conducted in different ways, with no limits as to creativity. It is crucial however that at this stage there be no commenting on the positioning and statements of the participants, and above all no evaluation. There should be no interference with any tensions that emerge or unresolved issues. The participants must have opportunities as the process unfolds to constantly review their attitudes and thinking and behavioural patterns and to adapt them as they see fit.</p>