

The corner game - religious questions

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 **AIM:** This exercise clarifies different perspectives in an instructive, clear and undramatic way when all participants have to physically show their opinion on a given dilemma.

 **Participants:** 10 – 30

 **Duration:** 20 – 45 minutes

 **Required Material:** A large room with space enough for the participants to move around.

 **Category:** Dialogue exercise / inter-cultural, inter-faith

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Some of the subjects may be based on typical stereotypes and assumptions of some groups of people; be prepared for discussions on these subjects.
- Prepare the participants that it might be a challenge to respond to the question – but encourage them to be brave and not to judge each other.
- This exercise works well with a group that does not necessarily know each other very well.

STEPS

Preparation (5 minutes)

Invite the participants to the empty floor with four corners.

Activity (20 - 30 minutes)

Prepare some dilemmas and four possible answers (one for each corner) for the participants to consider and choose. Here are some examples of questions that you can use:

These questions will be good to use when wanting to gain a different perspective on assumptions and stereotypes, for example Western vs. Middle Eastern assumptions of each other.

Tell the participants that they now have to consider/relate to

difficult questions for which they may have different opinions. Introduce the questions. Present the answers by pointing to each corner with the different options. Ask the participants to go around the room and place themselves in the corner they find most suitable for themselves.

1. What role does faith play in your life?
 - a. It is a big and important part of me.
 - b. Everyone is free to believe what they want, and I believe in something bigger than me, something spiritual, which is not part of organised religion.
 - c. Religion should be private; I believe in a secular state.
 - d. We live in a modern age, religion doesn't belong here.

2. Your good friend is converting to Islam/Christianity/Judaism/Buddhism/Hinduism. What is your reaction?
 - a. If it makes him/her happy, it will make me happy for him/her.
 - b. I have a really hard time understanding it, but I will try to engage in a dialogue and be understanding,
 - c. It is her/his own choice and is not any of my business.
 - d. I don't think I could be his/her friend anymore. Our values are no longer the same.

When everyone has chosen their corner, the facilitator will go around and interview some of the participants. Ask at least two from each corner, as the answers from each participant may vary between each other in the same corner.

Try to engage the corners in a dialogue, allowing time for the participants to ask each other questions. Make sure to tell the participants that they can change corners during the exercise if they find it makes better sense to change option/answer. Make sure you interview the people who change corners to understand why they did so.

Reflection

<p>(5 – 10 minutes)</p>	<p>Reflect in a plenary session on what the participants have learned about themselves and each other. You might ask questions such as:</p> <p>How was it to physically show your perspective / answer to the dilemma? What do you bring with you from this exercise?</p>
<p>Learning points (5 minutes)</p>	<p>Summarize what was learned.</p> <p>Points might be:</p> <p>You cannot be neutral in a dialogue, and by physically standing in a corner everyone will be clear on their own perspectives.</p> <p>The diversity in the group becomes clear as there are four corners, and there can be a lot of reasons to choose one corner instead of the other.</p> <p>Hearing other’s perspective might make you reflect and maybe change your opinion.</p> <p>Thank everyone for their participation.</p>