

# 11 THE MYTHS & FACTS GAME

## Aim

To challenge myths surrounding groups that experience inequalities in Ireland

## Time

20 minutes

## Materials

Copies of the Myths and Facts statements below and art materials.

## What to do

- Mix up the cards with the different myths and facts and lay them around the room.
- Invite participants to pick up one of the cards and find the person with the myth or fact which is connected to their card. Ask participants to read out their myths and facts.
- Ask the group to discuss where the myths come from and what impact they have on the way we treat people in Ireland.
- Ask participants to choose one fact and design a poster highlighting that fact.

### Myth

Young people today are selfish and cause a lot of social problems.

### Fact

60% of young people aged between 12 and 24 want to help people in developing countries.

### Myth

Most of the people who come from overseas to live in Ireland are asylum seekers

### Myth

People with disabilities can't work.

### Myth

Women in Ireland get equal or better treatment than men. It's only in foreign countries that there is discrimination against women.

### Fact

Since 1995 most people coming to live in Ireland are returning Irish nationals (50%) EU/US nationals (38%) and people from the rest of the world (12%).

### Fact

Many people with a disability can work but face barriers to getting a job because employers have not made the necessary changes to accommodate them.

### Fact

Women have only 13% of Dáil seats compared with 16% worldwide. Less than 3% of the top executives in Ireland are women. 18% of women have been abused by a current or former partner.

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## Myth

Being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered is a choice.

## Fact

Being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered is no more a choice than being heterosexual.

## Myth

Travellers choose to live on the side of the road with no services.

## Fact

While a small percentage of Travellers may choose to live on the side of the road, the vast majority wish to have decent serviced accommodation while maintaining their Traveller culture.

## Myth

Migrants are a drain on the Irish economy.

## Fact

The majority of migrants are people of working age and do not use services any more than any other group, in fact they contribute to them through taxation. Asylum seekers are not allowed to enter employment until they are granted refugee status and therefore do not have the option of contributing to taxation.

## Myth

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people don't want long-term, loving relationships.

## Fact

Loving relationships are just as important to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people as they are to heterosexual people.

## Myth

Asylum seekers receive cars, mobile phones and services to which Irish people are not entitled

## Fact

Asylum seekers are not entitled to free cars or mobile phones. Most are housed in hostel type accommodation until their application is processed and receive €19.10 per week per person. This amount has not increased since 2000.

## Myth

Migrant workers in Ireland have the same rights as Irish workers.

## Fact

Many migrant workers do not have the right to have their family with them or to choose who they work for.