Teacher Reflection Activities

These activities aim to prepare teachers to explore justice issues with learners by preparing them to discuss the issues raised by the activities in this, and other, resources.

*From Resource Introduction*

**Teacher Reflection Activity on values:**

1. What are your core personal values?

2. How do they influence how you teach?
From Resource Introduction

Teacher Reflection Activity on solidarity:

“When I give food to the poor they call me a saint, when I ask why the poor have no food they call me a communist.”

Think about this quote by Don Helder Camara, the Archbishop of Recife, Brazil.

1. What does he mean?

2. Who is he referring to when he says ‘they’?

3. Why might it be necessary to understand why certain things happen before taking action?
From Unit 1

Teacher Reflection Activity on diversity:

1. Think of a time when you did or said something insensitive. How did you realise you had been insensitive? How did it make you feel?

2. Think of a time when a student said something hurtful or insensitive to another student in your classroom. How did you respond?

What might be a better way to respond?
From Unit 2

Teacher reflection activity on language:

1. Think of a time when you were aware of the power of language – was it a positive or a negative power?

2. How might describing people as ‘developing’ affect how they see themselves?

3. How does describing ourselves as ‘developed’ influence how we see ourselves?
Teacher Reflection Activity on images:

Imagine a teacher from China is visiting your school. They want to take photos and use them in China to raise awareness about poverty and education in Ireland.

What kinds of images would you want them to use?

How would you want them to use them?

What images would you not want them to use?
From Unit 3

Teacher Reflection Activity on diversity and culture:

Imagine the learners in your classroom, and make a note of the diversities in the room.

List some mainstream Irish cultural norms.

Consider what kinds of misunderstandings could take place with people from different cultural backgrounds (see the Hidden Culture cards on page 21 of the resource and in the Unit 3 documents on this CD for ideas):
From Unit 7

Teacher Reflection Activity on discrimination:

1. Think of an example of both individual racism and institutional racism.

2. Think of a time when you experienced racism or were discriminated against. Think of four words that describe how it felt, and write them down.

3. Then think about a time when you discriminated against somebody else. Think of four words that describe how it felt, and write them down.