

14 ON ROUTE TO IRELAND ROLE PLAYS

Aim

To explore some of the reasons for migration

Time

50 minutes

Materials

Copies of the role play cards and old clothes, coloured paper, glue and scissors for dressing up.

What to do

- Divide the participants into four groups. Give each group one of the role cards.
- Allow 20 minutes for each group to prepare a short role play based on their role card.
- Ask each group to present their role play to the other participants.

Discussion Questions

- What did you like about the role plays of the other groups?
- What struck you about their stories?
- What do their stories have in common? How do they differ?

ROLE CARDS

Fryderyk

I live in Krakow in Poland. It's a very attractive town. I am an Architect but I can't find a good job where I am from. Prices are very high now in Poland and wages, if you can get a job, are very low. I am 23 years old. I heard that there are lots of jobs in Ireland and that people are very friendly. I am thinking about leaving Poland to go there.

Alex

I am 18 years old and was born in Boston in the USA. My parents were both from Ireland and I have lots of cousins who still live there. I went to Ireland once when I was a child but I can't remember it very well. I would like to live in Ireland for a while because I imagine it is a wonderful friendly place and I want to understand where my ancestors are from.

Sandrine

I am 17 years old and I am from the Cameroon in West Africa. Earlier this year I was expelled from my college because I am a lesbian. I am extremely worried, not only because I won't be able to finish my education but because homosexuality is a crime in Cameroon and I fear I will be arrested. I have heard of gay people being attacked and it scares me. A friend told me that she thinks I should leave Cameroon and that she knows some people who might help me in Ireland. I think I might try and claim asylum there.

Akma

I am from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. I want to be a doctor. I have heard that there are good medical courses in Ireland and that I might be able to get sponsorship from the Malaysian Government to study there. I also heard that there is lots of work available in Ireland which would help me to pay for food and rent while I am away. I am a committed Muslim and wear a headscarf and I am a bit worried about how people in Ireland will treat me.