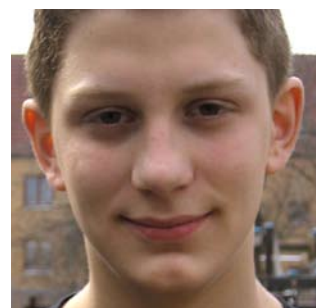


Part 3

Prejudices. You too?

Teaching materials on discrimination, racism and anti-Semitism

Anne Frank House, OSCE/ODIHR



1 What's in a name?

Meet Ashley, Shinelva, Bilal, Jouke, Kaweh, Genesis, Karima, Eva, and Būsra. They met in the Anne Frank House in the spring of 2006. They did not know each other, but freely discussing prejudices and discrimination was not a problem. They all had something to say about that.



Your name

What are your names and do you know why you have them? Do they tell you anything about your family history? What do you want to be called?

My names are

This is what I know about my names.

(For example, write down if you were named after someone, and what your names mean.)

This is what I want to be called



Eva: "We all put people in boxes."

Prejudices. Who doesn't have them?

A prejudice is a judgement about a person or a group of people that you have in advance. You've already made a judgement even before you know that person or group. Everyone has prejudices, but you are not born with them. You get them because of what you hear about groups of people, or what you see, for example, on television, or because of what your parents or friends say.

To understand the world, we first divide everything and everyone into groups. You have to do that; otherwise, you can't learn. For example, a child will call everything that flies a "bird". If he sees a butterfly, he will say "bird", because it flies through the air. He only learns the difference later on. This is how people learn to distinguish things. First we recognize groups of people by what they look like or what they do: Danes speak Danish, Africans have dark skin, the English drink tea, and the Dutch can't dance. If you take a closer look, you will see that these generalizations aren't always right. However, images of groups often contain negative or positive judgements or prejudices. You can't change them very easily. Or do you know that Dutch people can dance?

Does it matter?

Of course, you can think what you like, but the problem of a prejudice is that you don't see someone as a person or an individual, you only see him or her as an example of a whole group: the skateboarder, the Dutchman, the dumb blonde, the farmer, the Goth, the Moroccan. This means you miss a lot of aspects of people.

Can you get rid of prejudices?

We all have the tendency to see what we want to see at first, or to see what we already think. That's why we don't realize very quickly when we get things wrong. That usually only happens when you get to know someone personally. Then the differences turn out not to be so great. But as long as you go on emphasizing the differences, nothing will change.

Genesis: "You should always try to see the person behind the prejudice."



Assignments

Groups

Everything you do and anything you experience, where you come from, what you want to be, all make you unique, like the groups to which you belong: you're a man or a woman, you're a member of a sports club, you're a fan of a particular team, etc. ...

a. Write down four groups that you include yourself in.

b. Are there any incorrect ideas about you? Are you unjustifiably put into a box?

Which one?

c. Write down why this is or is not a prejudice.



What's a prejudice?

A prejudice is a preconceived judgement or opinion about a person or a group of people.

Shinelva, Sara and Būsra meet up for the first time. All three of them like chatting on the Internet, Gillmore Girls and Will & Grace. All three believe in God and Amsterdam is their city.

2 Discrimination. Just ignore it.

Bilal and Būsra have experienced for themselves that prejudices and unfamiliarity can lead to discrimination. Just like Ashley, they take into account the fact that people discriminate. They give advice about what you can do yourself.

“There is a history behind this”

Ashley: Discrimination is often the result of prejudice. For example, some people think that people with dark skin are less intelligent. There’s a history behind this. That’s why you have to prove yourself twice over, because of the colour of your skin.



“Don’t mess around with the bouncer”

Bilal: I can’t get into a club just like that. I’ll give you an example. I’m waiting outside a club. But the bouncer refuses to let me in. He points at my feet and says: “You’re not complying with the dress code. I can’t let you in wearing trainers.” I know that changing shoes won’t make a difference. The next time I’ll be refused entry for some other reason.

Protest? That’s not so easy. It’s not easy for the other people in the queue either. You really can’t mess with a guy like that. There’s nothing you can say to him. You know he’ll think of some excuse, and then sometimes he’ll suddenly let a Moroccan in. Then where is your reason to protest?

“Sometimes you have to do something”

Būsra: I can give you so many examples. Once, a boy in the street shouted at me: “Hey, Halloween’s come and gone, you know!” I quickly called back: “So why don’t you take off your ugly mask?” This was not in Amsterdam, but in another city. I think it’s because there are fewer immigrants there. Really you should just ignore it. You should always think: It’s not my problem, it’s his.

Sometimes you do have to do something, when it all gets to be too much. For example, what happened to my sister.

She was buying two newspapers, a Turkish and a Kurdish newspaper, but the man at the counter refused to serve her. He just ignored her. When she said that she wanted to pay, he snapped at her: “We do more than enough for you lot already!” She was perplexed, and asked more loudly, so that the other people in the shop could also hear whether he would repeat what he’d said. She filed a complaint with the Anti-discrimination Office.



Mohammed Allach (right) tackling Robin Nelissen.



For no good reason

Professional footballer, Mohammed Allach: It was always painfully clear when trying to find holiday jobs or work experience. I was the last one in my class to get a job. Often I was already rejected on the phone as soon as I said my name.

Of course, it can happen that an employer doesn’t like you. For example, because you arrive an hour late for your interview. Or because you let your mobile phone go off twice during the interview. But if you don’t get the job because of your name, your gender, the colour of your skin, or your background, this is not a good reason. This is discrimination. None of these things have anything to do with what you are capable of.

What is discrimination?
You discriminate if you deprive or exclude a person or a group and if you do this on the grounds of characteristics which should not play a role.

Assignments

1 Protest

Bilal says that there’s no point in protesting if you’re refused entry to a club. Do you think he’s right?

Explain your answer.

2 Discrimination

a. Explain why Būsra felt she was discriminated against.

b. Why do you call what happened to her sister discrimination as well?

Explain your answer.

3 Distinctions

So when can you really call something discrimination? Sometimes it’s right to make a distinction, and this cannot be called discrimination. In the following situations, think of good and bad reasons for making a distinction.

a. You’re standing in a queue to go into a club and you see that someone is refused entry.

Good reasons for this:

Bad reasons for this (discrimination):

b. A classmate tells you that she did not get the work experience she wanted

Good reasons for this:

Bad reasons for this (discrimination):

3 Would you dare?

What do you do when someone is called names or excluded? It's not always easy to react. Both Jouke and Sara were threatened at school in the Netherlands. Sasha and Igor live in the Ukraine and don't always feel free to speak openly about all aspects of their identity.



Combat

Sara: "I took up martial arts because I was threatened by a boy. It all started with his statements about Jews. I told somebody that I lived near the synagogue. He heard that and said: 'Hey, isn't that the Jew church? They should burn it down.' Because I became angry, he asked, in surprise, if I was Jewish. I said I would report his comment to the head. It made him very nervous and he said he hadn't meant it like that. But I went anyway. The head took my complaint seriously and he was suspended. But that wasn't the end of it. The boy was so angry with me that he told a girlfriend to tell me that he'd kill me. I didn't dare leave the house. What could I do? I went to combat classes. I have been doing it for a year and a half now and I feel far more confident."

Anti-Semitism
Anti-Semitism is prejudice against, or hatred of, Jews.

Title?

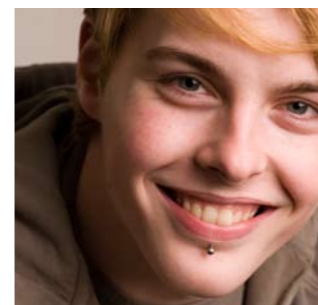
Igor: "My father is Jewish, my mother is Tatar. I feel Jewish. I never faced anti-Semitism. But I do feel uncomfortable in company where they tell jokes about Jews. Though I do not feel threatened, I am not sure I am ready to tell people I am Jewish."



Title?

Sasha: "I am a student and I work. I don't hide being gay, but at the same time I don't risk saying it openly. At work only my closest friends know, but my boss wouldn't like to know. Then he would have to react and no-one wants to be accused of discrimination. That's why we keep silent. I sometimes feel I am a liar, though I'm just not being open. I would not like to feel the negative results of such a confession."

Other gay boys who were asked to give an interview replied that it was too risky. And Sasha said he would not risk putting his photo in a magazine. "If I am asked what it means to be a gay in Ukraine, I reply that it is not easy. If you don't talk about it, you'll have no problems. I am not afraid to talk about it, but you can get negative responses. I don't know what my life would be like if I hadn't concealed being gay".



Homophobia
Prejudices and fear can lead to the discrimination of, and violence against, homosexuals.

Leaving school

Jouke: "I was really bullied at my old school. I was called names for being gay. I was beaten up. You can't imagine how bad it was. Of course I wanted someone to do something. You want justice, but I was afraid. My friends from primary school dropped me when I went to secondary school. You can tell the teachers there's something going on, but if you're on your own you're not going to point out the culprits. I don't really know if the school could have done anything. My tutor talked to the class, but it didn't make any difference. At my new school, there are no problems at all. I'm simply accepted and I get on with everyone."

"You don't become gay"

"It's strange that some people think that you only become gay in adolescence. You don't become gay, you are gay. Actually, I wouldn't just walk across the street with my boyfriend. You might think that it's enough to ignore it and just walk across the street with your head held high, but that's not enough. Someone has to have the courage to support you, for example, by stopping people calling you names."

Assignments

1 Who are you talking to?

The boy asked Sara if she was Jewish. Is her answer relevant?

Yes, because

No, because

How would you respond if someone made an extreme comment about a synagogue, church, or mosque?

2 Being open

a. How do people around you talk about homosexuality?

b. Are you comfortable with this or not?

Explain your answer.

c. Do boys talk differently about homosexuality than girls?

Explain your answer.

3 What about you?

a. Everyone knows of examples of discrimination or name-calling. What can you do? Think back to a time when you witnessed something like this. Briefly describe the situation.

This is what happened:

This is what I did:

I was/was not satisfied about this.

This is what I could also have done:

b. Choose one situation with the other members of your group. Think of the best solution together.

Make a note of it.

4 Roma and Sinti in Europe – A Better Future

Aleksandar and Robert are both Roma. Aleksandar lives in Berlin (Germany) and Robert lives in Croatia. They each have their own experiences of discrimination and their own responses to unfair treatment.



Aleksandar in Berlin 2006

Title?

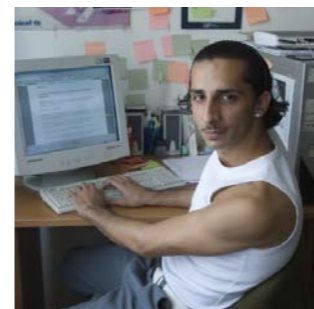
Aleksandar: You often hear that Neukölln in Berlin is the worst place, because of all the foreigners there. I think it's an advantage to have a foreign background. You have more experience, but you also come up against discrimination.

Once I went for a walk with some friends who are all Muslims. I was the only one wearing a cross. A couple of other youngsters came along, also Muslims, and they said to my friends: 'What are you doing with that guy? He's a gypsy, a Christian'. My friends said: 'We don't care, he's our friend'. But afterwards they told me it'd be better if I didn't wear the cross. As for the term "gypsy", I don't even listen to that. They say that to everybody who comes from former Yugoslavia. Their opinion doesn't interest me.

When I say I come from Neukölln, many people immediately respond negatively. I'm afraid it's also a disadvantage to get a good education. For me it's important to also be able to see the good side of Neukölln. I enjoy living there and I don't like when people put it down. Some young people make problems and then everyone always immediately assumes that all foreigners mean trouble.

There are millions of Roma and Sinti throughout the world, though the majority live in Europe. They are often called 'Gypsies', a term with negative overtones. In the past a nomadic lifestyle was a central feature of their culture, but now most Roma live in one place. Many Roma and Sinti are confronted with discrimination and exclusion and they have to deal with racist violence, unemployment and poverty.

The Roma and Sinti have been persecuted throughout history and were victims of the Holocaust. Since the collapse of communism in 1989, their position has got worse in many communities. In Eastern and South Eastern Europe nationalism has led to violence against them. Many people are taking part in initiatives to counter prejudice and discrimination, and to promote equal rights.



Robert in Croatia 2006

Robert in Croatia 2006

Robert: "I feel that a lot of people are prejudiced towards the Romanies. When I meet new people I often notice that their behavior towards me is restrained. I have got used to it, so I give them time to get to know me better. I take care of myself, I'm tidy and I behave in a civilized way. After a while, most people realize that I'm a completely normal person and accept me."

Sometimes, I have problems. For example, I was looking for a job and I arranged a meeting with the manager over the phone. However, when we met, I could see that he was surprised to be faced with a Romany, and in the end he didn't hire me. That's not fair.

I think that people need to understand the Romanies better. That includes the way they talk and write about us. If they accepted us as equal citizens, that would have a positive effect on us and encourage my fellow Romanies to get involved with the society to a greater extent than in the past. In Croatia the Romanies now have their own associations and we try to eliminate the prejudice against us. Sometimes I help in the Romany non-governmental organization 'The Better Future'.

Robert: "After a while, most people realize that I'm a completely normal person and accept me."

A biology class in Pec, western Kosovo, offers Roma teenagers the chance to catch up with the education curriculum's science component so that they can join their peers at the local school.



Assignments

1 Roma and Sinti

a. Why do you think people prefer to be called Roma or Sinti rather than gypsy?

b. What do you think of Aleksandar's response to being called 'gypsy'?

c. Do you ever hear prejudices about Roma and Sinti? How do you respond? In what other way could you respond?

2 Discrimination

a. Give two examples of discrimination that you have read about on this page.

b. Give two examples of ways to act against prejudice and discrimination?

3 Positive Action

a. What do you know about the Roma and Sinti population in your country?

Look for some facts on the internet.

b. Find out which organizations in your country fight for equal rights for Roma and Sinti.

5 Do different races really exist?

In the past, scholars tried to divide all people into so-called races. Sometimes they said that the white race was the best. Jews were also considered to be a race. This is completely wrong, because all people together form one race: the human race.

Racism

Racism divides people into groups by their physical characteristics, labelling some groups as inferior to others. You still hear people use the word "race", but scientists no longer use it. Ideas about race mainly date from the 19th and 20th centuries, when scientists tried to classify all people into races. Above all, they looked at the colour of people's skin and their height. When more became known in Europe about other parts of the world, scientists wanted to describe and explain the differences between people. But that wasn't all. There were scientists who thought that the so-called white race was superior. This idea was used to justify the submission of other people in the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Many people were fiercely opposed to the mixing of races. These ideas were widely held, even by politicians.

The starting point now is that all people together form one race. Obviously we look different, but this in itself does not say anything about your character or your abilities. That depends on other things.



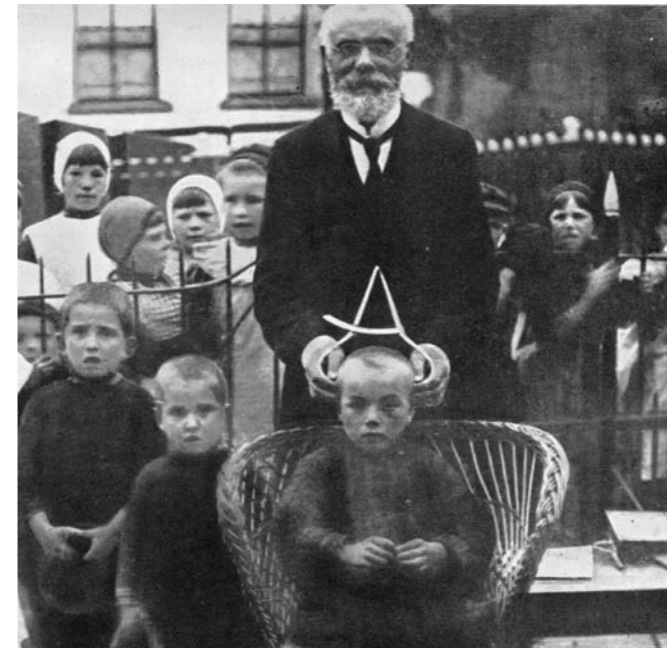
In the past, pupils at school also had to know the differences between races. This illustration comes from a textbook dating from 1980. It shows what scientists once called the three main races: the white, yellow, and black races.

Racism begins when you believe that people are inferior because of the colour of their skin, their culture, or their origin. Often, you also treat these people as though they are inferior or exclude them. In that case, racism is like discrimination.

Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is another word for hatred against Jews. It also covers all sorts of prejudices, some of which have existed since the Middle Ages. At that time, Christians were in the majority and sometimes they were suspicious of Jews because of their beliefs. Jews were often excluded from jobs and persecuted.

In the 19th century, Jews were also viewed as a race. Anti-Semitic people thought that they were inferior and dangerous. Nowadays, Jews are still a minority but no longer discriminated against so much because of their religion. In contrast with other groups, they are not socially or economically weak as a group. For example, they don't have fewer opportunities to find good jobs. But one prejudice that goes back centuries still exists: the idea that Jews will do anything to be rich and powerful, even by tricky means. To uncover this prejudice and challenge it is central to combating anti-Semitism.



Measuring skulls

This shows children having their skulls measured on the island of Urk, in the Netherlands (1910). By measuring skulls, noses, or height, it was thought that it was possible to describe the races precisely. The National Socialist regime tried to determine the measurements of the ideal race. They believed that the white Aryan race was superior.

Assignments

1 Scientists

Why do you think scientists used to divide people into races and no longer do so?

2 Focus on racism and anti-Semitism

For every illustration, write down what it has to do with racism, anti-Semitism, or discrimination. Explain why and whether the image expresses something positive or negative.



b. Monument for Jorge Gomondai, Dresden (Germany).



a. The National Slavery Monument in the Oosterpark, Amsterdam (The Netherlands).



c. The monument at Camp Westerbork (the Netherlands), in commemoration of the Jews and Sinti and Roma who were deported from there to be murdered in extermination camps.



d. A banner for Coexist at a meeting of Sharon Stone with Palestinian and Israeli children, Paris (France).

3 Where and why

Find your own illustration that is about racism, anti-Semitism, and/or discrimination. Write down what it is, if possible where it is, who made it, and why.

6 How would you deal with it?

People everywhere have prejudices. This is what you're confronted with if you are from Greenland and live in Denmark. You are a refugee in Germany or a Tartar in the Ukraine. What protection against discrimination do we have in Europe?



Denmark

Johanne: 'People think I am Danish and that is why I often hear them say bad things about Greenlanders. Usually I don't say anything, but not because I'm ashamed of my background. It's just very unpleasant to be from Greenland when people are always making jokes. Often it is about alcoholism: drunk like a Greenlander.'

Salik: 'You hear that a lot. It's not too bad if people say it openly with Greenlanders around. When I was still at primary school I really got bullied. Children called me Peter, after a Greenlander from our neighbourhood that everyone knew. He was an alcoholic and many children in my class called me by his name. I asked my parents to do something about it and that helped.'

Germany

Albina: 'When I came to Germany we first lived in a home for refugees. On the evening before Hitler's birthday we were warned to stay at home. In previous years our home had been attacked on that date, so we were told to be careful. I was afraid, but nothing happened. It was the only quiet year. In Sachsen there are a lot of Neo-Nazis. One good thing about Germany is that you can set up projects. If Neo-Nazis march past the synagogue in Dresden, a counter demonstration is organised. Punks came to demonstrate with us. It's not only about Jews. We want everyone to be accepted.'



Ukraine

Tamara: 'I think that sometimes we must fight intolerance. A teacher in class once said: "There are too many of you Caucasians now, and I'll show you who you are and what your nation is." I didn't put up with this offensive remark, and proudly answered, so that everyone could hear: "You can't tell me more about my nation than I know already. But I'd like to remind you that my nation was the first in Europe to adopt Christianity, and most Eastern European countries appeared much later than the first state in Armenia." And though I know that arguing like that is a waste of time, I really wanted to show her what's what. I felt it was important not to feel humiliated.'

Discrimination, prejudices, and racism. They're big words. Often there's nothing you can do about it. But you can make sure there's a good atmosphere in the class or in your neighbourhood. With your class, you can also make a plan to bring people closer together.

Tamara: "I think that sometimes we must fight intolerance."

Assignments

What are you going to do?

a. Work with your group. Decide together where there could be improvements. Put a cross by:

- your class
- your school
- your neighbourhood
- anywhere else _____

Choose what you want to work on

- Contact
- Action
- Name calling?
- anything else _____

b. Write down your plan.

Write down what the problem is, what you want to change, and how you want to do that.

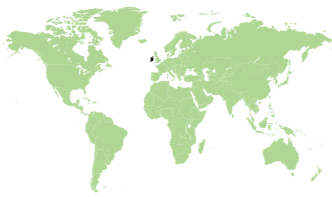
c. Think of a slogan and make a poster encouraging everyone to join in your activity.

d. Present your poster.

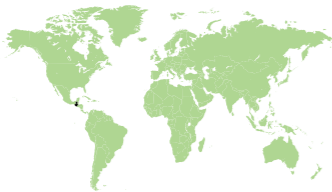
Choose the best plan with the class and carry it out.



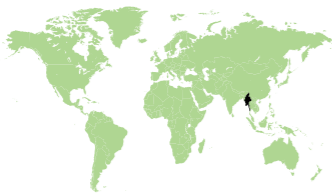
Bono (1960)



Rigoberta Menchú (1959)



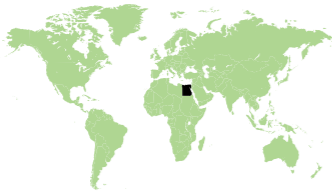
Ang San Suu Kyi (1945)



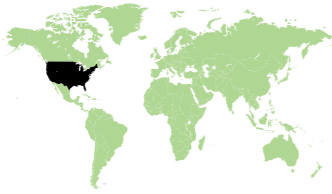
Nkosi Johnson (1989-2001)



Nawal el Saadawi (1931)



Rosa Parks (1913-2005)



Assignments

1 Your hero

These people have fought and are fighting against discrimination and racism and for equal rights without the use of violence.

Complete each description. Do this by adding the name of the person and the country where he or she comes from.

1. Like her father _____ resists the oppression of the Maya Indians on coffee and sugar plantations in the mountains of _____.
2. In daily life _____ is the singer of the band U2. This pop star from _____ has also championed human rights and fights against poverty.
3. _____ was not prepared to sit at the back of the bus and sat down in a seat for whites only. This is how she started her campaign for equal rights for blacks in the _____.
4. _____ wrote the book The Hidden Face of Eve. This writer from _____ tried to oppose violence against women.
5. At a very young age _____ from _____ stood up for the rights of children with HIV/AIDS.
6. Although _____ has been under house arrest for many years, she has continued to campaign peacefully for human rights and democracy in _____.

- United States
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Ireland
- South Africa
- Guatemala
- Egypt

2 Your song

Ali B, Refused.nl

Going clubbing, for him there was no point
 That was the reason he hung about outside the joint
 Chilling with his mates he did his own thing
 Didn't go to the disco 'cos he couldn't get in.

I'm a good boy, I want the best for everyone
 But I still lose out because others mess my fun
 I ask myself, do I look so bad
 But I've come to dance, not to fight, I'm not mad,
 But still I get refused though it's quite unjust
 Bet that if they knew me then like me they must

Osdorp Posse, Scapegoats

You've no idea how much you can hurt
 By throwing dirt, until a spurt
 Of suppressed rage will explode and your own acts will implode.
 Break through this circle of the scapegoat theory
 And stop this stupid tyranny,
 You may look self-assured, but to yourself you're not true
 Cause deep in your heart, sadness is you
 But you go along with it, so the bullying goes on
 Much too afraid that you attract attention
 If you really had some guts, you'd stop all that stuff
 And tell your tormentors that you've had enough
 But if you're too weak, then with any luck
 One day you will come unstuck
 But if you're too weak, then with any luck
 One day you will come unstuck



The raps of Ali B. and Osdorp Posse are about discrimination, being refused entry, scapegoats, prejudices, etc. Make up your own song, rap, or poem about these subjects. P.S. If you have difficulty starting, take one of the sentences of the Osdorp Posse or Ali B. and do something with it.

If you prefer to draw you can make a cartoon on one of the above themes.

Teaching Materials

This booklet is part of a package of teaching materials covering three main themes:
 The history of Jews in Europe and anti-Semitism until 1945;
 Contemporary anti-Semitism in Europe today;
 Prejudices, discrimination, racism, and anti-Semitism.

The materials have been adapted for use in schools in several countries and are available in the official language of each partner state. In each case, the materials were prepared by the ODIHR and the Anne Frank House in co-operation with experts from the countries concerned.

OSCE

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a security organization with 56 participating States from Europe, North America, and Central Asia. Its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights supports the implementation of initiatives in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination, human rights, and democracy. For more information, please visit www.osce.org/odihr.

Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House preserves Anne Frank's hiding place as a museum. It also promotes Anne Frank's ideals, not only in relation to the times in which she lived, but also in terms of their contemporary significance. Educational projects are developed to combat present-day forms of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia and to encourage tolerance and respect for others.

For more information, please visit www.annefrank.org.

Colophon

Text: Ineke Mok, Willem-Pieter van Ledden, Karen Polak (Anne Frank House)
 Production: Anne Frank House
 Translation: Tony Langham & Plym Peters
 Design: Beukers-Scholma Haarlem, The Netherlands
 Printed: -

Illustrations: Photo's: Ingrid van Voorthuisen (photos youngsters); Amnesty International; Centre For Creative Arts/University of KwaZulu-Natal; Fotografie Tamara Baart; Getty Images; Hollandse Hoogte; Nick de Kruijk/FCUphoto; Sebastian Krüger; Uitgeverij Malmberg; Design Ralph Prins/Memorial Center Camp Westerbork; Reporters/AP; Chris Robinson/Amnesty International; Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (VNT 37:3 1838); Solidaridad; Stichting Meldpunt Discriminatie Amsterdam; Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland; Fleur Talens/Reitdiep College; Gerd Waloszeck/SAP Design; Guild Team.

And you?

People across Europe are actively opposing different forms of discrimination. You see here some examples of poster campaigns, dealing with prejudices and discrimination.

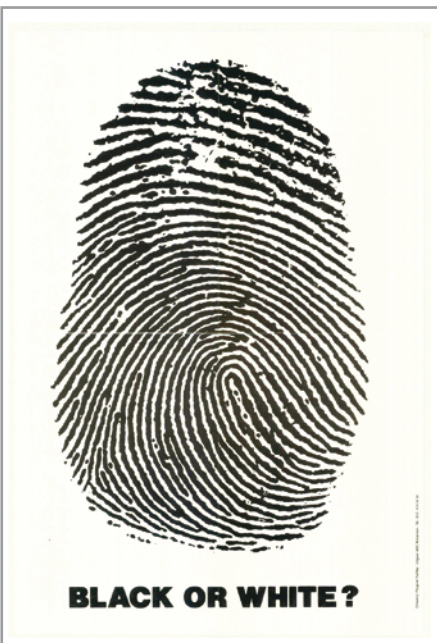
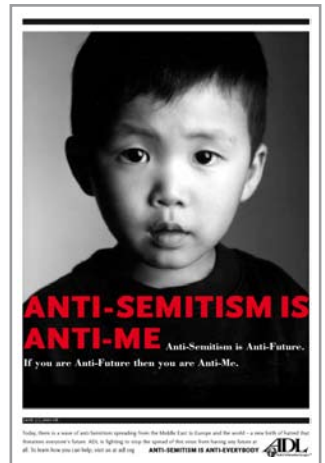
Posters

There are hundreds of posters inviting people to oppose intolerance.

Choose which poster appeals to you most and write down what aspect you specifically like.

Anti-Semitism is anti-me.
Anti-Semitism is anti-future.
If you are anti-future then
you are anti-me.

Are there racists in
Finland?



With a small group choose a topic linked to discrimination that you are concerned about and think of a slogan or a symbol that would make more people aware it.

Together design a poster.

Black or white?

"Honour is to fight for the freedom of my sister."

