

Activity ideas

Understanding gender I

The great divide is a quiz exploring the differing experiences of men and women around the world. It can be used in staff training or with senior members.

The great divide

Aim

To present some facts about the differing experiences of women and men around the world and reflect on their implications.

You will need

The letters "A", "B", "C" and "D", each on a separate piece of A4 paper. Stick one letter on each wall of the room using blu-tak or tape.

Process

Explain to the group that you will be reading out a series of statements, and for each statement the participants will be given four options - A, B, C and D. For each statement, each participant must stand near the letter that they believe is the most correct answer to the statement they have just heard. [An alternative would be to print off the quiz and hand it out for people to respond to individually or in groups.]

Read out each statement from *The great divide quiz* and the four possible answers. Allow the participants enough time to choose the answer they think is correct. When everyone has chosen their position, use *The great divide - the answers* to give the group the correct answer. Allow a few moments for any comments or questions regarding the statement before moving on to the next one.

Once all of the statements have been read out, ask the participants to return to their seats. In the whole group, spend a few minutes discussing the exercise and the key issues to arise from their reactions to the facts outlined in the activity.

At a suitable time, read out the statistics in the handout *Some facts about the UK* regarding gender issues in the UK.

After this, spend a few minutes discussing these issues, in light of the earlier comments regarding other countries.

The great divide quiz

1 What percentage of the hours worked in the world every year are worked by women?

- A. 33% B. 50% C. 60% D. 66%

2 Women earn what percentage of the world's income?

- A. 10% B. 20% C. 30% D. 40%

3 Among the heterosexual married couples in Western Europe, what percentage of the housework do women do?

- A. 50% B. 60% C. 70% D. 80%

4 What percentage of Africa's food is grown by men?

- A. 15% B. 25% C. 40% D. 65%

5 What percentage of the illiterate people in the world are women?

- A. 42% B. 57% C. 66% D. 77%

6 Men hold what percentage of parliamentary seats world-wide?

- A. 59% B. 67% C. 74% D. 88%

7 Inheritance laws ban women from inheriting property owned by her father or husband in which country?

- A. Australia B. Malaysia C. Nepal D. Togo

8 Which country had the first female Prime Minister?

- A. Israel B. The Philippines C. Sri Lanka D. UK

9 One in ten women is severely beaten by her partner or ex-partner in which country:

- A. Pakistan B. UK C. Swaziland D. Indonesia

10 Which country's constitution states that no person may unfairly discriminate against someone on the grounds of their gender?

- A. South Africa B. Saudi Arabia C. USA D. Argentina

11 In which country are married women not allowed to fill in their own tax return - their husband must do it:

- A. New Zealand B. China C. Switzerland D. Canada

12 In which country must a minimum of 25 per cent of each party's election candidates be women?

- A. Italy B. Ireland C. Australia D. Peru

13 For every 100 men enrolled in higher education, only 63 women are enrolled in which country:

- A. Japan B. Canada C. Israel D. Algeria

(Taken from Youth Topics, produced by CAFOD, Christian Aid and SCIAF, UK)

The great divide - the answers

- 1 What percentage of the hours worked in the world every year are worked by women? **D. 66%**
- 2 Women earn what percentage of the world's income? **A. 10%**
- 3 Among the heterosexual married couples in Western Europe, what percentage of the housework do women do? **C. 70%**
- 4 What percentage of Africa's food is grown by men? **B. 25%**
- 5 What percentage of the illiterate people in the world are women? **C. 66%**
- 6 Men hold what percentage of parliamentary seats world-wide? **D. 88%**
- 7 Inheritance laws ban women from inheriting property owned by her father or husband in which country? **D. Togo**
- 8 Which country had the first female Prime Minister? **C. Sri Lanka**
- 9 One in ten women is severely beaten by her partner or ex-partner in which country? **B. UK**
- 10 Which country's constitution states that no person may unfairly discriminate against someone on the grounds of their gender? **A. South Africa**
- 11 In which country are married women not allowed to fill in their own tax return - their husband must do it: **C. Switzerland**
- 12 In which country must a minimum of 25 per cent of each party's election candidates be women? **D. Peru**
- 13 For every 100 men enrolled in higher education, only 63 women are enrolled in which country: **A. Japan**

[Answers correct at time of writing (2008). Activity taken from Youth Topics, produced by CAFOD, Christian Aid and SCIAF, UK]

Some facts about the UK

Did you know.....

- 69% of women and 79% of men of working age are in employment.
- 44% of single mothers are in employment.
- 65% of mothers with children under 5 and working as employees are in part time work, compared with 3% of fathers.
- The typical cost of a full-time child-minding place for a child under five ranges from £50 to £120 per week, while the cost of private nurseries ranges from £70 to £180.
- The average weekly earnings of full-time women workers in 2001 was £367, compared with \$490 for men.
- The ratio of women's earnings to that of men is 82%.
- 46% of women from minority ethnic groups in the UK are in paid work compared to 68% of white women.
- 47% of 16 - 24 year old minority ethnic women are in full or part-time education compared to 32% of white women the same age.

[Information correct at time of writing (2008).]

Activities taken and adapted from *Understanding gender Trainer's Manual*, available from the UK Youth storefront. <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/ukyouth>