

# Handouts for Check Your Privileges!

## Biography Work on the Subject of Privilege

### Step 1

You do not have to answer all these questions; you can choose which you want to study more closely. Take your time and sit down in a place where you feel comfortable. You have 20 minutes for this. Try to answer the questions below for yourself and in relation to your own life. Reflect on it. What happened? What do you remember? What did you think, feel, say, do?

- Has anyone interfered with your privacy because of your age?
- Has anyone suspected that you cannot understand something because of your age?
- Have you ever felt discriminated against because of your attributed gender? Were things expected from you, just because of your gender?
- Have people ever commented on your look, your clothes, and your body? Which attributions did you notice?
- Have you ever commented on the look, the clothes, and the bodies of other people? Which attributions did you make?
- Could you learn about the culture and history of your family's ancestors at school?
- Do racist statements in public affect you?
- Have you ever experienced racism against others and felt powerless in the past to act against racism?
- Have you ever been denied access to a public building or school because of your mental or physical condition?
- Can you live your faith/religion/world view freely?
- Have you ever had to go without a meal or were hungry because your family did not have enough to eat?
- Have you ever heard disparaging remarks or jokes made about older (or old) people?
- Can you hold hands with your partner or exchange tenderness in public with a partner without expecting hostile looks or comments?
- Were the religious holidays celebrated at school also those that are celebrated in your family?
- Do you have the option to travel freely with your passport in European and non-European countries? Have you already made much use of this as a child or adolescent?
- Has your community, e.g. friends and family, told you that when you grow up, you can do anything you want?
- Can you walk alone in the evening and not be afraid of being attacked (verbally or physically)?

### Step 2

Find a person with whom you would like to interact. Think about what experiences and questions you want to discuss.

It is important that you practice listening in this exercise. You have 20 minutes to exchange views. Please take care that you divide the time well and each person gets enough speaking time. When one person talks, the other listens. Try to hear and understand the other person's story and perspective and focus on them. It may be that you can understand the experiences of the other person, or maybe want to tell something similar, please try to listen first.

