

### **Stop, go, jump, clap warm up**

Very simple warm up. When you say 'stop' they stop walking. When you say 'go', they start walking etc.

Then swap instructions over so 'go' now means 'stop' and 'stop' means 'go.' The same applies with 'jump' and 'clap.'

### **Word Bomb and Shield exercise**

Choose one person in the space who will represent your word bomb. They represent all the things which you think can be dangerous when said in society. Choose one person who is your shield. You must keep your shield between you and the word bomb at all times, to protect yourself from offence. Everyone in the space has a different bomb and shield and then begins to move around, keeping themselves safe. It can become very hectic and busy in the space.

At the end, check to see who managed to keep themselves safe from the word bomb. Ask - what makes this activity difficult? Then ask everyone to point to their word bombs. If we all represent society right now, what is the difficulty here?

### **Thermometer of Opinions**

Explain that there is a thermometer in the middle of the room. Walk the line and explain the thermometer. One end is 'strongly agree' then as you walk down the line it becomes 'agree', the middle of the line is 'can see both sides' and the other end is 'disagree' and the the far end is 'strongly disagree.'

Explain that you will read a statement or question and then ask them to stand on the part of the line which reflects their opinion. You will then ask people to step out and tell the group why they are standing where they are standing.

Statements I used:

- freedom of speech improves society
- words are must as dangerous as weapons
- religion is the one thing you cannot criticise

### **Pim Fortuyns freedom of speech party**

With tape on the floor, set up that Pim wanted to be the Great Host of the Freedom of Speech Party (a chair in the middle represents Pim). They are all invited to the party. Will they want to go?

Ask them what they usually do at a party and what food they would eat, music listen to etc. Decide on the rules of the freedom of speech party and write them up. The idea is that you can say literally anything you want at this party and be as offensive as you like.

What would you be worried about before leaving your house? What you wear? What people might say to you etc?

Ask them to take a position in the space as to where they would be in relation to the party. Would they be right at the centre by the chair - not necessarily agreeing with Pim but wanting to be at the heart of the freedom of speech party? Would they be at the corners of the room? Would they be outside the taped area right away from the party, at home because it sounds like an awful place to be?

Ask them to take their places and question why they are standing where they are.

### **Moral compass signs**

Finally, explain that there are very complex issues to do with freedom of speech and perhaps we can only follow our own gut feeling about how we will behave. Ask them to write a big sign on paper which explains their feelings towards freedom of speech and how they will use it in their own lives. Play music and see the signs, everyone keeping their sign held up until the last person has gone.