

Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants **Process for Using *Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand?***

Purpose:

To respectfully explore perspectives about recent Refugee Claimant arrivals to Canada.

Materials required:

1. Copies of the *Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand* handout.
2. 4 signs (see attached): Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree.
3. Tape or adhesive material.
4. *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout.

Process:

1. In advance, prepare the space by putting up the four signs in four different corners of the room (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree).
2. When all are in their seats, explain the purpose (above) of the interactive activity they are about to do. Acknowledge that people may have very different viewpoints, and that the goal isn't to persuade others or defend opinions; rather to gain a deeper understanding of various views.
3. Give each person a *Refugee Rights* handout. While they're sitting, invite them to individually read the statements and, for each, decide if they *Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree* or *Strongly Disagree* with it. Have them circle their answers. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes to complete.
4. As the facilitator, identify any/one statement to explore as a group. Read it out loud and ask them to move to the corner with the sign that reflects their answer (give them time to do so).
5. Invite them to discuss why they are standing where they are with 2-3 others who are around them (give approximately 1-2 minutes to do so). Emphasize the importance of "*listening to understand others, without interrupting or evaluating/judging their comments.*"
6. When it's clear that groups have had adequate time to discuss, stop the conversation by asking for their attention.
 - Explain that you will ask to hear 2-3 perspectives per corner, and that it's your goal to **have each person share uninterrupted, and without comments** from the larger group.
 - Starting with the corner with the fewest number of people, invite one person to share why they stood in that corner. **Paraphrase the sharing** (as best you can), and **without adding your own comments**. Then invite 1-2 more people who may have said something different than the first person.
 - Move to the next corner with the next fewest number, and so on, until you have heard from each corner.
7. Repeat process with up to 2 more statements (more, if time permits).
8. **Debrief:** Indicate that, "*perspectives are informed by belief, experiences and information. Before acting on our perspectives ensure we understand their origin, and the potential personal and social impact.*" For more context on the subject participants can refer to the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout (share with the group at this time, and only at this time, so as to not pre-empt the purpose of the activity).

Refugee Rights

Where Do You Stand?

- 1. People who enter Canada outside of an official border crossing should be charged with a crime.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 2. The international community is doing a good job protecting the rights of refugees.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 3. Canada is a world leader in refugee protection and resettlement.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 4. Refugee Claimants should wait for resettlement through the proper channels, instead of jumping the queue by coming to Canada directly.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 5. We need to make sure that people in our own communities are getting the help they need first, before reaching out to help refugees.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 6. Refugees need resettlement supports to integrate successfully so we should not admit more refugees into Manitoba than the system can handle.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 7. The government has a responsibility to ensure that we do not allow people into Canada who could be a threat to our security.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 8. Because Asylum Seekers are unable to work legally in Canada, they are a drain on our social services.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree
- 9. I am doing more than enough to support refugees and Refugee Claimants.**
a) Strongly Disagree b) Disagree c) Agree d) Strongly Agree