

Gender, Justice, and the Community

Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Activity Objectives:

- Understand the main social structures that maintain gender inequality
- Identify ways for men to work inside and outside these structures to promote gender equality

Materials: Flipcharts

Activity:

1. Ask the group to list the main institutions in society that teach men and women about gender roles. Ask the group to identify the most important institutions in teaching men about gender. Examples may include schools, religion, government, civil society, marriage, law, customary institutions, the media, the arts, etc. Encourage participants to be clear about their reasons for saying that one institution is more important than another. Agree on a list of the six most important institutions in teaching men about gender.
2. Divide the group into six smaller groups. Tell each small group to work on one of the top six social institutions. Ask the small groups to discuss the following questions and prepare to report back to the rest of the participants:
 - What does this social institution teach men about gender?
 - How does this social institution help to maintain the imbalance of power between women and men?
 - What could men within this social institution do to make sure that it promotes gender equality?
 - What could other men outside of this social institution do to make sure that it promotes gender equality?
3. Allow 20 minutes for this small group work.
4. Then bring everyone back together. Ask each small group to report back on their discussion. Explain that each small group will have 10 minutes to both report back and take questions from the rest of the group.
5. When all the groups have reported back, summarize the key points discussed. Explain that we will be continuing to build on the group's suggestions for actions that men can take to change social institutions in the rest of the day's activities.