

# Critical Thinking - Dialogue For Change: Real Life Social Senerios (UK Based)

## Instruction page



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### Activity Type

**Age:** 10-18+

**Participation Style:**  
Group activity  
1-1 activity

**Theme:**  
Critical thinking, reflective, group discussion

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### General Activity Info

- Here are real-life scenarios and stories designed to spark meaningful discussions among participants. These scenarios encourage critical thinking and thoughtful assessment of complex topics, such as race, inequality, and gender issues. Each example aims to promote personal reflection, engage diverse perspectives, and foster group conversations.
- These scenarios and stories are designed to engage teenagers in thoughtful discussions, prompting them to critically assess complex social, ethical, and political issues. By connecting real-world examples to important topics, they can learn to think critically, challenge their assumptions, and become more socially aware.

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### Materials Needed

- A printed and laminated copy of the resource for extended use.
- paper and pens for note taking.

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### Step by Step Instructions

#### Preparation (10 minutes):

- Select and print scenarios or stories that highlight themes such as race, inequality, gender issues, and other relevant social topics.
- Arrange chairs in a circle or set up tables for small group discussions.
- Provide discussion prompts and guiding questions for each scenario.

#### Introduction (5 minutes):

- Briefly explain the purpose of the activity: to engage in meaningful discussions and think critically about social, ethical, and political issues. Emphasize the importance of respecting diverse opinions and creating a safe space for open dialogue.

#### Group Assignment (5 minutes):

- Divide participants into small groups (3-5 people per group).
- Assign each group a scenario or allow them to select one.
- Ask participants to read the assigned scenario together. Encourage each participant to take a minute to reflect on their initial thoughts.

#### Group Discussion (15-20 minutes):

- Use guiding questions to spark discussion.

#### Example prompts:

- "How would you respond in this situation?"*
- "What social or cultural issues are highlighted here?"*
- "What assumptions might people make in this scenario?"*

- Encourage participants to share different perspectives and challenge assumptions respectfully.

#### Whole Group Sharing, reflection and takeawy (10 minutes):

- Bring all groups together to share key insights from their discussions. Highlight any recurring themes, lessons learned, or surprising revelations. Ask participants to share one key takeaway or action point they learned from the discussion. Encourage participants to think about how they can apply these insights in their daily lives.

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## The Story of Doreen Lawrence and Social Justice Advocacy

These real-life UK-based stories and case studies will help your teenage clients engage with complex social, political, and ethical issues, encouraging critical thought and reflection on their role in society. They can discuss systemic problems, how to challenge societal norms, and how they can contribute to positive change.

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## The Story of Jo Cox and Political Unity

### The Story of Jo Cox and Political Unity

#### Story:

Jo Cox, a British MP, was tragically murdered in 2016 by a far-right extremist. Her death sparked a national conversation on political division, extremism, and unity. Her legacy has been honored by the Jo Cox Foundation, which promotes social justice, peace, and community unity.

#### Discussion Points:

- How did Jo Cox's death highlight the dangers of political extremism?
- What role can young people play in promoting political unity and civil discourse?
- How can social media influence political division or help bridge divides?
- What are the lessons of Jo Cox's life and work for future generations?

#### References:

- Jo Cox: A Legacy of Hope by Brendan Cox
- The Jo Cox Foundation: Promoting Unity in Divided Times (2017), BBC News



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# The Story of Stephen Lawrence and Racial Justice

## The Story of Stephen Lawrence and Racial Justice

### Story:

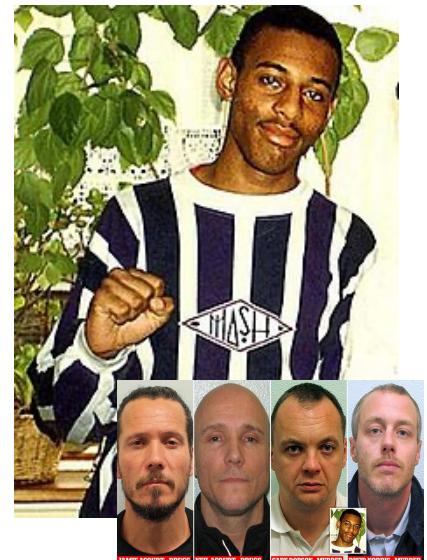
Stephen Lawrence, a Black teenager, was murdered in a racially motivated attack in 1993 in London. The case highlighted deep flaws in the British police system's handling of racism and led to significant reforms, including the Macpherson Report and the eventual conviction of two men in 2012.

### Discussion Points:

- How does racial discrimination impact the justice system in the UK?
- What changes were made after the Stephen Lawrence case, and were they enough?
- What role does the media play in shaping public perceptions of race and justice?
- How can young people address issues of racism and inequality in their own communities?
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### References:

- The Macpherson Report (1999)
- Stephen Lawrence: The Story of a Murder and a Fight for Justice by Gary Younge



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# The Windrush Scandal and Immigration Rights

## The Windrush Scandal and Immigration Rights

### Story:

The Windrush Scandal involved the wrongful detention, denial of legal rights, threats of deportation, and the wrongful denial of British citizenship to members of the Windrush generation (people who arrived from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1971). The scandal surfaced in 2018 and highlighted systemic racism in the UK's immigration policies.



### Discussion Points:

- How did the UK government's treatment of the Windrush generation affect public trust in the system?
- What are the implications of the Windrush Scandal for modern-day immigration policies?
- How do race and nationality intersect in the context of British citizenship?
- What role should young people play in advocating for the rights of minorities and immigrants?
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### References:

- The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment by Amelia Gentleman
- Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multi-Racial Britain by Mike Phillips



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# The Case of Sarah Everard and Gender-based Violence

## The Case of Sarah Everard and Gender-based Violence

### Story:

The tragic case of Sarah Everard, a young woman who was kidnapped, raped, and murdered by a police officer in 2021, sparked widespread outrage and led to national conversations about women's safety and police accountability. This case brought attention to the issue of gender-based violence in the UK.

### Discussion Points:

- How does Sarah Everard's case reflect broader societal issues related to gender-based violence?
- What steps should be taken to ensure women's safety in public spaces?
- How can we challenge the cultural normalization of violence against women?
- What responsibility do institutions, like the police, have in ensuring the safety of all citizens?

### References:

- The Sarah Everard Case: What Went Wrong? (2021), BBC News
- Reclaiming Our Space: How Black Feminists Are Changing the UK by Helen Pankhurst



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# The Story of Marcus Rashford and Social Justice

## The Story of Marcus Rashford and Social Justice

### Story:

Footballer Marcus Rashford has used his platform to campaign for free school meals for children in need, highlighting the issue of child food poverty in the UK. His campaign led to a reversal in government policy, ensuring continued access to food for vulnerable children.

### Discussion Points:

- How can social media and celebrity platforms be used to influence social change?
- What does Rashford's campaign tell us about the role of individual action in affecting public policy?
- Why is child food poverty still an issue in a wealthy country like the UK?
- What other areas in society could benefit from Rashford's approach to advocacy?



### References:

- You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be by Marcus Rashford
- Marcus Rashford's Free School Meals Campaign: A Case Study (2020), The Guardian

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# The Case of Grenfell Tower and Housing Inequality

## The Case of Grenfell Tower and Housing Inequality

### Story:

The Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 resulted in the deaths of 72 people, predominantly from working-class backgrounds. The disaster drew attention to the poor living conditions in social housing and the systemic neglect by local authorities and government agencies.



### Discussion Points:

- What does the Grenfell tragedy reveal about housing inequality in the UK?
- How do socio-economic status and race intersect with issues of housing and safety?
- What responsibility do local authorities and housing developers have in ensuring the safety of residents?
- How can we ensure that this type of tragedy never happens again?

### References:

- The Grenfell Tower Inquiry: A Survivor's Perspective by Rosa Z.
- Grenfell: Lives Lost and Lives Changed (2021), The Independent

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# The Rise of Extinction Rebellion and Climate Activism

## The Rise of Extinction Rebellion and Climate Activism

### Story:

Extinction Rebellion (XR) is a global movement that started in the UK to demand urgent action on climate change. Through non-violent civil disobedience, XR has raised awareness of environmental issues and the need for government action to tackle the climate crisis.



### Discussion Points:

- What are the pros and cons of using civil disobedience to push for change?
- How does the climate crisis disproportionately affect poorer communities?
- What role do young people play in the global movement for climate action?
- How can governments and citizens work together to address climate change?

### References:

- This Is Not a Drill: An Extinction Rebellion Handbook by Extinction Rebellion
- The Politics of Climate Change by Anthony Giddens

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# The Story of Doreen Lawrence and Social Justice Advocacy

## The Story of Doreen Lawrence and Social Justice Advocacy

### Story:

Doreen Lawrence, the mother of murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence, became a tireless advocate for racial justice and equality in the UK. She campaigned for justice for her son and worked to expose the racial bias within the police force and the wider justice system.



### Discussion Points:

- How did Doreen Lawrence's personal tragedy lead to a broader social movement?
- What is the significance of grassroots activism in shaping public policy?
- How can individuals create lasting change in their communities?
- How does Doreen's journey challenge the role of the state in protecting its citizens?

### References:

- And Still I Rise: The Story of Doreen Lawrence (2020), by Doreen Lawrence
- The Macpherson Report (1999)

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# The Story of the 2011 London Riots and Social Unrest

## The Story of the 2011 London Riots and Social Unrest

### Story:

The 2011 riots in London were sparked by the police shooting of Mark Duggan, a Black man. The riots quickly spread across the country and became a focal point for discussing social inequality, police-community relations, and the impact of austerity measures on marginalized communities.



### Discussion Points:

- What were the underlying causes of the 2011 riots?
- How does social unrest reflect broader societal problems?
- What role do police and government responses play in exacerbating or resolving such conflicts?
- How can young people engage in social activism without resorting to violence?

### References:

- The 2011 Riots: A Critical Analysis by Dr. John Williams
- Reading the Riots: Investigating England's Summer of Disorder (2011), The Guardian

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