

## UNPACKING QUOTES

### Aims:

- To explore different causes of sectarianism
- To explore why sectarianism is everyone's responsibility

### Equipment:

- Copies of the "what causes sectarianism?" quotes on handouts
- Pen and paper for note taking
- Quotes:
  1. "I think that there are wealthy people in Glasgow who have gone through the separate schooling system, who hold sectarian views. There are quite a few people who go along to both Ibrox and Parkhead, who are at least condoning the sectarian chanting that goes on there by their presence."
  2. "The cancer of sectarianism is clearly related to poverty. The fanatics who engage in sectarian behaviour must be left in no doubt that their activities have no justification in the name of true religion."
  3. "I think sectarianism is largely about hooliganism and the behaviour that is regarded as acceptable among a certain kind of young working class male. They think it is fun to get tanked up, take lots of drugs, carry a sharp weapon and if for any reason you disagree with them about anything, or dislike the colour of their face or hair you attack them."
  4. "Sectarianism is a complicated mix of historical antagonism, fuelled by economic anger from one sector who feared losing jobs to the new Irish immigrants, differing forms of nationalism, football loyalties and religious and political differences."

NB: quotes 1, 2 & 3 identify one or two possible causes, only quote 3 identifies a mix of causes.

This exercise will take between 15 and 30 minutes. This is suitable for a maximum of 20 adults in 4 groups of 5 people.

### **Facilitators Notes:**

- Ask the participants to put themselves in 4 groups
- Explain that this activity is designed to help participants look more closely at the causes of sectarianism
- Explain that each group will be given an anonymous quote and that they are to do the following:
  - Read through the quote
  - Identify what 'causes' are identified
  - Does the group agree with the causes identified?
  - Discuss why that cause has been identified (e.g. why blame poverty?)
  - Consider how where we come from informs our opinion about issues such as sectarianism. (e.g. why people from the East Coast of Scotland might say that sectarianism is a problem in the West Coast).
- Nominate a spokesperson to feedback discussion points
- When the groups have completed their tasks and discussion ask for feedback. Each group should read out the quote they were given and give an overview of their discussion.

(Before feedback begins it may be useful to give a handout to everyone with all 4 quotes)
- When all groups have given their feedback open up a discussion about the causes of sectarianism.
- Ask the group which quote they agree with most
- Ask the group to add any other causes they think are missing from the quotes
- Help the group explore why people may blame one source for sectarianism – e.g. old people blame young people, rich people blame poor people. Highlight that when we blame other people or groups for

the problems in our society then we transfer responsibility to someone else – we scapegoat! Blaming someone else means its not our problem and we don't have to do anything about it.

- Ask for final thoughts, comments and questions.