

HANDOUTS

The situation and role cards

The situation: The daughter of the family has decided to face her family and tell them that she intends to live with her boyfriend who is an immigrant and blind. They have found an apartment they could move into.

Daughter, brother and parents should choose names for themselves.

The scene takes place in the sitting room of the family home. Parents and brother are having a cup of coffee. The daughter comes in.

Daughter

You start the role play by coming into the room and telling your family that you have decided to go and live with your boyfriend. Try to defend your decision and argue that you are quite prepared to make a stand to counter prejudice against immigrants and people with disabilities.

Note: You may need a back story for your boyfriend in order to counter arguments your family say. Think about what you might want to say in his defense, for instance, how and when he came to your country, how he became blind, where he is living now and his work or studies.

Mother

You love your daughter very much but are shocked and also hurt that she had not confided in you about the extent of her feelings for the young man before. You worry the boy will try to convert your daughter to his religion, the cultural differences are just too great. Also, his being blind will make difficulties, especially practical difficulties in balancing home and work life. It is a recipe for disaster.

Older brother

In principle you do not mind if your sister goes out with an immigrant, and in fact you defend the right for young people to be free in their relationships; attitudes have moved on since your parents' day. Nevertheless, what your mother says about him being blind makes you start to think that a normal life might be very difficult. You show your concern and want to protect your sister.

Father

You don't approve of your daughter's relationship and firmly oppose the idea of them living together. What might it lead to? You represent the moral mainstream and you care about what people will say. You do not consider yourself racist, but your daughter possibly marrying an immigrant is something else! Think of a strict father with strong beliefs and argue as he would argue.