# UNCONSCIOUS BIAS & GENDER EQUALITY

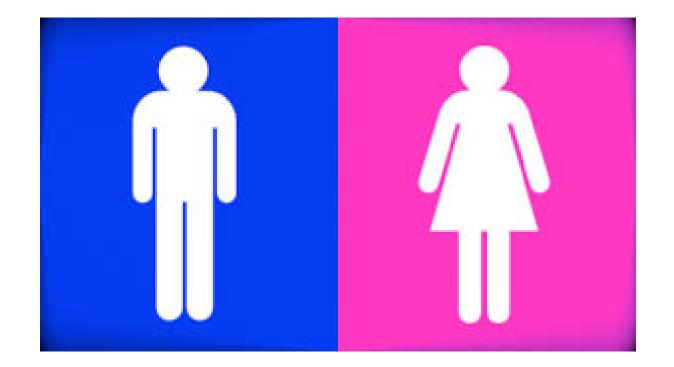


By Dil Wickremasinghe



# MEDITATION BODY SCAN

### What words do you associate with?



#### The Surgeon

A young man and his father are involved in a terrible car accident. Tragically, the father dies soon after. When the young man arrives at the emergency ward, the surgeon says:

"I cannot operate on this young man ... he is my son!"

How could this be so?

#### What is Inequality & How Does it Impact People?





# DILW

### Dil Wickremasinghe

Social Justice & Mental Health Activist Social Entrepreneur

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- LGBTQI+ rights, mental health, #metoo, Frederick Douglas Award
  - Co- Founder and Director of Insight Matters, 2 centres, 55
    psychotherapists supporting over 400 clients per week
  - BA (Hons) Counselling & Psychotherapy
  - Diversity, Equality, Intercultural, Disability, Mental Health since 2006
  - Worked in a leading agency for 10 years
  - Presented "Global Village" Newstalk 106-108 FM for 10 years
  - The Insight Matters Podcast & Sparking Change with Dil
  - Box of Frogs, Ireland's First Alcohol Free Comedy Club

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# What is Equality?

The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, opportunities and outcomes.

Equality is about the distribution of resources as well as power and culture and the valuing of difference.

Anne Philips 'Which Equalities Matter?'

### Unconscious Bias – How is it formed?



As prehistoric beings, we had to make quick decisions to judge a situation – whether we were going to be safe or unsafe However, with time, this safety mechanism has morphed into a model of classifying groupings without fully understanding or engaging with them.

Unconscious bias leads us to categorise people into our "in" and "out" groups – making decisions about them almost instantly.

What are our "In Groups" and "Out Groups"?





### Name the number of digits:

# 7777

First impulse, is to say 7 but when you pay attention and take time to understand the question... the answer is 4.

When you tap my knee with a reflex hammer and I kick, that's a reflex.

If I'm still kicking you a minute later, that's something else.

### Gender Stereotyping in Children

One study asked children to guess whether a "really, really smart" protagonist in a story was a man or a woman. By the age of six, girls were less likely to guess that the protagonist was a woman than boys were to guess that the protagonist was a man.

> American Association for the Advancement of Science



#### The Iceberg of Self-Awareness

#### **Conscious Mind**

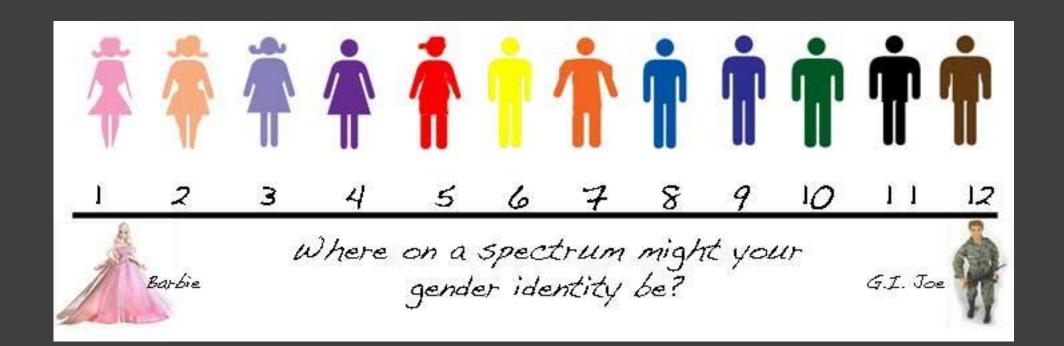
#### **Unconscious Mind**

"The mind is like an **iceberg**, it floats with one-seventh of its bulk above water." Sigmund Freud

-	Known to Self	Unknown to Self
	OPEN SELF Information about you that both you & others know.	BLIND SELF Information about you that you don't know but others do know.
	HIPPEN SELF Information about you that you know but others don't know.	UNKNOWN SELF Information about you that neither you nor others know.

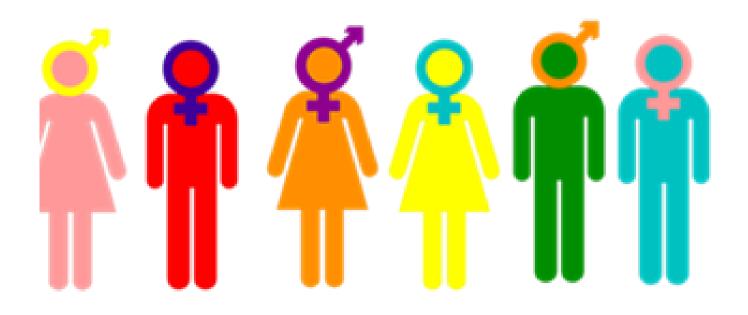
Johari Window

# Beyond Gender Binary



# Gender Identity Awareness

- How do you describe your gender identity?
- What are the factors that influenced your gender identity?
- What do you remember feeling about your gender as a child?
- What was puberty / adolescence like?
- How do you feel about your gender now?
- How does your gender identity impact on how you feel about work, relationships, or other aspects of your life?



# Have you experienced Gender Inequality?

Ner Newstalk 'axes Dil' who protested Hook ANe lastn static By Emma Jane H DIL Wickremasinghe, the broadwom pointed at this sug caster who refused to present her expre Last month, Ms notest over the lisap Newstalk show in drop Fintan George Hook co Iné announced that night **O'Toole** the station has 'c inghe end after a decad "earli The mother-o Communicorp with announcement o mana fatwa is night and sai meth 'shocked' to be hysterical, but show, Global Vil C's not funny rating Satur Globa woman for in She said: 'Earlier today, I met with deeply was being cancelled. was available Newstalk management who told Mr Hook ma me that despite positive ratings and sudde September 8, performance, my Saturday night a rape victim. ... radio show Global Village has been for being attacked. sugned a draft letter calling for Hook's axe.

'I am shocked and deeply disapcancelled.

Aspiring journalists will remember that George Hook is still working for Newstalk and that Dil Wickremasinghe is not

ende

ndo

Ryan Nugent ROADCASTER Dil Wickmasinghe's Newstalk show been cancelled. As Wickremasinghe released itement stating that she was cked and disappointed"

News

Broadcaster

Dil 'shocked'

as Newstalk

show is axed

Irish

it's bridans

a - this is

ATTATA 11

wing the decision. e said the decision was ng to do with the ratings show 'Global Village'. had previously made g statement following

idea that this was

ewstalk has been

past 10 years," she said.

comment.

Newstalk was unavailable for

Meanwhile, media group

Communicorp says no 'Irish

Times' journalist will be accepted as a contributor on any of its stations following an anti-

sion, penal reform, lity, women's rights, -lomestic violence, e and violence and ess just to mention

eviously issued a stement following colleague George troversial comments Hook's comments on pould not present her she would not present 70 idea that this was 

is to the Irish Inde-  $\epsilon$  has been a huge part is to the man much share been a more man is the start of the past 10 years," e said she hopes to broadcasting, but tof diversity in the literation in the solution of the s

very inspiring to a migrant family with to look up to," she

rate of my life over the ly at Newstalk was for comment at the joing to press.



#### Make time for self-care!

"I was always looking outside myself for strength and confidence, but it comes from within. It is there all the time."

> Anna Freud, Austrian psychologist



"As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence actually liberates others."

Marianne Williamson

