

Experimentation of the Teaching Source “Can I Come in?”

Taken and adapted from: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/can-i-come-in-Channel's-4-interactive-video>: <http://twobillionmiles.com/>

<i>Level of difficulty</i>	<i>Name of the partner school</i>	<i>Name of the teacher(s) involved</i>
<i>Easy</i>	<i>Arsakeio Lyceum of Patras</i>	<i>Patroula Kafousia</i>

Description of the experience

The activity was tried with twelve 15 and 16-year-olds (10th graders) on International Migrants Day. The students were presented with the situation and they were given explanations and clarifications when needed. Most of them were already familiar with the issue of migration in a broader sense and did not have difficulty understanding the role play and the different roles they were asked to play. They were engaged in the activity and found it interesting and simple to follow.

When the role play started, they had some difficulty initiating the discussion and stepping forward, and later needed some encouragement in order to elaborate a bit more on their arguments (especially the guards), but were generally able to keep the play flowing and get into their roles. The refugees were able to communicate their agony and advocate for their rights. Students later reported that they found the role of the refugee particularly emotional and were surprised to feel what it must be like to flee one’s country and then be treated like enemies and outcasts. The video also helped towards this direction and reportedly felt very life-like and real.

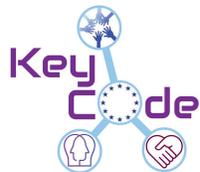
It seems that the difficulties that emerged had more to do with the fact that the activity was done online due to the country’s Covid-19 lockdown, something which perhaps hindered students from engaging fully into the role play and deprived them of important aspects of the activity, such as body language, direct contact and the use of props which would help them get into the situation more deeply and help them feel less self-conscious

Needs of the classroom to be addressed

The specific teaching source is an activity that familiarizes the students with the theme of migration and the critical issue of the refugee crisis that has swept across Europe, and Greece in particular. News stories of migrants and refugees arriving in Greece by all imaginable means are often broadcast on a daily basis and the country is struggling to tackle the issue.

Public opinion is divided between those who claim that refugees should be accepted and accommodated and those who support that the country cannot afford to open the borders. Teenagers in our country are notorious for their lack of information on current affairs and their indifference towards important political and social issues. What’s more, a part of the population seems to embrace a far-right to extremist perspective towards migration and hold views that could foster racism and discrimination. It was considered, therefore, of vital importance to choose an





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activity that touches on the issue of the refugee crisis which will put students inside the matter and help them see the situation through the eyes of those directly affected.

Can I Come in? is an activity that fosters respect to the plight of refugees and their human rights, but is not one sided or simplistic and involves looking at the situation through multiple perspectives. The role play involved promotes empathy and encourages experiential learning and learning by doing, not just listening to the teacher or being lectured about the issue which would be far less effective in sensitizing young people.

Validation of the teaching source

Can I Come in? is an activity that we would definitely recommend. It is easy to set up, simple in its development and highly effective without requiring complex preparation. It forces students to see the critical issue of migration and refugee crisis through other people's eyes, namely those directly affected. It transforms a news story into a personal experience. It helps link emotions to arguments and develops social and communication skills.

Testing carried out on 18 December 2020 (International Migrants Day)



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