

2.10) Making use of excursions to enhance your project

Introduction

By organising and delivering excursions with your group, you can enhance their experience of exploring sectarianism. The following section provides some top tips for running your own excursion as well as example excursions from the Leith anti-sectarianism Project.

How to make use of excursions

Look out for events that may be taking place locally that could add a different angle to your discussions.

Remember to capture feedback from your group on excursion activities they would like to see, as often the best ideas come direct from those you are working with.

Activities that you could look at may include:

Museums & Exhibitions	Events coinciding with days of celebration	Football stadium tours
Waking tours	Visiting various places of worship	Film screenings & Plays

Benefits of excursion activities

Excursion events can act as a great way of encouraging participants, who would not normally engage in discussions on sectarianisms to become involved, by having a focus that is broader than simply discussing the topic.

Importantly, excursion activities can add an element of fun into your anti-sectarian work, which is really important. Happy participants can often make for more engaging and fruitful conversations.

Excursion activities can also make exploring sectarianism, which can often be a challenging topic, much more appealing, to a wider cross section of those you are trying to target.

Excursion activities can also provide you with the opportunity to target both your current and potential new participants, with information on sectarianism. This could be via written information such as flyers, but could also be through dialogue and conversations you have with them.

You can also include aspects of what you would like to cover in future anti-sectarian sessions, as part of your excursion activities.

For example the Leith anti-sectarianism Project included aspects of reminiscence/oral history, in their trip to the *Citizen Kane* exhibition on the history of Leith. These reminiscence skills were consequently used again during the 12-week oral history programme exploring sectarianism in Leith.

Example excursions - Leith anti-sectarianism project

Citizen Curator Trip - Leith anti-sectarianism Project participants learning about Leith and oral history/reminiscence skills



The Citizen Kane Exhibition was dedicated to the history of Leith.

Great opportunity for participants to share their own personal stories and experiences of living in Leith.

Excellent opportunity to sample oral history and reminiscence techniques.

A tour guide escorted the group round the exhibition, answering any questions they had.



Making use of a play to explore sectarian themes - Leith anti-sectarianism Project participants attended the play Leith at War

The use of plays are an exciting way of getting your group to think about sectarianism in a creative way.

For this session the group were also part of a pre-play workshop. This added extra depth to the day, giving a great opportunity for the group to share their experiences of growing up in the Leith community.

Don't be shy in asking for a discount when working with theatre companies, they often welcome new groups and are happy to give discounts/free shows.

Kelpies Trip - bringing older men from different backgrounds to discuss sectarianism



The Kelpies was an exciting trip and a great way of bringing different groups of older men together to discuss sectarianism.

In doing so, new understandings of sectarianism were shared. This included both examples of intra-Christian sectarianism, but also wider examples from participants who had emigrated from India/Pakistan.

This type of excursion is also an excellent way for your participants to build relationships with each other.

To keep costs down, think about any organisations you could work in partnership with to keep costs down.