

Making use of 1.1 Interviews

Introduction

The following section of the toolkit highlights how you can make use of 1.1 interviews to help you explore the topic of sectarianism with your group.

Make sure and check out the summary 1.1 transcribes that are included in section 3.2 for some first hand accounts of local Leith residents understanding and experiences of sectarianism.

Why use 1.1 interviews?

In exploring sectarianism with your group, a great way to compliment the learning-taking place is by making use of and conducting 1.1 interviews.

Conducting 1.1 interviews can also help you to establish a baseline understanding of what sectarianism is like in your community. It can also uncover useful information as to how members of the local community *perceive* sectarianism.

Please pay attention to the perceived nature of sectarianism in your community, as people may often feel it is better or worse than it actually is.

1.1 interviews can be conducted either with members of your group, or with other relevant stakeholders. Preferably you can make use of the 1.1 interview summary transcriptions that are included in this toolkit.

1.1 interviews can enable in-depth personal accounts of sectarianism to be captured. They can also be particularly useful when exploring sensitive subjects such as sectarianism, where

Making use of 1.1 Interviews

people may often feel discomfort or lack the confidence to speak in a group.

The more intimate and focussed setting of the interview can also make your interviewee feel more comfortable, thus opening up stories and experiences that they may not have otherwise shared.

Getting started

If you choose to conduct your own 1.1 interviews, there are some important things to consider.

Firstly, a vital piece of equipment to use will be a digital recorder.

Prior to conducting your 1.1 interviews, it is also important that you decide on what questions you are going to be asking. These may be structured or semi-structured, but should reflect what you want to get out of the interview overall.

You should take the time to think properly about, *what is it you actually trying to find out?* Take the time also to word questions appropriately. If for example you are targeting local people, you may want to avoid the use of elaborate language or technical/academic terms.

Developing your own questions

The Leith anti-sectarianism Project for example, used the following questions:

1. Can you tell me your experience of living in Leith?
2. Have you heard of the word *Sectarianism*? If so what does it mean to you?
3. Does *Sectarianism* exist in Leith? If so in what way does it take shape? Why do you think people follow sectarian beliefs/ commit sectarian actions?
4. Do you think the local community is able to address *Sectarianism*? If so in what ways?

Making use of 1.1 Interviews

5. Are there any other forms of intolerance, discrimination or bigotry that take place in Leith?
6. Is there anything else you would like to share?
7. Would like to be involved in any future anti-sectarian work?

Feel free to make use of these questions, or use them as inspiration to develop your own.

How to make use of the learning you have captured?

Once you have agreed on questions to ask and have recorded your interview, you next have to decide on what you want to do with the learning you have captured.

For a detailed account of what you have captured it may be your preference to type up full transcriptions of the recorded interviews. Full transcribes can enable you to double check everything that was said in your interviews, and can also help you to analyse and compare emerging points and issues.

A downside to full transcribes however, is that they can be extremely time consuming. Depending on who is doing your transcribing this can also mean that the process can be very costly.

Preferably you may want to make use of summary transcribes like the ones included in this toolkit. If you are intending to use the interviews with a group you may find this approach works better at engaging your participants, focussing on the key points of the interview.

The interviews you have recorded could also be used as part of a film, or exhibited as an audio performance. You could also make them available online for people to listen to.

Please keep in mind however, it is important to adhere to confidentiality and this may be more difficult to achieve if you are showcasing the audio unedited.