

MY STORY OF RESISTANCE

Toolkit



non-formal educational methods
and organizational practices of
telling stories of resistance

The MySoR Project

MySoR – My Story of Resistance: From exclusion to active participation created relationships and dialogue among diverse groups of marginalized youth and youth organisations (Dalit and tribal minority youth in India; indigenous youth in Nicaragua, Roma and Gitan@s in Hungary and Spain, and young migrant people in Italy); shared and compared practices of empowering disadvantaged youth for active participation; and used the tools of storytelling to allow young people and youth workers to develop a positive self-identity by transforming their hardships into stories of resistance. Read more at <https://phirenamenca.eu/category/projects/mysor/>

The Toolkit

This toolkit contains storytelling methods used by the participating organisations or developed through the project by young participants. These are just some of the ways stories of resistance, stories of empowerment can be created and shared in order to raise awareness, build solidarity and express ways we can resist prejudice, discrimination, and social exclusion.





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Participating organisations

Hungary: RGDS - Phiren Amenca is a network of Roma and non-Roma volunteers and voluntary service organizations creating opportunities for non-formal education, dialogue and engagement, in order to challenge stereotypes and racism. As Roma and non-Roma network, the organization wants to create equal opportunities for all young people in our societies, especially through giving equal access to voluntary service



Spain: Federaci3n de Asociaciones Gitanas de Catalu1a (FAGiC) – Barcelona, It is a non-profit organisation that brings together 96 local Roma associations from all over Catalonia, making it the most representative Roma organisation in Catalonia. Its aim is to defend and promote the rights of the Roma and to react and denounce any form of xenophobia or discrimination towards them. Its main purpose is to gather information about their aspirations and concerns, and establish a communication channel between the Roma and the rest of the Catalan society



Nicaragua: Fundaci3n Marijn – Bilwi/Puerto Cabezas is an organization which aims to improve the conditions of education, health and safety of children, teens and youth of Bilwi. The centre offers local youngsters alternatives to the dangerous and violent living conditions, school and educational support, sport lessons and leisure activities for minors.



India: Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) is a students' movement based upon Christian values. SCMI involves youngsters and students all over the country in activities and actions in order to transform the society. Its main aim is to promote human rights and social justice organizing seminars, and actions to raise awareness on topics of interest for the contemporary society



Italy: CSD - Diaconia Valdese is a non-profit organization belonging to the Waldensian church, the protestant minority in Italy. The organization is laical, everyone can benefit from its services regardless of religious, political, cultural, sexual belonging. The organization coordinates many services at a national level addressed to people in situation of need, such as disabled, elderly people, minors and youngsters, adults with fewer opportunities, refugees and asylum seekers.

Songwriting

In the Indian context, songs and music has been a useful tool to voice out SCMI's concerns. As a faith propelled movement, the SCM of India has always been involved in issues affecting the nation, as a response to the gospel imperative, in obedience to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. It has held that faith has to be concretized and realized in relation to the struggles of the community, society and nation. [1]



The concern for justice, love and compassion while addressing injustice in the society is embodied in the "SCM solidarity song," which was written by Saw Mathew Aye (Myanmar SCM). The solidarity song is SCM's message to the world as we stand on the side of the victims/survivors participating in the struggle for fuller humanity. Over the years of SCM's praxis journey, it has become a tradition to end any program with this song. It serves to strengthen our commitment to participate creatively in uplifting the downtrodden. The song serves not only as a way to share to the world the naked truth; but also as a call to engage. SCMI strongly believe that music and singing are art forms, which are powerful weapons for liberation of subaltern groups such as women, Dalits and Tribals.[2] India is a nation of linguistic diversity with as many as 122 major languages and about 1,599 dialects.[3] As such is the case, many regional or local dialects songs were written by SCMerS. In 2002, a collection of songs was published wherein different regional songs and other songs in English were compiled. These songs were underscored with common messages of struggles, resistance and solidarity. To this day, these songs find SCMerS in common ground as our music reverberates and echoes in our hearts with our shared vision and hope for a new just world!

[1] Faith in Action: The story of the Student Christian Movement of India 1912-2012, p. 27-28.

[2] SCM Song Book: Decade Towards the Centenary Dedicated to Underside of History, 2002.

[3] This data is according to the Census of India of 2001, Figures from other sources vary, primarily due to differences in definition of the terms "language" and "dialect".

SCM Solidarity Song



The song we sing not for ourselves,
For those who are oppressed and chained,
Build up a new society;
Let's share and feel with them.

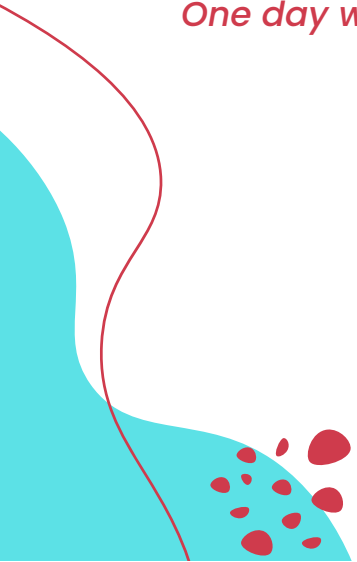
*Come SCM's Unite be one,
Pull out injustice from this world,
Live with people, build together,
One day we'll reach a new just world.*

The way we work not for ourselves,
For those who are oppressed and poor,
Suffer with them and let us know;
That our struggle will win.

*Come SCM's Unite be one,
Pull out injustice from this world,
Live with people, build together,
One day we'll reach a new just world.*

The life we owe not for ourselves,
Women and men work hand in hand,
The unity will triumph;
We share the vision and hope.

*Come SCM's Unite be one,
Pull out injustice from this world,
Live with people, build together,
One day we'll reach a new just world.*



Personal Storytelling through a Performance with Modelling Clay (Plastine/Play Dough)

Material needed: a little bit of modelling clay (plastiline) to each participant.

Duration: 20 – 25 minutes

Participants: minimum 10



FAGIC
Federació d'Associacions Gitanes de Catalunya

A person will explain his personal story through a performance with modelling clay. All participants must have a piece of modelling clay and have to build “something” during the whole performance. Participants may change the shape of their “objects”/figures as the story of the person is being explained. The performance person should use the technique of IRS or IRU. IRS stands for:

- I – Intriguing beginning
- R – Riveting middle
- S – Satisfying end

Or IRU techniques which is for:

- I – Intriguing beginning
- R- Riveting middle
- U – Unsatisfying end

It depends if the storytelling is positive or negative or the message the performer wants to give.

Under this technique, the beginning is intriguing because it positions the performer in a position which people really want to hear and participate. The audience/participants perk up, wanting to know more. The middle takes the participants on the journey of the life of the performer and the ending shows how everything worked out, in a positive or negative way/perspective.

By using the modelling clay, you are inviting the participants to take part of the activity and listen to you. You are inviting them to go through your life, so empathy takes an important role in the activity, and understand your position.

This method was used in Mysor project to explain the life of a young Roma who had to face multiple episodes of antigypsyism in his life since his early childhood and how this shaped his Roma identity.

While the young Roma is explaining his life, he is modelling the piece of clay. The clay changes shapes as the story goes further. Participants are getting inside the personal story by shaping their own pieces of clay according to the feelings they have while the person is explaining the story.

Before getting to the end, the young Roma asked the participants what they shaped and why, so each participant explains their own feelings through the clay shape. Once all the participants finish their explanation, the young Roma goes to the end.

At the end, when the young Roma explains how his “Roma” identity was built, he collected all the clay shapes and put all together as a small “ball” (so destroying all the shapes and mixing all of them) and says that his “Roma” identity has been built through a piece of each person who has crossed his life, positively or negatively.

This method can also be used to explain Roma history and everyday antigypsyism, so privilege groups can “empathise” with minority groups who are facing discrimination and racism.



Inspirational videos

RGDTS has long been supporting young Roma people from Hungary in fulfilling their potentials. We would like more and more young Roma to develop dreams and career goals and believe in themselves, so they can realize them.



Over the years we have been in touch with numerous young people coming from diverse backgrounds who pursued different paths in their lives, and we believe that one way of breaking stereotypes the majority hold about Roma, is to show these successful young people the way they are, as precious human beings with emotions, desires and willingness to change not only their lives, but the world. Through this, we also express our appreciation for and pride in them.

Method: We invite 2-4 young Roma, who were or are volunteers of our organization to our office-studio at a time and do a one-hour life-interview about their lives, difficulties, dreams, backgrounds, education, or work and about the issues that interest them. For the recording we invite a professional video-maker with whom we create 10-15 minute "inspirational stories". The interview questions are not very directed, we rather let the conversation flow, so the personalities and thoughts of the young interviewees show. We first ask them to introduce themselves, talk a little bit about their family background, their education and what led them on the path they are taking now. Through the editing process we emphasize the often extraordinary efforts they put into breaking out from the stereotypes, we highlight the people, programs and experiences which motivated them. These stories serve as good examples for non-Roma people who would like to support young Roma, and help them not only understand the broader social realities of our volunteers, but find ways to support them in an equitable way.



Kitti studies Korean and Chinese languages at the most respectable university in Hungary, and has worked as a Korean interpreter. She does not tolerate discrimination against Roma or Asian people, and she always stands up against it.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6loInKkzjA&t=43s>

Orbán is a young man experiencing intersectional discrimination and, in this video, he talks very openly about the path leading him to college, about challenges, plans and identity.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSfjft8uGKE>



Short videos for social media

With the wide availability of cheap international travel and the fact that once can "travel" wherever they want online, it has become more and more difficult to reach out to young people and encourage them for taking part in long-term volunteering projects abroad. CSD Valdese decided to reach the youth exactly where they spend a lot of their free time: on social media, and the short video-sharing platforms in particular.



Reading info packs about volunteering opportunities is probably the most boring way of learning about them. What makes one interested, encouraged and excited, are definitely spoken words, meeting with young people who already have taken part in intercultural experiences. It works because when talking to people, we transfer emotions, energy and experiences, not just words. Short videos combine music, movement, humor, and information, and can give a glimpse of what it is like to spend time in cultures different from our own, excite us with the cultural differences and can make us feel safe by showing familiarity.

Diaconia Valdese and its member institutions create short videos and share them on social media. They are fun to watch and informative as well!

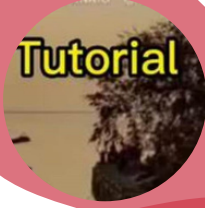
Tutorials explain how one can search for for the perfect project to take part in, in Italy and abroad!

Videos about the office life shows that the staff members are people too, young, fun and supportive!

Promotions introduce events, as well as life and activities at volunteer placements in different countries.

Videos of volunteering projects and youth exchanges make you want to join them immediately!

They even have Italian language course videos!



Tutorial



ggets di pollo



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Il tuo servizio verso giovani, migranti, disabili e in progetti culturali, di Torino e nei comuni di Milano, Firenze, Roma, Palermo e Vittorio (P)
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[@getvolo](https://www.instagram.com/getvolo)
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