

Identities, power, and privilege

Our personal experiences help us understand discrimination based on identity.

Materials: flipchart paper, markers

Accounts of [intersectionality](#): Video "[Phumi Mtetwa \(South Africa\) – Walk Together in Struggle](#)" and video "[Dalila de Jesús Vásquez \(Guatemala\) – Transforming Oppression into Liberty](#)".

Handout: *Intersectionality*

Plenary: Set the tone for a safe, open discussion. Take time to define terms such as gender, class, and ethnicity so that participants are operating from similar understandings. You could refer to the [JASS Feminist Movement Builder's Dictionary](#). Ask:

- How do you understand discrimination and oppression in relation to gender, ethnicity/race, class, sexuality, and other factors of exclusion?

Small groups: In groups of three, watch the videos. For each one – Phumi Mthethwa and Dalila de Jesús Vasquez – discuss:

- What are the different social identities that shaped the storytellers' experiences?
- In what ways were their identities a source of connection and power, and in what ways did they trigger structural discrimination and/or violence?
- What other observations about identity and intersectionality can you glean from these examples?

Plenary: Invite discussion. Ask a second facilitator or participant to write answers on flipcharts.

- What do we learn from Phumi and Dalila's stories about identity and intersectionality?
- Do you relate to any parts of these stories? Are there moments in your life where you have experienced barriers or advantages due to your gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, age, immigration status, education, or other aspect of your identity? How did you become aware of how your identity affected you? Did you feel any discomfort or other emotion?
- Can you share experiences where awareness about your identity(ies) has been a source of power, connection, and belonging?
- Why is intersectionality important to our strategies and organising?