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Democratic Dialogue at school: An online game-based training tool on Democratic Dialogue for Teachers

Handout | “Gender-based Violence at school”

Scenario 1: Anita is a new at school. She likes dating older boys because they are more popular and this makes her feel popular too. She is seen with a new guy quite often. She also likes to wear short skirts and to be trendy with clothes. Some of her classmates think her way to dress is “quite sexy”. A lot of people in school talk behind her back and are creating negative rumors about her, saying she is easy and other relevant names. Anita feels very sad because her reputation is important to her. And people don’t understand how different she really is from the perception they have of her.

Scenario 2: J. is a college student. They are often the recipient of verbal abuse because of the way they choose to express their gender through style and clothes. They usually hear others naming him “queer”, “freak”, “faggot” while people around just look away. J. is not allowed to go to the girls’ bathroom because their sex assigned to birth is male. In the bathroom one day, a group of boys pushed him to the ground making fun of their make-up.

Scenario 3: One day you notice that no one wants to sit close to a female student in the classroom and that many of her classmate make fun of her because she is perceived to be lesbian due to her “masculine” way of dressing.

Scenario 4: T. is a transgender male student who wants to enter the afternoon ballet workshop. One morning T. goes to the instructor and asks to be placed on the team. The other girls begin to laugh and insult T., saying that the classes are only for girls, and ask T. to leave. The instructor says no reaction and T. leaves crying.

Scenario 5: Melinda, a high school teacher, wrote a letter to colleagues informing them that in a few months’ time, she would be undergoing sex reassignment surgery from male-to-female. Melinda had worked in the school for 5 years, and twice had been chosen by students as the best teacher of the year. Just one month after Melinda’s surgery had begun, at a meeting for all parents of the school the school board made an announcement about Melinda’s status. About 20 parents wrote in to protest, requesting that Melinda be removed from the staff. The school board decided to dismiss Melinda in September, on the basis of parents’ complaints. Melinda decided to fight for her rights and lodged a legal complaint against the school.



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