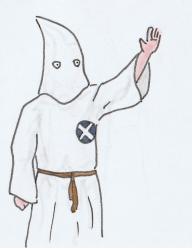


XENOPHOBIA



Religious people have sometimes practised xenophobia and used fear and hatred of the other to 'big themselves up'. But those who truly follow spiritual teachings of love for all humanity have sometimes become religious heroes of love and equality. Why the difference?

Which religions and beliefs?

Examples from Christianity, Judaism.

Clip available here:

www.bbc.co.uk/ teach/class-clipsvideo/religiouseducation-ks3-a-zof-religion-andbeliefs-x-is-forxenophobia/ zdfp382

Key Questions:

- What is xenophobia?
- Why are humans so often caught up in tribal fear and hatred of others?
- How does it happen that religious, which preach peace and love, still practise xenophobia against those they disagree with?
- What can be done?

What's it all about? Fear of the Stranger

This clip introduces the concept of xenophobia, hatred or fear of others, all too common in human affairs. One recent historical example is the racist Apartheid regime of South Africa, ended by the movement Nelson Mandela led. Religion has been used to support xenophobic hatred in cases from the Ku Klux Klan in the USA to Bosnia in the 1990s, to modern anti-immigrant hatred here in the UK. In the worst case, Hitler's Nazi xenophobia led to anti-Jewish genocide.

Why is this so common, when it looks so destructive? Answers include the idea that humans behave as tribes, and identify ourselves positively by being negative about others. Where two 'tribes' want the same thing (land, money, power, a win at football) then conflict seems like a solution. Another aspect of this is that some people can stoke up hatred of 'the other' for social, political or religious gain.

No one can miss the fact that we live in a xenophobic world. But it is not always easy to see our own fear or hatred of the other: much easier to spot this in other people!

In three minutes, it is barely possible to present the concept in all its diversity. Do some more research to understand the social, psychological and maybe religious aspects of this important concept.

Classroom or homework task:

- The 'Golden Rule' of treating others as you would like them to teach you can be found in all religions and in non-religious views as well. Can you find at least three different versions of it? If everyone followed this rule, would xenophobia be reduced? Give two or more reasons for your answer.
- Can human communities plan to be less racist, sexist, homophobic? Discuss and then create a 'Charter for Reducing Xenophobia' Can you write '5 Commandments for a Less Xenophobic World'? If everyone followed your charter, how would your school, your town, your country be changed?

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of examples of xenophobia
- Give reasons for their views about the causes of the 'fear of the other', using reasons and examples
- Handle information and ideas effectively by suggesting a charter for a less xenophobic world, supported with arguments.

X is for Xenophobia

What is xenophobia?

Many people have their own experience of xenophobia. Has your family been hated for no good reason ever? This may not be one to write much about but talk about it instead. Answer in a single sentence.

The 'Golden Rule' of treating others as you would like them to teach you can be found in all religions and in non-religious views as well. Can you find at least three different versions of it? If everyone followed this rule, would xenophobia be reduced? Give two or more reasons for your answer.

Here's a song for while you write your answers: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdxBdl0JTyQ

My Charter Against Xenophobia

5 Ways to Make the World Less Xenophobic

2.

3.

4.

5

Four versions of the Golden Rule:

"No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." Muslim, Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi,13

"A person should treat all creatures as he himself would be treated." Jain religion, Sutrakritanga1.11.33

The Greatest Commandment: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind. And, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Christian, Luke 10:28

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow human" Jewish, Talmud: Shabbat 31a

What do you think would happen if everyone followed this Golden Rule?