

Mapping Conflict Sources

Type of event: Interactive workshop on understanding and analysing conflicts

Target group: Trainers, educators, youth workers, and facilitators working in intercultural and interfaith dialogue

Short description:

The Mapping Conflict Sources workshop helps participants understand the roots of conflict in intercultural and interfaith settings and develop the ability to identify and analyse them. Participants explore five common sources of conflict — values, identity, power, resources, and communication style — and link them to real-life examples. Through group work, case study analysis, and reflection, they build awareness and skills for constructive dialogue and conflict resolution.

Framework (structure)

Before the session (online):

Participants receive a pre-session message introducing the topic and inviting them to reflect on the question:

“When you think about conflicts you’ve witnessed, what do you believe lies beneath them?”

Trainer attaches a short infographic of the five conflict sources as optional pre-reading.

During the session (online or in-person)

1. Introduction to Conflict Sources (09:15–09:25, 10 min)

Trainer presents five common sources of conflict: values, identity, power, resources, and communication style. Participants reflect briefly on which they encounter most often. Online adaptation: Use slides or infographic to visualise sources. Launch a Mentimeter poll or collect answers in chat.





2. Group Brainstorming (09:25–09:40, 15 min)

Participants are divided into five breakout groups, each focusing on one conflict source. Task: brainstorm real-life examples illustrating that source of conflict. Online adaptation: Each group records ideas on a Canva Whiteboard (one frame per group).

3. Plenary Presentations & Trainer Summary (09:40–09:55, 15 min)

Groups present 2–3 examples each while the trainer shares the collective Canva Whiteboard. Trainer summarises overlaps, patterns, and insights emerging from the examples.

4. Break (09:55–10:10, 15 min)

Participants are encouraged to browse the Canva Whiteboard to review contributions from other groups.

5. Case Study Introduction (10:10–10:15, 5 min)

Trainer introduces a short written case (e.g., a workplace dispute or school cultural tension). Online adaptation: Display case via shared screen and paste the text in chat or Google Doc for easy access.

6. Small Group Case Study Analysis (10:15–10:40, 25 min)

Participants work in groups of 4–5 to analyse the case. Guiding questions:

1. Which conflict source(s) are at play?
2. What are the main challenges?
3. What opportunities for dialogue exist?

Online adaptation: Use a shared Canva Whiteboard or Google Doc template to record findings. Trainer moves between groups to observe.

7. Plenary Debrief of Case Study (10:40–10:55, 15 min)

Each group presents one key insight in plenary. Trainer connects findings to the five conflict sources and highlights strategies for constructive dialogue. Online adaptation: Use the shared Canva Whiteboard to display key points and summarise on screen.

8. Wrap-Up Discussion (10:55–11:10, 15 min)

Trainer summarises lessons from mapping and case study exercises. Reflection question: “What’s one insight you’re taking away from today?” Online adaptation: Collect responses in chat, Canva Whiteboard, or a Mentimeter word cloud.





1. Closing & Next Steps (11:10–11:15, 5 min)

Trainer provides final remarks, shares resources or links in chat, and outlines how the topic connects to upcoming sessions. End with a short “one-word checkout” in chat.

After the session (online)

Follow-up email includes:

- Shared link to Canva Whiteboard outputs
- Summary of the five conflict sources and reflection notes
- Follow-up question: “How can identifying conflict sources help you transform future conflicts into opportunities for dialogue?”

