

## Quotes on a topic

**SPECIFIC ISSUE/S:** Any kind of issue

**PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES:** To provide an opportunity for participants to explore a range of views on an issue

**LENGTH:** 15 – 30 minutes

**GROUP SIZE:** Any

**GROUP CHARACTERISTICS:** Any kind of group

**FACILITATOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED:** Low level of facilitator knowledge; Medium facilitation skills because this can generate wide-ranging discussion

**RESOURCES NEEDED:** Quotes relevant to the issue to be discussed; it is optional whether a copy of all the quotes to be discussed are given to each participant

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose some quotes representing as wide a range of viewpoints as possible relevant for the issue that you want the group to discuss. Put each quote you chose in large letters onto a sheet of A4 or enlarge to A3. Scatter these on tables around the room (or fix to the walls).

If the issue is inequality some examples might be:

- *No amount of artificial reinforcement can offset the natural inequalities of human individuals.*
- *How well and how long one lives one's life is powerfully shaped by one's place in the hierarchies built around occupation, education and income.*
- *There has always been 'inequality.' There will always be people who run large companies, and people who move boxes around. And both of them are happy to do so. If they aren't, it's more important that they have access to opportunity to fix that. What they do with that opportunity is up to them.*
- *I do see a problem with obscene and unfair inequalities in incomes, especially when they keep accelerating. Those who decide on the level of inequality are those who benefit the most – it can result in rampant self-reward.*

After giving people time to consider all the quotes, ask them to go to the one that most interests them and discuss it with the others who chose the same one. Participants share with the whole group, in one or two sentences, why it interested them.

**FACILITATION TIPS:** If used at an early stage of a workshop, keep discussions brief to avoid entrenching uninformed views.

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