Rich List

Type of Activity: Understanding oppression, privilege and wealth.

Length: 45 mins - 1hr

Purpose/Objectives: Unpacking power and examining privilege

Group: This tool can be used with groups of varying size. If working with a large group, you will need to break into smaller groups.

This tool works particularly well with young people.

Facilitator knowledge and skills needed: Standard facilitation skills. Some knowledge of the people on the rich list would be helpful – can read up on this before using this tool.

Resources needed: Copy of the business review rich list of the year. Find photo's of the people and blow them up to A3 size.

Instructions:
Stick the A3 images of the rich list up on the wall. Introduce the concept that wealth is an indicator of privilege in our society, then give the group a chance to move around the room, looking at who the people are. Then ask what they notice about the people. Who is represented? (e.g. gender? Ethnicity? Class background? Able bodied? Age? Etc). What do we know about these people's lives? What would our guesses be? Are there people in our society who are not represented on this list? If so, what do you think the reasons behind this might be?

Variation: This exercise can be done as a full group, or using a mix of full group, small groups, and pair work.

To start the activity you could also have blank paper around the outside of each photo with space for participants to write what they are noticing about the person in each photo, thus creating 'graffiti walls' of information around each person. Once everyone has done this, break into pairs and ask each pair to review all the photo's and surrounding 'graffiti' and discuss any themes they notice emerging. Then come back together as a full group and ask pairs to share what they have been noticing and engage in full group dialogue.

Starting individually and then working in pairs may help bring more diverse thinking into the room, rather than starting the conversation as a full group.

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