

M6 Role play “At the bakery”

Dialogue 1

Task

- Read the dialogue.
- Choose four of you to act it out to the class. Decide together who will take which part. Make sure that the ones you choose aren't put in a role which they would take in real life (the customer who intervenes is the exception).
- Discuss together how you think each role should be played.
- You don't have to learn the lines; you can just read them out.

The scene: A woman wearing hijab enters a bakery. There is already another customer in the shop, choosing what they want to buy. A character representing a TV presenter introduces the scene. The woman wearing hijab addresses the salesperson behind the counter.

- P - Presenter
- SP - Salesperson
- CwH - Customer with hijab
- oC - Other customer

Source:

This role play is based on 'Everyday Heroes: What would you do?', a German television project which staged reconstructions of situations in which a person is discriminated against in order to observe how ordinary people respond. Commissioned by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, the shows were broadcast by the commercial TV channel RTLII. The example used here is taken from an episode of the programme's second series (2015). You can watch the complete video at zwischenstoene.gei.de

P What happens when a Muslim woman is subject to hostility and discrimination? Anti-Muslim racism and Islamophobia can crop up anywhere. How will other customers react when our shop assistant shows his true colours and refuses to serve our customer because he assumes she's a Muslim?

The scene is a bakery.

CwH enters the bakery, where oC is contemplating the products on display and listening to what is going on, but only taking surreptitious glances at the scene.

CwH Hello. I'd like a buttered pretzel, please.

SP I'm not serving you. Please leave.

CwH Sorry?

SP I'm not serving you. You're some terrorist's wife, aren't you? At least you look like one.

CwH I'm not married and I have nothing to do with terrorism.

SP That's what they all say. And then a bomb blows up somewhere and who did it? The Moslems. So please leave now.

CwH Do you understand that I'm German?

SP You've got a headscarf on. German people don't wear headscarves, do they? Or have you ever seen one wearing one? - So please leave this shop now.

CwH Excuse me, you might have noticed he won't serve me because I'm wearing hijab. Could you do me a favour and buy me a buttered pretzel, please? I'll give you the money, of course.

oC I have no idea what you're talking about. Buy your own pretzel. I really have to go.

oC leaves the shop

P Didn't you notice what happened in there?

oC Oh, I didn't think she was being serious.

P But being discriminated against because of their religion is a serious problem for a lot of people, every day. Where are the heroes who will help out when we need them?

Dialogue 2

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P Sadly, hostility towards Muslims is a big issue in our society. But what can we do to fight it?

The scene is a bakery.

CwH enters the bakery, where oC is looking at the products on display. When oC hears what is taking place between SP and CwH, he/she intervenes.

CwH Hello. I'd like a pretzel, please.

SP I'm not serving you. Please leave.

CwH Sorry?

SP I don't serve foreigners.

CwH But I'm German.

SP You're German? You're wearing a headscarf! Am I wearing a headscarf? Germans don't wear headscarves.

oC That's discrimination! Your behaviour is racist.

SP Racist? This is my bakery and I can decide who I serve and who not. I don't like the way she's dressed.

oC I'm leaving, and I certainly won't be recommending your bakery.

SP You don't understand.

oC Oh yes I do, I understand very well.

oC Let's go.

CwH and oC turn away and leave.

P You did brilliantly! You're absolutely the hero of the day!

oC Thank you. - To be honest, that was the first situation like that that I've noticed, but there's absolutely no doubt in my mind about reacting like that, because I can't support that kind of talk.

P And you really wouldn't have gone back there?

oC No; I go there regularly because I work near here and I like their stuff, but I wouldn't have supported that.

Dialogue 3

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P Hostility towards Muslims is a big issue in our society. Perhaps we can't change this all by ourselves, but often it's the little things that can support people who are targets of discrimination and bring us together with others to push back at those who pick on them.

The scene is a bakery.

CwH enters the bakery, where oC is looking at the products on display. When oC hears what is taking place between SP and CwH, he/she intervenes.

CwH Hello. I'd like a pretzel, please.

SP We don't serve the likes of you! Out you go! Hurry up, now!

oC What a ... – Disgusting... - I don't believe it...

SP Why does she need to come in here with a disguise on, with a headscarf... Perhaps she's got some bombs on her.

CwH Look, I think you're just going too far.

SP I don't serve terrorists' wives.

oC Then I'd like a pretzel for the lady, please.

SP I won't be selling you anything for the lady.

oC I'd still like a pretzel, please.

SP You still here? Out, please.

CwH stays where she is.

oC It's racist, what you're doing. You know that.

SP You think this is racist?

oC I'd like a pretzel, please.

SP You can have one, but that woman is to leave the shop now.

oC She can wait for me. She's with me.

SP gives oC the pretzel, oC gives it to CwH in turn. P enters the scene.

P Heavy, wasn't it?

- oC I need a moment to calm down.
- P You were relatively calm, and you were clear in your argumentation.
- oC I mean, that sort of thing, it's just not on. You just have to do something in these situations.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

EduSkills+
Reflections

This project has been funded with support from the European Union. The author exclusively is responsible for the publication content. The publication does not reflect the views of the European Commission and the European Commission is not responsible for usage of the data contained therein.

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