

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY

Empowered to Share the Light

This is based on the story of Bojana, found here: <https://cwsglobal.org/stories/bojanas-powerful-love/>.

This activity is designed to help multiple generations consider what is important to them and how this is not the same across the world.

Materials: small paper bags, pens, small squares of paper

The Roma people in Hungary are often forgotten and left behind. Such is the story of Bojana and her children. Thanks to the work of the Center for Youth Integration, they do not have to spend all of their time on the streets trying to come up with enough money to support their families.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each person a paper bag, five squares of paper, and a pen.
2. Ask each person to write their name on the bag.
3. Then, invite participants to write down five things they cannot live without, one on each square.
4. Ask each person to pass his or her bag clockwise.
5. Upon receiving a bag, participants should pull out a piece of paper without looking and throw it in the center of the circle.
6. Do this four times, until only one piece of paper remains in each bag.
7. Return the bags to their original owners.
8. Do not let the owners look inside the bag.

Ask the following questions, allowing for discussion between each one:

- How did you feel having someone throw out a cherished item?
- What is your fear when you look in the bag at what is left?
- Would it feel better if your cherished item was intentionally selected or if your opinion was considered in the process?

Bojana and her family of 10 live in a small one-bedroom home in an informal Roma settlement in Hungary where families often don't have proper access to electricity, heating, or running water. Bojana and her husband built the home using abandoned materials they found over the years.

We asked Bojana about access to electricity. She told us that the government has been shutting it off more often than usual and she fears that the settlement, along with the home she has built, could be demolished at any moment. She said, "Life in the settlement is catastrophic."

- How do you think the Roma feel having to live so chaotically that they do not know what might happen to their possessions?
- How do you think Bojana's family feels knowing they might come home to their things gone?

After the discussion, participants can look in their bags to see what precious item survived migration and devastation.

The theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing is "Share the Light." Sometimes situations are so difficult we cannot imagine how we can share anything to overcome the situations others may find themselves living in.

However, it is important for us to realize that we can make a difference by sharing some of what others may need when their situations are as devastating as those assisted by One Great Hour of Sharing. Ask the group to consider how they might assist people in their own communities who may be living in situations where they could lose their possessions (the unhoused, foster children, etc.).

Connect with local programs for the unhoused or foster care agencies to see how they might be able to receive assistance or create cooperative projects. Plan a mission opportunity to impact this situation. In addition, encourage giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, which impacts Bojana and her family.

CONCLUSION

While we may live worlds apart, there are many similarities in human experiences. Connecting these experiences helps us think about how we can share the light wherever we are.