

MODULE 6

Sheet 1

Issues of Community Cohesion The impact of the 7/7 bombing

AIM

To explore issues around community cohesion.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the impact of the 7/7 bombing on communities in Britain.
- To explore how this event affected individuals and groups.
- To understand some of the issues that cause communities to be divided.
- To begin to explore how people perceive and stereotype individual communities.

KEY WORDS

Community

A group of people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, background or nationality. A sense of belonging.

Cohesion

When the members of a group or society are united.

Stereotype

A fixed idea that people have about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong.

Community Cohesion

The Commission for Integration and Cohesion defines an integrated and cohesive community as one where:

- People from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities.
- People knowing their rights and responsibilities.
- People trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly.
- People, regardless of background, get on well in their workplaces, schools and neighbourhoods.

RESOURCES

- DVD player
- DVD 'Friends, Strangers, Citizens? Life in Britain post 7/7' - Section A
- Worksheet - The impact of the 7/7 bombing
- Flipchart (if required)
- Paper and pens (if required)
- Worksheets from 'Friends, Strangers, Citizens? Life in Britain post 7/7' - Section A

This module has made use of material from the DVD 'Friends, Strangers, Citizens? Life in Britain post 7/7' produced by South Asian Development Partnership as part of the Masala BridgeBuilders series.

MODULE 6

Sheet 2

Issues of Community Cohesion

The impact of the 7/7 bombing

LESSON PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Begin a whole group discussion on memories of the 7/7 bombings - Who did it? Who was killed? What impact did it have on Britain and communities?

10 Mins

1 Watch the DVD 'Friends, Strangers, Citizens?'

6 Mins

2 Give out worksheet. Discuss as a group: How did your ideas about 7/7 differ from those shown in the DVD?

5 Mins

3 Divide group in to three and ask each one to elect a spokesperson. Ask each group to look at one of the three topics ensuring that smaller groups have a good mix of different young people i.e. different ethnic backgrounds.

20 Mins

4 Bring all groups back together and ask the spokesperson from each group to give a three minute presentation from their perspective.

10 Mins

Note: The following questions may be helpful for group discussions.

What difference has 7/7 made to you?

Has it changed your views about other people?

Do you think 7/7 has divided society, or were there tensions already?

Was it a cause or a symptom?

WORKSHEET**Summary of video**

On 7th July 2005, in central London, between 8.50 and 9.50am, four young men, all British citizens, blew themselves up with the intention of killing as many people as possible. 52 were killed, 700 were injured. Two weeks later four others attempted to do the same, but failed.

There have also been other failed attacks. This shows that while the vast majority of the population condemns terrorism, a very small minority is willing to commit acts of violence against civilians.

Whole Class Discussion

- i) How did your ideas about 7/7 differ from those shown in the DVD?
- ii) We know that the bombers took innocent lives and caused terrible suffering.
 - From the readings enclosed in the resource pack (Section A) and what you heard on the DVD, can you summarise the reasons suggested for the actions of the London bombers?
 - What do you think of the causes suggested?
 - What might have prevented the bombers' action?

Group Work

The events of 7/7 had an impact on everyone in Britain. But they affected people in different ways. Each group should now be assigned one of the topics below to think about 7/7 from someone else's perspective.

1) Victims and their relatives

52 were killed and 700 injured in the bombings. Many more relatives were bereaved or distressed.

- What do you know about the people who were killed or injured in the bombings?
- What sort of distress would the bombings have caused?
- Prepare a brief presentation from the perspective of the relatives of someone injured in the 7/7 bombings.

2) Muslims in Britain

The fact that the bombers were British-born Muslims has meant that the spotlight has fallen particularly on Muslims but also on other people perceived to be Muslims. The various terror scares that have followed 7th July 2005 have intensified the pressure.

- From the readings and what you have heard on the DVD, summarise what impact this has had on Muslims in Britain. What do you think of the causes suggested? Can you add to the list?
- Prepare a brief presentation on the 7/7 bombings from the perspective of Muslims or those perceived to be Muslims.

3) Wider British public

The bombings affected everyone in Britain.

- What do you think about the responses on the DVD and the readings in the resource pack? Can you add to the list?
- What difference has 7/7 made to you? Has it changed your views about other people?
- Do you think 7/7 has divided society, or were there tensions already? Was it a cause or a symptom?
- Prepare a brief presentation on the 7/7 bombings from the perspective of people in Britain.