

Time: 30 - 40 minutes

Teams: 3 - 6 players

Location: Indoor or outdoor space (quiet and comfortable)

Educational Objective

The purpose of this task is to help participants explore ethical decision-making, empathy, and social responsibility in situations of scarcity and crisis.

The activity aims to deepen understanding of exclusion, vulnerability, and human dignity through perspective taking and dialogue.

Moderator

Shelter Dilemma

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Introduction & Framing

Explain that extraordinary circumstances require people to understand different perspectives and decide together what is fair.

Emphasise that the task is about understanding perspectives, not defending personal beliefs.

Clearly state that respectful language and behaviour are required at all times.

Methodological tip: Prepare participants for emotional discomfort and normalize it as part of learning.

2. Organisation

Choose a quiet, comfortable indoor or outdoor space.

Ensure the team has role cards with brief character descriptions.

3. Step into Your Role (5 minutes)

Instruct each person to draw one role card.

Ask them to read their role silently and take a moment to imagine emotions, needs, fears, what safety or exclusion means for this person.

Moderator's role: Ensure roles are distributed randomly and without choice.

4. Shelter Discussion (15 minutes)

Invite participants to sit in a circle.

Instruct them to speak strictly from their character's perspective.

Let them know that if anyone experiences emotional discomfort they may opt out or switch roles.

Observe the discussion, intervening only if discussion becomes personal or disrespectful, dominant voices silence others.

Moderator's role during this phase:

- **Safeguard respectful dialogue.**
- **Encourage quieter participants to be heard.**
- **Do not steer the group toward a specific outcome.**

5. Decision & Sharing (5 minutes)

Ask the team to present their decision or an explanation of why no decision could be reached.

Accept both outcomes as valid.

Methodological tip: A refusal to decide can be a powerful ethical conclusion.

6. Reflect & Discuss (5 minutes)

Guide the reflection using questions such as:

- How did it feel to act in this role?
- Was it difficult to speak on behalf of someone else?
- What needs became visible during the discussion?
- Can anyone truly decide who deserves safety?

Moderator's role: Focus on emotions and insights rather than conclusions.

7. Summary & Consolidation

Highlight recurring themes (fear, safety, dignity, exclusion).

Emphasise that crisis situations expose social inequalities and ethical dilemmas rarely have simple solutions.

Reinforce the key message: human dignity should not depend on circumstances or scarcity.

Mission Equipment

Role cards



Role of the Moderator

The moderator acts as a guardian of the learning space, not a judge. Your role is to:

- Create emotional safety.
- Keep time and structure the activity.
- Intervene when discussion becomes harmful.
- Support reflection without imposing or influencing conclusions.

Optional Enhancement

Link the task to human rights and SDGs (e.g. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Allow participants to rewrite the scenario imagining systems that prevent such dilemmas.