

Time: 25 - 35 minutes

Teams: 3 - 15 players

Location: Any open, safe space with sufficient capacity

Educational Objective

The purpose of this task is to help participants understand how inequalities shape life opportunities by experiencing how privilege shifts starting positions at the labour market. The activity supports the development of empathy, critical thinking, social awareness, and the ability to recognise structural barriers, while also aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moderator

Pathways to Equality

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Introduction & Framing

Explain that privilege and inequality influence people even before they make their own choices. Emphasise that the activity focuses on fictional roles to explore how structural barriers shape opportunity.

2. Organisation

Choose a quiet, comfortable indoor or outdoor space.

Ensure each team member has paper or smartphone to write their fictional roles.

3. Create Roles (3 minutes)

Instruct participants to write a fictional role on paper or smartphone. Their roles must include **age, gender identity, country, type of community (rural/town/city), family background and income level, access to education, access to work.**

Remind them to keep roles private.

4. Line Up (2 minutes)

Ask participants to spread out and ensure they have enough space to step forward safely. Ask them to stand side-by-side in a straight line facing forward.

5. Moderator Statements (10 minutes)

Read each statement slowly. After each one, allow participants time to decide whether it applies to their fictional role. **If yes, they take ONE step forward. If not, they stay still.**

Use the following statements:

- Your age gives you access to legal, educational, or employment opportunities.
- Your gender identity does not reduce your safety or limit your options.
- You live in a country with stable institutions and reliable public services.
- You live in a community with nearby schools, healthcare, and workplaces.
- Your family could afford basic needs without constant financial stress.
- Your family could support your education.
- You had access to quality education during childhood.
- You had stable access to digital learning or internet when needed.
- You have access to safe and legal employment opportunities.
- You would not face discrimination at work because of your identity.
- You feel safe moving around your community alone.
- You have reliable access to healthcare.

Ask participants to look around and notice the distances.

Moderator's tip: Do not comment yet - let the visual impact speak first.

6. Reflect & Discuss (10 minutes)

Guide the reflection using questions such as:

- How did your fictional role affect your movement?
- Which statements had the biggest impact on your position?
- How did it feel to step forward or stay behind?
- What inequalities became visible in this exercise?
- Which SDGs connect to what you observed today?
- What can societies do to reduce these inequalities?

Mission Equipment

Paper or smartphone to write the fictional roles



Role of the Moderator

The moderator acts as a facilitator, not a judge. Your role is to:

- Ensure a respectful and safe atmosphere.
- Keep time and structure the activity.
- Read the statements neutrally and without influencing players.
- Encourage empathy and understanding, not competition.