Social Club

BRIDGE Lab

Activity 3.1

Power Flower

Beneath you can see a picture of “power flower”. In this visual you can see examples of social identities, some of them can be seen by the others, while some other elements are not visible. The picture is called ‘power flower’ because it also encourages us to recognize structural discrimination and power relations in society; what is considered “normal” (=norms) and who are left outside of this “normal”.

Group work

Work in pairs or in groups of 3. Together, explore the power flower. Here is some guidance for you:

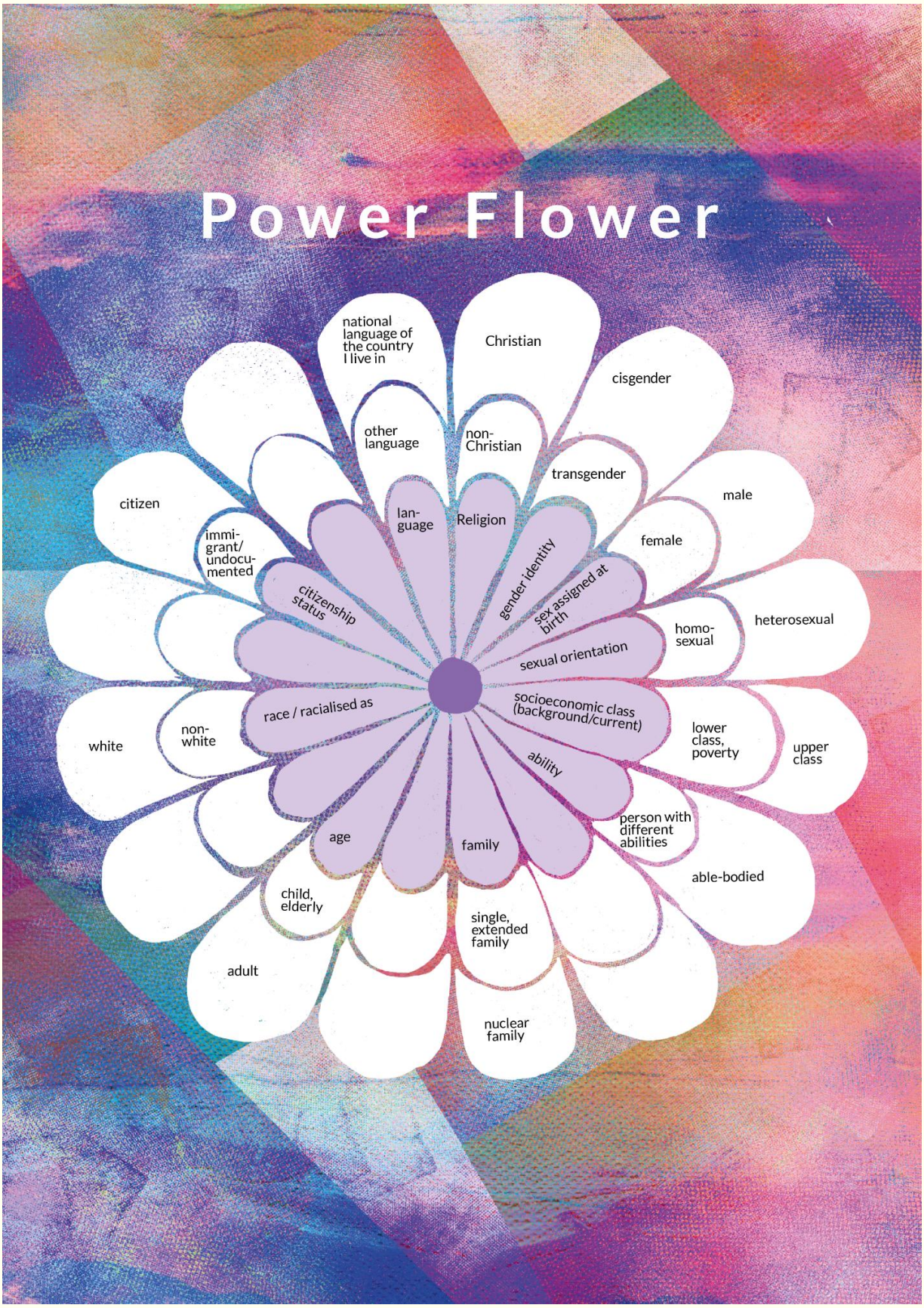
a. The **outer pedals** represent the social identity that has more power in Western societies and middle pedals with less power.

b. The **purple pedals** name the specific social identity category. For example, able-bodied people most likely face less discriminatory elements in society than people with disabilities. This brings possibilities and power.

c. Many times, it is so, that if we possess a powerful social identity, it is perceived as given, taken for granted, and we are not aware of them in our everyday lives. The reality for a less privileged individual is very different: inequalities manifest in many ways. So, because of these social identities we might face oppression, and discrimination on personal or systemic/structural levels. We need to keep this in mind and do our best to create safer learning spaces, where we all can feel safe and respected to our identities.

d. Can you “read” the power flower now? Reflect on following questions in the group/with the pair.

- In the picture are there some words you do not understand? Check and learn together, what these words mean.
- Do people have to share insights about their identities in a school environment? What should we share and what not and why?
- What does it require from the group to be able to share insights about your identity?
- Are there some social identity categories that are missing in your opinion that are highly relevant?
- Is identity a stable and set of permanent characteristics in your life? Is there something that might change during the life span?
- This power flower has been created from the perspective of European societies. Do you think the power flower would look the same with power relations in other parts of the world?



Picture: Salleh-Hoddin, Pirih & Kiiskilä. Illustrator Kiira Sirola. 2021. My Learning Diary. Tackling Discrimination. Peace Education