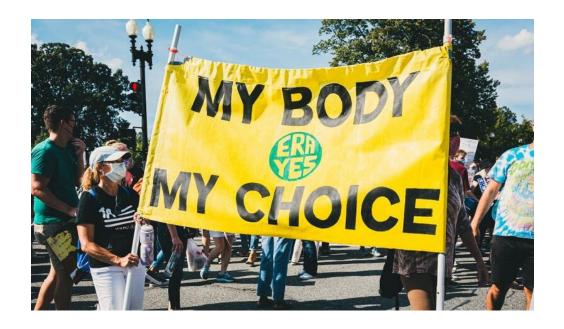




Conversation Café

Reclaiming spaces for sexual and reproductive rights



Facilitated by Martin Leschhorn, MMS

MMS Conference: Sexual health and rights under pressure: resistance and challenges

Bern, 19 April 2023

Aims of the session

- 1. Deepening the discussion on strengthening sexual health and rights
- 2. Capturing the reflections and ideas of all the participants
- 3. Achieving a common understanding on how to reclaim spaces for sexual and reproductive rights



Conversation Café

Conversation Café Agreements

- 1. Open-mindedness: Listen to and respect all points of view.
- 2. Acceptance: Suspend judgment as best you can.
- Curiosity: Seek to understand rather than persuade.
- Discovery: Question assumptions, look for new insights.
- Sincerity: Speak from your heart and personal experience.
- 6. Brevity: Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.



Question to be explored

How do we reclaim spaces for sexual and reproductive rights in a hostile environment?

Marching in solidarity with Uganda's LGBTI community, Alisdare Hickson from Canterbury, United Kingdom, 17 May 2021, <u>link</u>



How to proceed (1)

- Groups with up to 8 people
- Define a volunteer as a host only task: the café agreement should be followed.
- Use a talking stick, while you are talking

How to proceed (2)

- 1st round: Pass around the talking object; each person speaks briefly on the topic, no feedback or response. (1 minute per person)
- 2nd round: Again with talking object, each person deepens their own comments or speaks to what has meaning now. (1 minute per person)
- Dialogue: Open, spirited conversation. Use talking object if there is domination, contention, or lack of focus. (20 minutes)
- 3rd round: Collect your ideas and insights and write it on the poster. (10 minutes)

On the method:

- Liberating Structures: Conversation Café
https://liberatingstructures.de/liberating-structures-menue/conversation-cafe/

Conversation Café
 https://conversationcafe.org/