



## Lifeboats

**Set-up:** You can use the same cards and questions as ‘The Big Wind Blows’. An added advantage

to Lifeboats is that you can ask more questions and use the greater fluidity of Lifeboats to delve a bit more into the topic. See examples below. Be conscious of and accommodating of those who so not move easily.

**Time:** This can take up to an hour or more.

Gather everyone in the middle of the room, standing. ‘We are on a voyage in the Nile or between Philippine Islands or wherever you may be. But we have had a problem and the boat is now sinking. Not to worry! We have lifeboats enough for everyone!

‘Over here’ – move towards one side or the middle – ‘is the lifeboat for everyone wearing blue today.’ Those people wearing any blue at all will move into that ‘lifeboat’. ‘Over here,’ you then say, ‘is the lifeboat for pastors and imams’ – and people then either stay in that lifeboat or move to the new one. And so on.

The next one might be: ‘This lifeboat is for those who can recite a verse on peace-making from their holy text.’ But before they can step into the lifeboat, they have to recite the verse.

If you say, ‘This lifeboat is for all of those who can play a musical instrument,’ then ask them to ‘play’ their instrument. Ask them to decide on ‘a song you all know and sing, accompanying yourselves on your “instruments”!’

End with lifeboat categories that divide people into the decades in which they were born. For example:

- ... for all those born the decade that contained the ‘Day the Music Died’ (1959) – and then ask: who died?
- ... for all those who were born the decade of the moon landing (1969).
- Etc.

Once they are gathered into their decades, ask them to do two things:

- to think of an important event in their decade that had to do with peace-making/health-care (depending on the nature/central theme of the workshop) and
- to come up with a song that came out during their decade and to sing some lines from it.

The exercise ends as you perceive 'land' and safety.

### **Lifeboats**

Everyone wearing blue today

All those who are pastors/ministers

All those who took a plane to come here

All those who have never taken a training/workshop like this before.

All of those born in this place called by settlers, Canada.

All those who are parents of children.

All those who are children of parents.

All of those who were 'scooped', or have members of their family who were 'scooped'.

All of those who are UCC, then Baptists... none of the above.

All those who read a newspaper / or online media every day

All those who play a musical instrument.

1950s All those who were born in the decade that contained 'the day the music died'

1980s All those who were born the decade that the Berlin wall came down.

1960s All those who were born the decade that MLK was assassinated.

1940s All those born the decade of Little Boy and Fat Boy.

1930s All of those born in the decade of the Bennett Buggies.

1970s All of those born in the decade in which Wilbur Howard served as the first Black Moderator of the UCC.

1990s All of those born in the decade in which Residential Schools, first opened in

1848, finally closed.

### **Noticings/Training of Trainers:**

What is the value of this exercise?

What did you notice about us?

What did we learn about the group that we didn't know before?

Why do it that way?