

# ○ HAVE YOU EVER ○

## The Tennis Ball Test Activity

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### *The Purpose*

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To provide participants with an opportunity to understand the experiences of people from different religious backgrounds.

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### *The activity*

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Time: 1 hour

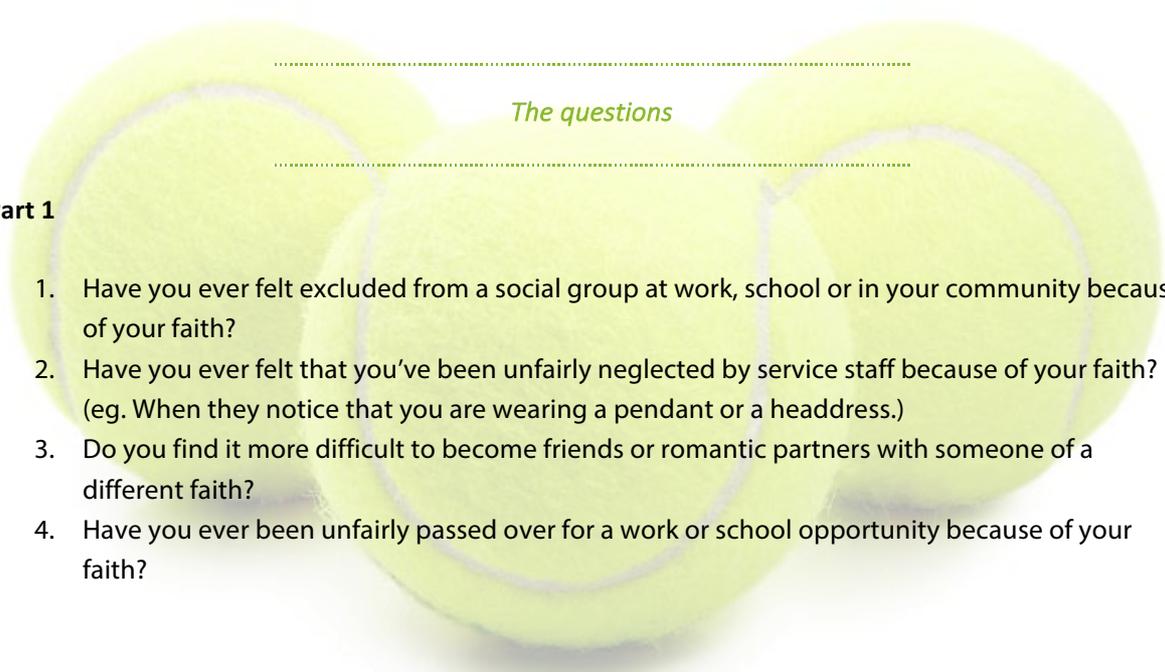
1. Participants should stand next to their cylinders of tennis balls or other chosen visual device.
2. Participants should listen carefully to the questions. For Part 1, if the answer to a question is 'yes', they retrieve a ball from the cylinder and releases it on the floor. For Part 2, if the answer to a question is 'yes', they pick up a ball from the floor and return it to their cylinder.
3. After all the questions have been asked, participants regroup to discuss the following:
  - a. How did that feel?
  - b. How did you see yourself in relation to other participants? Has it changed?
  - c. Which question made you think the most?
  - d. What have you learned from this experience?

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### *The questions*

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#### **Part 1**

1. Have you ever felt excluded from a social group at work, school or in your community because of your faith?
  2. Have you ever felt that you've been unfairly neglected by service staff because of your faith? (eg. When they notice that you are wearing a pendant or a headdress.)
  3. Do you find it more difficult to become friends or romantic partners with someone of a different faith?
  4. Have you ever been unfairly passed over for a work or school opportunity because of your faith?
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5. Has an online comment criticizing your religion ever made you feel sad or angry, or afraid for your own safety?
6. Have you ever rejected an invitation to a social gathering because no one of your own faith was going to be there, or have you ever deliberately excluded someone of a different faith from a social gathering?
7. Has any friend or family member tried to talk you out of your faith?
8. Has anyone ever assumed anything negative about your moral character because of your faith?
9. Have you ever said in conversation, or online, that you don't like people of a particular faith?
10. Do you feel that people from certain religions are more likely to become terrorists?
11. Have you ever complained to someone in authority or asked someone to stop a religious practice, because of the inconvenience that it causes you?
12. Have you ever been forced (either by your school or employers) to attend a religious service of a different faith?
13. Has anybody ever complained to someone in authority, or asked you to stop one of your religious practices or activities?
14. Have you ever lost a job opportunity from being unable to comply with the required dress code because of your faith?
15. Have you ever been in a hostile discussion about religion with somebody of a different faith?

## Part 2

16. Has anyone of a different faith ever gone out of their way to accommodate your religious practices?
17. Has anyone of a different faith ever invited you to his place of worship (with no intention of trying to convert you)?
18. Has someone of a different faith ever defended your religion from criticism, whether online or in person?
19. Has someone of a different faith ever initiated an interest in being your friend or romantic partner?
20. Has someone of a different faith ever helped to explain one of their own beliefs or rituals to you?
21. Have you ever encountered someone of a different faith, who is curious to know more about your own beliefs?
22. Do you have a friend of a different faith whom you talk to on a regular basis?
23. Have you ever been in a romantic relationship with a partner of a different faith?
24. Have you ever had a positive discussion about religion with someone of a different faith?
25. Have you ever wished for a more open and honest discussion about religion in Singapore?