Stereotype Escalation Pathway

Annex 16 · Module 6: Stereotypes · A3 per group

Hang the poster where the whole group can see it, and go through the stages from top to bottom. For each stage, name what exactly happens in the conflict and how you can tell.

1. Assumption

We assume things about someone before we have even talked to them. The assumption replaces personal experience.

2. Label Applied

We extend the assumption to their whole group and label them. They stop being an individual.

3. Emotion Triggered

The label strikes at their identity. Shame, anger, or fear follows.

4. Defense / Withdrawal

They either get defensive and attack, or withdraw and go quiet. Both shut down the conversation.

5. Conflict Escalates

A small misunderstanding turns into an identity battle.

Mediator intervention: a peer mediator can step in at any stage, acknowledge the emotion, bring the talk back to personal experience, and break the loop.

Co-funded by the European Union

DEQ-2023-2-SK02-KA220-YOU-000177746