



“I love my human rights” series: Danny Ramadan’s story Conversation guide

Introduction

This guide has been prepared to assist groups (businesses, organizations, classrooms) explore themes in the “I love my human rights” series. In Danny Ramadan’s film he shares the importance of community, freedom and taking action. Use the questions provided to explore the film’s themes in a group setting.

Getting started

Take steps to ensure that participants feel safe and comfortable to express themselves:

1. Watching the video may raise some difficult or unexpected emotions, especially for people who have had any similar experiences. Ensure people know they can step away temporarily or do what they need to do to take care of their well-being.
2. The purpose of a discussion is to listen and learn from one another. Set agreements to create a safe space including mutual respect and real listening to what others share. Say them out loud, such as: Truly listen, be present, and appreciate the group.
3. Decide ways for everyone to participate and to be heard. For example, consider speaking in a circle so that quieter members have opportunity to share their thoughts fully.
4. Take breaks. Stop for tea, snacks, and laughter.

Open the conversation

Choose three questions that speak to you.

- What feelings did you have while watching the video?
- Did you find anything surprising in Danny’s story?
- What does freedom mean to you? What does it inspire you to do and become?
- Danny talks about both leaving and finding family and community. Who is in your community and how do they help you be strong?
- Danny never uses the words “human rights” in the video. Why and how is this still a story about human rights?

Deepen the conversation

- Why do you think Danny said the first year in Canada was the hardest in his life?
- What parts of this story are similar to your own experience? Which parts are different?
- What do you think Danny meant by “coming to a country he doesn’t fully understand”?
- Danny faces harmful attitudes or actions around several parts of his identity: his race, place of origin, sexual orientation, and marital status. How do you think these parts of Danny’s identity are connected in his story?
- Some countries have different ways to come up with laws about marriage and relationships. What are you curious about or have you noticed about that?

- It's sometimes easier to see human rights issues outside of Canada. Where in your community do people encounter discrimination?

Bring the conversation to a close

- What makes you feel happy and safe? (for example, a person, a place, a feeling)
- Danny shows a lot of courage throughout his story. What are some of the acts of courage he took (bold acts and quieter acts) to try and change things for the better? How can you change things for the better?

Community resources

To learn more about support sexual orientation and gender diversity:

- QMunity: BC's Queer, Trans, & Two-Spirit Resource Centre: qmunity.ca | 604 684 5307

To learn more about resources helping LGBTQ2SAI+ immigrant and refugee newcomers:

- Rainbow Refugee: www.rainbowrefugee.com
- MOSAIC's I Belong Program: www.mosaicbc.org/services/settlement/lgbtq/ | 604 254 9626

To learn more about refugees in B.C.:

- BC Refugee Hub, by ISSofBC: bcrefugeehub.ca | 604 684 2561

To learn about sponsoring a refugee:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada: www.canada.ca/refugees

