



THE HUMAN LIBRARY REPORT

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Żywa Biblioteka
Polska



HORYZONTY
CENTRUM INICJATYW MIĘDZYKULTUROWYCH



STREFA DO_WOLNOŚCI



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The Human Library is an international movement that promotes an attitude of openness and humanity towards social diversity. The Human Library is organized in the form of an event in which talks that are held require dealing with prejudices and assumptions towards other social groups. The project was started in 2000 by a group of Danish activities gathered around the organization Stop Violence. The first Human Library was held during the Roskilde festival in Denmark. Since then, the project was spread to more than 70 countries around the world. The Human Library is to operate in the same way as the traditional Library with Books, to function as a neutral place where you can broaden your horizons, break up stereotypes. The Readers that visit the Human Library chooses the Human Book from among the available Titles. The difference is that Books are people, and their reading has a form of dialogue.

In this event, prejudice, stereotype and stigma are at the heart of the methodology and therefore 'out in the open'. It is ok to have prejudices, in fact it is encouraged.

Each reader who arrives in the library will receive a library card and will be able to choose from the list of available Books the one in which is interested in. The volunteer invites the book and the reader to the table at which they will conduct the conversation. The conversation lasts max. 20 minutes – after this time the Book goes to another conversation, and the Reader can choose another book for him/herself. The conversation has a loose character: the whole event, in particular a meeting with the Living Book, takes place in an intimate, friendly atmosphere, in a safe space for all interested people.



On the 10th of December 2022, in our office Strefa Do Wolności took place the Human Library event organized by members and volunteers of CIM Horyzonty. It was one of the events accompanying the 22nd Marathon of Writing Letters of Amnesty International, during which everyone could express his/her opposition to violations of human rights. Their solidarity with victims could be shown by writing a letter to the authorities of the country where the activists are persecuted.

The event was aimed at enabling Poznań citizens to fight against broadly understood discrimination on a local and global scale. The Human Library itself was the result of the work of European Solidarity Corps Volunteers of CIM Horyzonty.

During the event, the readers were informed about the books with posters, catalogs and appointment calendar. According to the languages spoken by the books, the participants borrowed the books. Book borrowing started at 14:00 and finished at 18:00. Each book had its own shelf (room). There were 6 different books in our library. The titles of our books are as follows:

1. **Let's Talk About Depression**
2. **The Girl With ADHD**
3. **Wierząca Lesbijka**
4. **Edukacja Domowo**
5. **Osoba z Ukrainy**
6. **Roma Artist**

A total of 21 books were borrowed throughout the Human Library. "Let's Talk About Depression" 6 times, "Wierząca Lesbijka" 5 times, "The Girl With Adhd" 4 times, "Edukacja Domowo" 3 times, "Osoba z Ukrainy" 2 times and "Roma Artist" 1 time borrowed by readers.

According to filled by the Readers evaluation forms, about 25% of participants took part in the Human Library for the first time. 100% of the participants bought more than one book and 100% of the participants learned Human Library event from our Facebook page.

Readers mentioned that office was cold. It can be warm for next year.

The participants summarized this experience as follows: "even though I was here as a reader, it was a very emotional experience", "very enriching, I want more!", "very positively, I would like to have more time to become acquainted with each book, so when is the next one?", "an interesting unusual idea that brings people of various social groups together", "a wonderful, important and needed initiative", "an interesting form of discovering people and the world".

Even considering the fact of declarative character of this information and still lack of in-depth research on the long-term effects of the project, we can be sure that the Human Library achieves its goals to a very significant extent, and the awareness of this method effectiveness is certainly one of the reasons of its growing popularity.

The Human Library is an educational project in the field of human rights and diversity. Its aim is to enable two people of direct meeting and confrontation the stereotypes and prejudices we have towards people belonging to different social groups.

Thank you very much for the possibility of meeting and we hope to see you soon!

