

A Tool for Everyone

Revelations from the “Power Flower”

by Wenh-In Ng based on Doris Marshall Institute

What It Is

The “Power Flower” is a tool developed by Canadian social change educators when working with groups to “identify who we are (and who we aren’t) as individuals and as a group in relation to those who wield power in our society.” The daisy-type flower is divided into 13 segments, each representing one facet or category of our social identity. Each social category has a double set of petals, one outer, one inner. The outer petals describe the dominant or powerful identities in society. The inner petals are filled in by participants and describe the social identity of each individual. The object of the exercise is to discover how close, or how distant, each person is to the dominant identity of their current society. The more inner petals match the outer (dominant) ones, the more social power that person possesses. For example, for the petal that has Religion, within the United States, Christianity is the dominant identity. Christianity would be in the outer petal and the participant’s own religion would be in the inner petal.

One of the segments is blank for each participant to identify an aspect or categories of social identity that carry special power significance peculiar to their context.

Instructions:

- 1- Look at each social category in the outer part of the petals.
- 2- For each social category, write in the outer petal the dominant identity in our society and in the inner petal your own identity within that category.
- 3- Choose one color for petals that describe a dominant social identity and a different color for petals that describe a non-dominant identity. Color each inner and outer petal according to their colors.