

INTERCULTURAL DINNERS TOOLKIT

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HOSTING AN ONLINE INTERCULTURAL DINNER

Food brings us together. It sparks conversations, relationships and for us, even positive change.

**These dinners create a space for diverse people to share their stories and ideas around belonging, meet new people and of course share a dinner together.
Continue to find out more...**

BEING A HOST

If you believe in the power of food to spark change and want to create a welcoming space for diverse people to gather then here are the key tasks:

- Scheduling and organising the dinner (Set a date, pick a platform)
- Hosting the platform (right platform, good connection, camera and headset)
- Inviting guests (sending invites, following up pre and post dinner)
- Facilitating the dinner (or finding a facilitator)
- Post-dinner action - Support (not necessarily lead) the initial steps towards actions from the dinner.

WHERE SHALL WE HOST

The beauty of an online Intercultural Dinner is that it can be held anywhere.

As host, here are some platforms you can host your dinner on:

- Zoom (40 mins limit on basic plan)
- Google Hangouts (10 people only at a time)
- Skype (Can host up to 50 people, no time limit)
- Facetime

INVITE GUESTS

This is an Intercultural Dinner, so try to invite a diverse range of people ethnically, culturally, professionally, age and gender wise.

Here are some guidelines:

- 6-8 People max to ensure meaningful conversations
- Send your invites out - with dinner details (day, time, link and how to have the online dinner)
- Let them know what the programme will be for the night and how we can have dinner together digitally

DINNER TIME

Making the dinner a success requires:

- Setting the Scene
- Eating Together
 - Let's Talk

SETTING THE SCENE

To create an inclusive and welcoming online space:

- Remind guests of the programme for the dinner and rules (everyone has an opportunity to speak, respect, tools to engage - polls, chats etc)
- An ice breaker or pre-game dinner to help ease your guests can help
- In the invite, encourage people to set their dinner scene. Set a table or use a different room or space in their homes, to join the dinner from.
- Encourage people to join a bit earlier to check their connection, their angles and their sound.

EATING TOGETHER

There are multiple ways you can share a meal digitally with others:

- Premade dinner: Guests make their dishes beforehand ready to eat during the dinner. Encourage people to share foods from their culture, This is the cheapest option for the host.
- Make together: Make something simple together with people (maybe a dessert). Options to send ingredients with recipe ahead of time, or recipe ahead for people to get ingredients. Be aware this may not be possible for all financially.
- Order local: Support local businesses by choosing to order food to eat during the dinner. A great way to showcase some of the foods in your local area. Hosts can opt to provide funds to support this, and pre-order for guests.

LET'S TALK

Here are some questions on belonging to get the conversation started:

1. What does it mean to belong in your local community? What does it look and feel like?
2. What can we do together to make us all feel like we belong in our community?

Remember to give each guest the time to answer. If people are slow to share, kickstart it with your own take on the questions and give a process for who speaks (e.g. A-Z, Birthdates etc)

We suggest dinners no longer than 2 hours.

DINNER

PROGRAMME

Here's a suggested outline/times for your online Intercultural Dinner:

Welcoming (30 mins)

Rules of engagement - Plan for the evening - our purpose and actions - Introductions - ice breaker

Sharing (35 mins)

Ask first suggested question and allow each guest to with the time to share and answer.

Let's Eat (15 mins)

Depending on what meal options you've gone for you could allow each guest to share their dish and dining set up. As guests prepare to eat and eat, move to the next suggested question.

Actions (35 mins)

Allow each guest to answer what they can do individually and what we can do together.

Farewell (5 mins)

Summarise the collective action and thank guests

CONVERSATION TIPS FOR HOSTS AND FACILITATORS

Remember everyone has the opportunity to speak.

- Be clear about your expectations of guests participation
- Be clear about your role in the dinner
- Have a plan in place to manage conflict resolution that stresses the importance of mutual respect and using this opportunity to share your views and learn about others perspectives
- Be active in the dinner - acknowledge guests comments in chat, look into the camera to mimic eye contact, have your examples and alternative ways to ask the 2 questions
- Use images, links and stories to help spark conversations.

MOVING FORWARD

A part of these dinners is to have actions to take forward both individually and collectively which can be noted to share post dinner.

Here are some post-dinner actions we suggest:

- Send an evaluation survey - it's good to grab feedback to help you improve. We encourage you to send this within a week whilst the dinner is fresh in peoples minds. If you have time during the dinner, we also encourage you to collect this feedback live.
- Remind people of their actions - individual and collective
- Update people on progress or next steps of the collective actions and invite those who were keen to get involved
- Provide other opportunities for guest to reconnect - doesn't have to be lead by you

HAVE A GO!

We know hosting a dinner whether online or offline takes work, but hopefully with this guide and the downloadable resources we've created to support, will help.

This is a chance for you to connect with diverse communities, share stories of belonging, come up with ideas for positive change and of course to have fun.

So virtual hi-fives and cheers to you and your upcoming dinner x