



A new resource for groups

Masala Groups help to build bridges of friendship and understanding by bringing people together across some of the barriers, to discuss matters of common concern.

Masala BridgeBuilders fill a real need, both in the Asian community and also in society as a whole.

Masala BridgeBuilders encourage

- Openness to people of all backgrounds and opinions
- Acceptance of others' point of view
- Willingness to listen and learn
- Learning to disagree without being disagreeable!
- A place where deeper issues can be discussed in a non-threatening environment
- Respect for other people, their values and culture

“As a result of meeting together over a period of time trust has been built, friendships have been made and opportunities to talk about the deeper issues and concerns of life abound.”

Masala BridgeBuilders are informal groups that talk about a topic of common concern. They can take place in almost any context, with people of any background. They don't attempt to come to conclusions but simply to provide a space and opportunity for people to share together in a relaxed way.

Masala Bridgebuilders are an ideal resource for groups that need regular topics for discussion, eg

- ❑ Schools (citizenship, ethics, RE)
- ❑ Youth groups
- ❑ English language classes
- ❑ Refugee & asylum support groups
- ❑ Mother & toddler groups
- ❑ Adult learning groups
- ❑ Family learning groups

or there may be a group that does not necessarily meet on a regular basis but which might be glad to include 'Masala' type discussion

(e.g. community association, parent-teachers meeting, extended family gathering...)

or you can invite people to form a new **Masala BridgeBuilders** group.

How do Masala BridgeBuilders work?

Masala BridgeBuilders are based on a **topic** - something current or something that has on-going relevance.

The discussion follows this kind of format:

The **Masala BridgeBuilders** pack contains

- Guidelines for running the group
- Topic(s)
- Readings, quotes, case studies or suggested video clips to introduce the topic
- Questions to open discussion
- Questions to clarify the issues
- Summary

Topics currently available include:

Citizenship and identity

Generation gap

Love and (un)arranged marriage

Race and discrimination

Role Models

Work and unemployment

Religion in our society (in preparation)

Family business (in preparation)

Introduction

Something to spark interest

- Current issue
- Quote
- Role play
- Story
- Case study

Free discussion

Clarify the issues

Summary

It's not necessary to come to a conclusion or to reach agreement. These are usually topics where there are lots of different views! But by talking together people learn others' perspectives. This can lead to better understanding, which can also contribute to mutual respect and trust.

Some groups may also wish to make notes of

Action points & follow up

Ordering Masala BridgeBuilders

Name:

Address:

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	Quantity	Price
BridgeBuilders Pack - £20 each		
Postage + Packing – add 15%		
Total		

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to 'South Asian Development Partnership'

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