



Knowledge to lead

■ Conducting a Samoan Circle session

Step by Step

1. Invite a group of 20-40 persons to participate in your Samoan Circle and introduce the controversial issue to be discussed during the session.
2. Set-up the room with chairs disposed in concentric circles.
3. Identify which are the different views present in the group concerning the topic to be discussed
4. Select one or two representatives for each perspective and let them sit in a semi-circle surrounded by 2-4 open chairs. The rest of the group will seat in the external, bigger circle.
5. Before beginning the discussion explain the rules and ask all participants to agree with them: a) People composing the external circle are not allowed to speak. They can only listen and observe. b) Anyone who wants to join the discussion can move to the inner circle by taking an available chair or by waiting behind a seat. If there is anyone waiting for joining the inner circle, people sitting there have to move to the external circle.
6. Clarify that the representatives might briefly present the different points of view before starting the discussion.
7. Inform the participants that the facilitator may withdraw when the discussion begins.
8. Record the different perspectives expressed as well as common points or agreements reached.



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