

Tackling and preventing extremism: Lesson 4

Resource 2: Role play script

Main roles available:

Narrator
Loukia
Darren
Janice

Smaller roles available:

Akeem
Tara
Dora
Mr Hubbard
Toby

Scene 1: Afternoon registration

Narrator: Loukia's parents lost their jobs in Greece due to the financial crisis, so when her mum found a good job in the UK, the family decided to move. Now she has to start afresh in a new school in a new country, speaking a different language. It's the end of Loukia's first week at Trivale school. She has only spoken to a few people and has been feeling a little left out.

Akeem: Where's my PE folder? Loukia – you borrowed it to catch up on what we did last year. Did you give it back?

Loukia: I gave it straight back to you. Don't you remember?

Akeem: Your sort are all the same – can't be trusted.

Narrator: Akeem walks off, leaving Loukia wondering what just happened.

Scene 2: Youth group

Narrator: Loukia's form tutor realised that she was finding it hard to settle in at the school, so she recommended a local youth group which Loukia could join.

Loukia: Hi – I'm Loukia.

Tara: I'm Tara – great to meet you. I've not seen you here before – you must be new.

Loukia: Yeah – I've just moved here. Thought I'd come along and see what this group was like.

Tara: Everyone's really friendly here. Do you go to school close by?

Loukia: Yeah, I've just joined at Trivale Comprehensive – just up the road.

Tara: I know it – let me introduce you to Darren, my brother. Hey Dazza! This is Loukia.

Darren: Great to meet you. You new in town?

Loukia: New in the country really.

Darren: Oh cool – where are you from?

Loukia: Greece – just outside Athens.

Darren: Wow! My family are thinking of getting a holiday home out there. My mum is even talking about retiring there one day. What's it like with all the tourists there?

Loukia: It's a really beautiful place. The tourists were really annoying – they kept clogging up the roads and cafes – but they were really friendly and tourism's important for the economy, so ...!

Darren: Yeah – I can understand that.

Toby: Are you coming, Dazza, or what?!!

Darren: Look, I've gotta dash – I said I'd help out a mate. Catch you later.

Narrator: Loukia and Tara had a great chat and even squeezed in a game of pool with a broken cue. Over time, the two became really good friends. They sometimes hang out with Darren too, and Loukia has developed a bit of a crush on him.

Scene 3: Geography lesson

Narrator: Things haven't really improved for Loukia much at school.

Mr Hubbard: Migration is the movement of people from one country to another.

Dora: That's like them immigrants, Sir?

Mr Hubbard: What do you mean, Dora?

Dora: Well they come to this country, steal all the good jobs and houses and talk in some stupid language no one understands.

Narrator: A number of people in the class laugh and voice extra comments of agreement. Loukia tries not to make eye contact with anyone as she barely knows her classmates and doesn't want to disagree with anyone, but when they say those things, they're talking about her and her family.

Scene 4: Tara's home

Loukia: All right Dazza! How was your weekend?

Darren: Amazing!! I went to a festival with a bunch of friends. It was epic!!

Loukia: Now I remember – I saw some of your posts – looks like there were some amazing bands there.

Darren: There were – it was the best. Actually, I was just about to talk to you both about something. When I was at the festival, I met this great group of anti-capitalist demonstrators. They're off-the-wall but really know their stuff. They've invited me along to a meeting tonight – did you two want to come along?

Tara: Can't – I've got a Psychology test tomorrow I'm revising for. And anyway, I don't have any interest in being lectured after school – it's bad enough when I'm *in* school.

Darren: Have it your way, sis. Loukia?

Loukia: Ummm ... yeah, I think I can make it.

Darren: Great. Janice – this person I met at the festival – she says they organise protest marches, talks and stuff. She says they have been up to all sorts to get people’s attention.

Tara: What kind of things?

Darren: Look – I can’t explain it all properly. But you should definitely come with me to this thing tonight, Loukia. I think they’re showing a movie so we should get there early to find a seat.

Narrator: Even though Loukia isn’t really sure what an anti-capitalist demonstration is – she’d have to look it up on a translation site for a start – she really likes Darren so decides to go to the meeting.

Scene 5: At the anti-capitalist group

Narrator: The pair watch the film – it is a pretty hard-hitting film on how lives have been ruined by the economic crash and how it is all the fault of bankers gambling with people’s money. It makes Loukia feel really upset. A speaker takes to the stage ...

Janice: ... if you feel the way I feel about this, I know you want to do something about it! There can be no excuses! The corporate machine that ruins people’s lives needs to be stopped. If you aren’t part of the solution, you’re part of the problem. Come and speak to me if you want to be part of the solution!

Narrator: Loukia is really impressed by the speaker. She knows a lot about what has happened and seems to feel exactly like her. She and Darren decide to go over to talk to the speaker (who turns out to be Janice, the friend Darren was talking about) now that everyone has started to drift away.

Darren: Hi Janice – great speech. This is Loukia – we’d like to help.

Janice: That’s great, I’m so glad you stayed behind to talk to me. We really need to take action now, before people forget what the bankers did and let them get away with it. But you’ve got to really commit – we want you to really make a difference – so we don’t want people who are planning on wasting our time. Are you free to hand out some flyers at the protest on Saturday?

Narrator: Feeling embarrassed, and not wanting to look flakey in front of Darren, Loukia overcompensates by promising to do whatever it takes – she says she’s free at the weekend.

Darren: Count me in!

Scene 6: In town at the protest stand

Narrator: Loukia hears Darren and Janice talking and gets really inspired; maybe she should go on a big protest march. After all, she agrees that the economic crash has made things difficult for people – it changed her family’s lives completely – and it makes sense if she is handing out flyers about it that she should support the organisation properly. She’s part of a group now – she has to act like a member of the group.

Loukia: I've decided to go to the march in London.

Janice: That's my girl.

Narrator: Just then, Loukia's teacher comes past and starts talking to Loukia about the flyers she is handing out.

Mr Hubbard: Hello, Loukia. How are you doing?

Loukia: I'm great thank you, Sir.

Mr Hubbard: I'm glad you have found something to keep you occupied on this sunny Saturday. But I'm not quite sure about some of the information on these flyers. Where are these statistics from?

Loukia: Ummm ...

Janice: We don't expect people like you to understand. You establishment cronies working for schools are just like all the rest – teaching people to ignore what's going on right in front of them. Leave Loukia alone, she doesn't have to talk to you outside of school.

Narrator: Janice pulls Loukia away and starts to confide in her that she can't trust people like her teacher – they will always try to keep the status quo so they don't feel guilty for not doing what is necessary to change society and make it better.

Scene 7: Mr Hubbard's office

Mr Hubbard: I've asked you here not because you are in any trouble. I was just a little taken aback when we met at that stand at the weekend. Tell me a little bit more about the group you are with.

Loukia: They are just some friends. We talk about the economy and things. I've learned a lot from them.

Mr Hubbard: I'm really glad you are making friends. And that you are involving yourself in the community – that's really important. But you need to be careful. Sometimes people like your friend aren't the best people to listen to.

Loukia: She said you'd be like this. She was right!

Mr Hubbard: Now there's no need to get upset. I was just trying to say you need to be careful.

Narrator: Loukia is embarrassed and angry and just wants to leave, so she stops listening and talking and just nods until her teacher lets her leave. When she's finished, she texts Darren, who says to 'ignore fascists like old Hubbard – he doesn't know what he's talking about! Who do you trust more – me and Janice or that stuffy git?!'

Scene 8: At Janice's house

Narrator: Loukia and Darren have been attending lots of meetings and stands in the town centre recently and have been asked by Janice to come to a special meeting to talk about doing something different that will really have an impact.

Darren: So what did you call us here for?

Janice: We need to do something serious to make a difference, don't you think?

Loukia: Yes – but what more can we do?

Janice: I'm glad you asked. I've been working on a plan. It's top secret, and only the people I really trust know about it. At the march this weekend, a group of us are going to break into a bank and spray a message on the walls so everyone knows how evil the banks are. You're in, aren't you?

Darren: Finally, we get to do something that will make people really stand up and think. You're in, aren't you Loukia?