

The Boiling Point discussion material



Boiling Point is a Finnish documentary film directed by Elina Hirvonen and produced by Mouka Filmi Oy, shot during 2016. It was screened at the DocPoint film festival on 23 January 2017, and it also aired on Finnish TV in April 2017.

In addition to a documentary by Elina Hirvonen and Mouka Filmi, Boiling Point is also a campaign that aims to influence with the help of the film. The aim of the campaign is to use the film to inspire a constructive dialogue in which Finns maintain their respect towards each other and stop inciting hatred. In this campaign, Mouka Filmi partnered with The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Finnish Red Cross and Critical Cinema Lab (CCL).

Due to the aim of the film, it was also distributed in an unusual manner: anyone with an internet connection was able to screen the film at home or in public from 1 February to 15 May 2017 by requesting a password on the Boilingpoint.fi website. A total of 738 screenings were organised in different parts of Finland and in 20 other countries, and they attracted about 18,000 viewers.

Boiling Point was aired by the Finnish broadcasting company Yle on the channel TV1 on 10 April 2017, attracting 167,000 viewers and rerun on Yle TV1 on 15 April 2017 attracting 60,000 viewers. On 15 May 2017, views on the Yle Areena online service totalled 25,284.

Source (in Finnish): <http://boilingpoint.fi/wp-content/uploads/Kiehumispisteen-kampanjaraportti-5.pdf>

How to use the Boiling Point materials?

Discuss hate speech and the Finnish national identity with the group!

The Boiling Point discussion material is intended for teachers, youth workers and various kinds of communities to support them in discussions of racism, hate speech and patriotism. The material comprises selected scenes from the Boiling Point documentary and a set of questions to help you to start a discussion of the themes with your group. **The material is recommended for use with people over 15 years of age.** Using it requires a video projector and a fast internet connection.

We have compiled two separate themes that you can cover with the help of the materials. **The themes comprise 2–5 scenes and a related set of questions. The scenes offer material for discussion, and you can use them to compile a 45–75 minute-long teaching session.** If you wish, you can also only use one scene or select the scenes you want to use as a part of a lesson you are teaching, for example.

The hate speech theme includes five scenes that you can use to discuss the reasons for hatred, its manifestations and the effects it has and to think about ways of discussing different opinions and views in a constructive manner, instead of resorting to hate speech. You can plan a session of about 75 minutes using the scenes in this theme.

There are two scenes in **the Finnish national identity theme**. What does it mean to be Finnish, and what do home, religion

and fatherland stand for? What symbols are used in the scenes that are important to Finns and how does it make you feel? You can plan a session of about 45 minutes using the scenes in the Finnish national identity theme.

The materials and discussions are not meant to instruct or judge but to provoke thoughts in the first place. It is good idea to give a short introduction to the scenes before watching them. Alternatively, you can first watch the scenes once without any introduction, then go through the questions, and watch the scenes again before starting the discussion.

These may be challenging themes to discuss. Therefore, creating a trustful atmosphere is important, and it is a good idea to have someone the group knows to lead the discussion. It is important to listen to all the thoughts and ideas and to discuss them in a constructive manner, instead of arguing. It is a good idea to start the discussion in pairs or small groups, after which the pairs or groups can share their thoughts and discuss the questions with the wider group.

Working group that prepared the materials:

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