

Theme: Finnish national identity



Excercise 1: Finnish national identity and Finnish values

What does the phrase Finnish national identity mean to you? What kind of things do you think are important to Finns? How do you recognise a Finn?

Write one value that you think is important to Finns on the board.

Discuss the words written on the board with the whole group. How well do they describe the Finnish national identity? What should definitely be added?

If you have time, you can also complete this task in small groups by compiling a poster representing the Finnish national identity using pictures and texts from newspapers and magazines. Then each group presents their poster to the rest of the group and you can discuss the thoughts that the posters provoke.

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The video describes different kinds of comments that concern the Finnish national identity. The views of the people who speak vary tremendously. It is easier to start discussing these questions in pairs or small groups.



Excercise 2: Home, religion, fatherland – What do these phrases mean? *How is the conflict manifested in the comments? What do home, religion and fatherland mean to you? Who has the right to be Finnish? Whom does the Finnish national identity belong to?*

Discuss the juxtaposition and patriotism. Do the so-called social justice warriors love Finland? Can a person be patriotic and proud to be Finnish while supporting immigration?

“ Aerial shots of wintry field and forest landscapes, comments.

#1 Home, religion, fatherland. The Left wants to do away with all of these three most important elements. An ethnically uniform nation, a nation state, which is the only form that will persevere in history...

#2 Considering the agenda of the jihadists, the rise of the far right is a good thing for them. They can use it as their own recruitment channel.

#3 I would like to talk to you about home, religion and fatherland. It does not refer to home, religion and ISIS land.

#4 A myth has been created that supporting the EU equals the Islamisation of Finland. And anyone who does not think that all immigrants are terrorists is a social justice warrior and all social justice warriors support NATO and the EU.

#5 Well-wishing masses have been led to believe that black is white and white is black while also dragging the colours of the rainbow through the mud.

#6 The Finnish national identity belongs to all of us.

#7 Since when have the Finnish lion and flag become racist symbols?

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Now look at the Suomi ensin! (Finland first!) demonstration in Helsinki from the point of view of the Finnish national identity. It is easier to start discussing these questions in pairs or small groups.



Excercise 3: Hate speech and the symbols of the Finnish national identity. Which important symbols of Finland and the Finnish national identity can you spot? How are the symbols used? What does it make you feel?

The Finnish flag, the Finnish lion, the songs. Discuss the feelings that the use of these symbols, which are important to Finns, in this context evokes.

// Helsinki, Suomi ensin! (Finland first!) demonstration. The voice of the people.

Man with stubbly hair: Now really, we must give a voice to young people, the young people must get active. This is going nowhere, if it just continues like this. They've already got enough on the slate, it must stop now, goddamn it!

Finnish Maiden: Therefore, we demand, we put our arms around the country of the Finnish Maiden. To protect the children of the North, we expel the soldiers of the dark from our lands. Thank you, and remember to love Finland.

Man in the pig cap: This is a great day for European culture. Today, a bit over 300 years ago, John III Sobieski stated that Europe would not be taken over. Europe is the land of the Europeans. We must do the same in Finland. Finland first! Finns first. You cannot come here to tell us how to live in our own country! Get fucking Islam off the streets of Finland!

Man: I don't know what's wrong with the police in Helsinki, letting those jerks whine over there.

Woman: You social justice warriors in the back, you're first. You are next, after you have been raped. We have taken the side of these social justice warriors in the past so we cannot say that we have been raped because of these bloody niggers. After that, they'll throw stones at you and tell you that you cannot walk in their neighbourhood without a scarf, that you are infidel whores. So there you have it, you fucking traitors!