

DRAMA EXERCISES

Reconciliation

After Nelson Mandela was released from prison, South Africa set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The idea behind the Commission was to give people an opportunity to reflect on mistakes they had made during the years of apartheid.

Here are some extracts from a statement that Dr Merle Friedman made to the Commission on December 15th 1997.

Prepare a short drama that uses words and actions – and a number of actors – to bring Dr Friedman’s statement to life.

Dr Merle Friedman, December 15th, 1997

It is with deep regret that I reflect on my past.

It is with deep sorrow that I acknowledge my complicity.

And it is with immeasurable guilt that I assume responsibility for my role. I cannot say "I did not know".

I can only say I chose not to know.

I chose my own comfort over the pain of knowing. I am so deeply sorry!

This privilege allows me to reach even further into my soul to express the remorse that I feel.

It impels me to continue to seek in my own small way to help repair the damage.