

Title of session: Negative effects of disability discrimination

This episode introduces parents, children and citizens, to the concept of unfair treatment based on the stigma on disability. It discusses the right of people with disabilities to be treated equally and gives examples of misconceptions and harmful social norms.

Length of recording: t.b.c.

Scene 1: Boys teasing a boy with a disability

Actors: Musa (boy), Boys

Scene 2: Blind man being denied his rights

Actors: Shero (man), Karim (man), Bakay (boy)

Scene 3: The village chief taking action against disability discrimination.

Actors: Village Chief (man), Sally (woman), Shero (man)

Scene 1:

Sfx: Boys chatting and laughing. Sound of a person walking on crutches.

Boy 1: *Nɔto da fofut bɔbɔ de kam so?* Is it not the four-legged boy that is coming?

Boy2: *Na im. I get lɔk o, ɔlman get tu fut in get fo!*

That is him. This boy is lucky. Everyone has two legs, he has four!

Sfx: boys laughing

Musa: *Una de laf mi?* Are you laughing at me?

Boy 1: *Wi nɔ de laf yu o , wi de prez yu!*

We are not laughing at you; we are praising you!

Boy 2: *Yu get fo fut, ɔda pipul den get tu tu.*

You have four legs, everyone else has two legs

Boy 3: *Una lef fɔ provoke am, le wi go ple futbɔl.*

Stop teasing him, let's go play football

Boy 1: *Oke, le wi go ple...I na wan ol lng bench!*

Ok, let's go play... he's just an old wooden bench!

Sfx: boys laughing

Boy 3: *E! Wetin una de du so nɔ gud o. Una nɔ fɔ de provoke am.*

What you are doing is not good at all. You should not tease him.

Boy 1: *Bo lef wi ya. E, yu fofut Musa, le wi rɔn go ɔnda da mangro tik de!*

Why not? Hey, four-legged Musa, let's run where the mango tree is!

Musa: *Lef! Lef!* Stop! Stop!

Boy 3: *Una lef fɔ provoke am. A nɔ lek wetin una de du so, i nɔ rayt atɔ! Una nɔ de shem fɔ unasef?*

Stop teasing him. I don't like what you are doing, it's wrong! You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Boy1: *Aw wetin? Na yu padi? Aw yu go bi in padi sef we na tu fut nɔmɔ yu get?*

Why? Are you his friend? How can you be his friend, you only have two legs!

Sfx: Boys laughing.

Boy 3: *Yes, mi na in padi. Enibɔdi kin get aksident ɔ bɔn wit den kayn tin ya, wi nɔ fɔ blem den fɔ dat.. I nɔ gud! Aw yu go fil if a provoke yu bikɔs yu yala ɔ bikɔs yu shɔt pas mi? Dat go gud?*

Yes, I am his friend. Anyone can have an accident or be born with a difficulty and you should never be blamed for something like that. It's not fair! How would you feel if I teased you because you have light skin or because you are shorter than me? Would that be nice?

Boy 2: *Man fɔget! Dis nɔto enitin wi jes de mek fɔn...*

Come on! This is nothing. We are just having fun...

Boy 3: *A nɔ tink se Musa de enjoy dis jok ya... jes tink, if evride sɔmbɔdi de kam provok yu bikɔs yu shɔt pas mi. A nɔ min wantem o, evride, aw yu go fil?*

I don't think that Musa is having fun... Imagine if every day of your life someone was making fun because you are shorter than me. Not once, every day. How would you feel?

Boy 1: *A go fil bad...* I would feel bad...

Boy 3: *Wetin una de du so den kɔl am arasment... we min fɔ de ambɔg en provok sɔmbɔdi te I bigin fil bad. Dis de egens di lɔ, yu kin get trɔbul pan dat sef. Ivin di ed man dɔn wɔn pipul den bɔt dat.*

What you are doing is called harassment... teasing and provoking someone to make him feel bad all the time. It is against the law and you could even get in trouble for that. Even the town chief had warned people about such behaviour.

Boy2: *Bo fɔget , Musa na wi padi.* Oh, come on, Musa is our friend.

Boy 3: *Dis nɔto di we we padi de biev to in padi. Yu fɔ shem bo.*

This is not how a friend should behave towards his friend. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Boy1: *Oke,Oke... Yu rayt... a beg we wi provok yu Musa, wi ɔndastand naw se wi nɔ trit yu faynl, duya wi de beg'*

ok, ok... you are right... we are sorry for teasing you Musa, we understand that we have been mean to you, we are really sorry.

Musa: *Oke, a get fɔ go naw.* It's fine, I need to go now.

Boy 2: *E bo, nɔ go, de wit wi, le wi go ple. Kam le wi ɔl go!*

No please, stay with us, let's go play. Come with us!

Scene 2

Sfx: Knock on the door

Karim: *Udat da wan de?* Who is it?

Shero: *Na mi o yu brɔda Shero.* It's your brother Shero

Karim: *Kam insay.di do nɔ lɔk. Na yu wan kam?*

Come inside, the door is not locked. Did you come with anyone?

Shero: *Na mi en sɔmbɔdi kam. Mi bɔbɔ, Na mi en in de waka ɔltem.*

I am with someone. My boy, I usually walk with him.

Karim: *Oke. Una kabɔ.* Ok. You are welcome.

Sfx: Door opens and closes. Footsteps. Noise of chair being moved.

Karim: *I gud o we yu get dis bɔbɔ fɔ ep yu. I nɔ izi fɔ blenyay pɔsin fɔ de waka so.*

It's good that you have this boy to help you, it must be difficult for blind people to walk around.

Shero: *Mi bɔn blɛn; a dɔn yus am naw. Mi yes shap wɔndaful, ɛn dat de mek a ɔndastand usay a de go. Lek naw so a no se di chia we a fɔ sidɔm pan de oba ya bikɔs yu jɛs muf am go de.*

I was born blind; I am used to it. My hearing is very good and he helps understand where I am. Now for example, I know that the chair for me to sit is here because you just moved it.

Karim: *Eee! Gud fɔ yu shero, bɔt wetin briŋ yu kam?*

Oh, good for you Shero, but why are you here? What is the matter?

Shero: *Karim i at fɔ kech yu.* Karim, it's hard to catch up with you.

Karim: *Awfɔdu, yu no se fɔ bi ticha get bɔkɔ yagba.*

What can I do? You know that teaching profession has a lot of challenges.

Shero: *A dɔn kam ya bɔku tɛm bɔt a nɔ ebul mit yu. Yu nɔ de ivin pik mi kɔl dem.*

I have been here several times and have not been able to meet you. You don't even pick my calls.

Karim: *Bɔku tɛm mi fon kin de saylent. Yu no se wen yu de tich yu fon nɔ fɔ de riŋ.*

Most times my phone is on silence. You know that when you are teaching your phone should not be ringing.

Shero: *A no. Wel na fɔ da prɔpati.* I know. Well, it is about the property.

Karim: *Us prɔpati?* Which property?

Shero: *Di prɔpati we wi dadi day lef gi wi.* The property we inherited from our father.

Karim: *Yu de na yu yon os; Misɛf de na mi yon. Us ɔda prɔpati yu de tɔk bɔt?*

You live in your own house; I also have mine. Which other property are you referring to?

Shero: *Yu no se dadi day lef wan eka land we wi fɔ disayd wetin fɔ du wit am.*

You know dad left us one acre of land which we are yet to decide what to do with.

Karim: *Yes wan eka land lef, a no dat.*

Yes, there is one acre of land left, I know that

Shero: *So a dɔn kam le wi tɔk bɔt da land de.*

So I've come for us to discuss about that land

Karim: *Tɔk wetin?* Discuss what?

Shero: *Aw wi go sheb am.* How we will share it.

Karim: *Yu sirycɔs?* Are you serious?

Shero: *Wetin yu min?* What do you mean?

Karim: *Wetin blenyay man wan du wit land? A beg yu in di nem of god... a min se yu wan tɔk bɔt ɔda tin sef.*

What would a blind man do with land? Please I beg you in the name of God ... I thought you wanted to discuss a different issue

Shero: *A blen so wat?* I am blind so what?

Karim: *So yu nɔ nid am bikɔs yu kant du enitin wit am. Us yus di land go get fɔ yu?*

So, you don't need it because you cannot do anything with it. Of what use will the land be for you?

Shero: *Karim, nɔto yu bay da land de. A nɔ kam beg yu. Na wi dadi day lef da prɔpati de gi wi. Way yu de tɔk den kayn tɔk ya?*

Karim, you were not the one who bought that land. I have not come to beg you. We inherited that property from our father. Why are you saying these things?

Karim: *Lef da land de gi mi, oke. Yu na blenyay man; us yus yu go get fɔ da land de? Aftaɔl yu get os we yu tap, lef di land fɔ mi.*

Leave that land for me, ok. You are a blind man; of what use will land be to you? After all, you have a house where you live, leave the land for me

Shero: *Karim yu tink se blenyay man in yon dɔn dɔn, bɔt a kin tɛl yu se mi yon nɔ dɔn et. A de liv en du tin den fɔ misɛf. A get mi yon shap, a de mek mi at tin den wit wud. Ivin do a nɔ de si, a kin fil wit mi finga dem. Mi an dem na mi yay. A kin mek fam, a mek gadin na di land rawnd mi os, so a kin mek fam na da land de we wi dadi day lef gi wi.*

Karim, you might think of me as a person who is blind, but I can tell you I am much more than that. I am able to live a full and productive life. I have my own shop, I make carvings. Even if I cannot see, I can feel the objects with my fingers. My hands are my eyes, I can farm land, I farm all the land around my home, so I can also farm the land we inherited from our father.

Karim: *Dis na nɔnsɛns. A no se yu nɔ sɪrɪɔs; a nɔ go alaw yu fɔm tek da land de.*
This is nonsense. You cannot be serious; I will not allow you to take that land.

Shero: *If yu tray fɔ siz da land de na mi an, di wanɔl kɔmyuniti go no.*
If you try to grab that property, the entire community will be informed.

Karim: (Laughs) *Wetin blɛnyay man kin du? Yu kant du natin.*
What can a blind man do? You can't do anything

Shero: *Aw yu de tɔk lɛkɛ dat? Yu no se a go skul, a get ɛdyukeshɔn ɛn a kin tek kia ɔf misɛf ɛn mi biznes. So yu go mek a get mi yon pat pan di land?*
How can you talk like that? You know I have been to school, I am educated and I can take care of myself and my own business. So, will I get my own share of the land or not?

Karim: *A dɔn tɛl yu fɔ fɔget da land de.* I have told you to forget about that land

Shero: *A nɔ go fɔget am. A go fet yu to di las.*
I will not forget about it. I will fight you till the last.

Karim: *Yu kant du natin to mi. A get ɔl di pepa den fɔ di land. Yu no dat. So a go si aw yu go ebul fet mi fɔ di land.*
You cannot do anything to me. I have all the documents for the land. You know that. So I will see how you will be able to fight for the land. Leave my house now.

Shero: *A de go bɔt yu go si. Beke! Usay yu de?*
I am leaving but you will see. Bakay! Where are you?

Bakay: *A de ya Sa.* Here I am, sir

Shero: *Lɛ wi go.* Let's go

Sfx: Footsteps

Shero: *Mi pikin lɛ wi go.* Let us go, my son.

Karim: *Bo kɔmɔt na mi os.* Get out of my house

Sfx: Door slams

Karim: *Mmmm... bɔt I rayt o, i dɔn mek gadin rawnd in os... sɔn tɛm in planteshɔn go bɛtɛ pas mi yon dɛm... bɔt a want da land de.*

Mmm... he's right, he has indeed farmed all the land around his house... sometimes his crops are even healthier than my own... but I need that land!

Scene3:

Chief: *I nɔ bi izi atɔl fɔ bi lida. I nɔ izi fɔ bi lida. Yu de get bɔku tin den fɔ dil wit...*

It is not easy to be a leader. It is not easy to be a leader. You have a lot of things to deal with...

Sally: *Ed man adu Sa.* Chief, greetings, sir

Chief: *Sali aw yu du? Yu nɔ luk api.* Sally, how are you? You don't look happy

Sally: *A nɔ api Sa.* I am not happy, sir

Chief: *Hmm, wetin bi egen?* Hmm, what is the matter again?

Sally: *Ed man, sɔm masibo tin den de apin na dis wi komyuniti ya we if wi nɔ du sɔntin wi go get bɔku bɔku waala (raising her voice) Ed man, if yu nɔ du sɔntin, a swe to God...*

Chief, there are terrible things happening in this community and if you don't do anything about it, there will be a lots of problem (raising her voice). Chief, if you don't do anything about it, I swear to God...

Chief: *Sali a no se yu veks bɔt du ya tek tɛm ala. Wetin apin?*

Sally I know that you are angry but please lower your voice. What is the matter?

Sally: *Na mi bɔy-pikin Musa* It is my son Musa

Chief: *Wetin apin to am?* What has happened to him?

Sally: *Pipul den de provok am ɔtɛm. En nɔto den bɔbɔ dem nɔmɔ, ivin pipul den na di makit. Den de provok am we i de yuz krɔch fɔ waka.*

People are always teasing him. Not only the boys, even the people in the market. They make fun of him using crutches.

Chief: *Nɔɔ, dat nɔ gud.* That's not good.

Sally: *Yes, den de trit am bad. A dɔn ivin yeri sɔmbɔdi se i nɔ fɔ westɛm se i de go skul sɛf, i fɔ jɛs sidɔm na wan kɔna de beg.*

Yes, they treat him so badly. I have even heard someone say he should not waste his time going to school, he should just sit in a corner and beg.

Chief: *Dat na nɔnsens. Musa na kleva bɔbɔ; i go go fa na skul if wi sɔpɔt am.*

That is nonsense. Musa is a smart boy; he can go very far with his studies if we support him.

Sally: *... bɔt pipul den jes de provok am en dat de mɔna am. Sɔntem i nɔ kin wan kɔmɔt na os sef bikɔs den ɔda bɔbɔ den de provok am en den nɔ de gri fɔ ple wit am.*

... but people keep making fun of him and he suffers a lot. Sometimes he doesn't want to go out because the other boys make fun of him and exclude him when they play.

Chief: *Dis nɔ fɔ apin na wi kɔmyuniti. Wi nɔ fɔ luk eniwan wit badyay en lef den to dɛnsef. Disebul pipul... pipul dem we nɔ ebul lek ɔda pipul sef get di sem rayt lek ɔl ɔda pɔsin dem.*

This should not happen in our community. We should not exclude anyone. People with disabilities have the same rights as every other person.

Sally: *Bɔt na den bad tin ya de apin naw. Na dat mek a kam to yu Sa.*

But these bad things are happening now. That is why I have come to you, sir.

Chief: *Yu du wɛl Sali. Disebul pipul dem fɔ go skul en get di sem ɔpɔtyuniti na layf. Den fɔ ebul get wok, get pa en liv lek eni ɔda pɔsin na dis kɔmyuniti.*

You did well, Sally. People with disabilities should go to school and have equal opportunities in life. They should be able to get jobs, receive salaries and live their lives as anyone else in this community.

Sfx: Footsteps

Shero: *Yu na klevaman Sa.*

You are a wise man, sir.

Chief: *E Shero, awyudu?*

Shero, how are you?

Shero: *A oke. Gud aftanun Sa, gud aftanun Ma.*

I am fine. Good afternoon Sir, good afternoon Ma'am.

Sally: *Gud aftanun.*

Good afternoon.

Chief: *Wetin bring yuk am yaso mi frɛn?*

What brings you here my friend?

Shero: *A kam fɔ kan aks yu fɔ ep mi, den we a de kam a yeri wetin yu bin de se bɔt disebul pipul dem. A wish ɔlman bin de tink lek yu.*

I came to ask for your help, then I have heard what you were saying about people with disabilities. I wish everyone would think like you.

Chief: *Sali yu no se mi en Shero gro ɔp togeda? Na mi gud gud padi.*

Sally, you know that Shero and I grew up together? He's a good friend.

Sally: *Yɔs Sa, a no am, i get wan shap ia mi os.*

Yes, sir, I know him, he has a shop near my house.

Chief: *Egzaktli. Den bɔn Shero blen wan bɔt dat nɔ stɔp am fɔ go skul get edyukeshɔn en stat in yon biznes. Shero yu na gud egzampul fɔ wi yɔŋ-ɔyɔl en yɔŋ-bɔy dem.*

Exactly. Shero was born blind, but that didn't stop him for getting an education and starting his own business. Shero, you are an example for all our girls and boys.

Shero: *Ed man, tɛnki, wetin yu se mek a fil gud. I impɔtant fɔ ɛ wi mek pipul den ɔndastand se disabul pipul den kin du ɔltin. Sɔntɛm den kin jes want smɔl sɔpɔt.. we kin mek dɛnsɛf du big tin na layf.*

Thank you chief, your words are kind. It is important that we make people understand that people with disabilities can do everything, sometimes they just need a little support but then they can achieve great results.

Chief: *Dat na tru. Di lɔ de mek shɔ se i kɔba disabul pipul den en mek den nɔ tek advantej pan dem ɔ aras dem. Wi ɔl na dis kɔmyuniti ya na di sem wen i kam pan di lɔ. Wi ɔl get di sem rayt.*

That is true. The law also protects people with disabilities against discrimination or harrasment. All of us in this community are equal before the law. We all have equal rights.

Sally: *Fɔ tru?* Really?

Chief: *Yes, en a go bi veri strikt pan dis. A go mek ɔlman no se if provk nɔ dɔn na dis kɔmyuniti den na fɔ kam tɛl mi.*

Yes, and I will be very firm on this. I will let people know that if the teasing of your boy or any person continues in this community, they will have to come talk to me.

Sally: *Ed man tɛnki. A kin go naw? A get fɔ go na mi sista in os.*

Thank you, Chief. May I go now? I need to go to my sister's house.

Chief: *Oke, Sali, gudbay.* Of course, good bye Sally.

Sally: *Ed man, gudbay, Mista Shero gudbay.* Good bye Chief, good bye Mr. Shero.

Shero: *Gudbay Sali, tek kia o.* Good bye Sally, take care.

Chief: *So Shero, wetin yu wan tɛl mi? ɛ wi sidɔm ɔnda dis tik.*

So Shero, what do you have to tell me? Let's sit here under this tree.

Shero: *Ed man, na bɔt mi brɔda, a wan pot am to yu.*
Chief, it is about my brother, I need to report him.

Chief: *Yu brɔda?* Your brother?

Shero: *Yes, Karim.* Yes, Karim

Chief: *O Karim. Wetin apin?* Oh, Karim. What happened?

Shero: *Yu no se wi dadi day lef prɔpati gi wi.*
You know we inherited property from our father

Chief: *Yes a memba di let man. Na bin gud man.*
Yes, I remember the late man. He was a nice man

Shero: *A go mit Karim fɔ le wi tɔk bɔt wetin wi go do wit di wan eka land we di pa day lef gi wi, Karim se mi fɔ fɔget bɔt di land.*
I went to meet with Karim to discuss what we will do with the one-acre land dad left for us, Karim says I should forget about it.

Chief: *A nɔ ɔndastand.* I don't understand

Shero: *I se in nɔ go gi mi de bikɔs mi blen. I aks mi 'Wetin blenyay man de du wit land?'*
He says he will not give me part of the land because I am blind. He asked me "what will a blind man do with land?"

Chief: *Na so Karim se?* Is that what Karim said?

Shero: *Na so i se Sa.* That is what he said, sir

Chief: *Udat tɛl Karim se blenyay man nɔ fɔ get prɔpati?*
Who told Karim that a blind man shouldn't own property?

Shero: *Wel mi nɔ no u tɛl am dat.* Well, I don't know who told him that

Chief: *Udat get di dɔkyument den fɔ di land?* Who has the land documents?

Shero: *Den de wit Karim.* Karim has them.

Chief: Oke. Na dat mek i tink se in kin tek advantej pan yu?
Ok. Is that why he thinks he can take advantage of you?

Shero: *Na so a si am Ed man. I ivin de mekmɔt se a kant du natin bɔt dat en a kant du natin to am.*

That is how I see it, chief. He is even bragging. He says there is nothing I can do about it and with him

Chief: *Wetin?* What?

Shero: *Yes Sa.* Yes, sir

Chief: *Le mi tel yu sɔntin, yu get rayt na da land de. Ivin if nain kip di dɔkyument dem, na una tu get di land.*

Let me tell you. You have right over the land. Even if he has custody of the documents, both of you own that property.

Shero: *Mi a wan mek fam de, a try fɔ tɔk to am bɔt i tu stɔbɔn. I se in go kip di land fɔ in sef.*

I want to use it for farming, I tried to talk to him but he's very stubborn. He said he will keep the land for himself.

Chief: *As lɔŋ as mi bi di Ed man na dis kɔmyuniti ya, a nɔ go mek enibɔdi tek advantej ɔ tif frɔm ɔda pɔsin. I gud we yu kam tel mi. Fɔs a go tɔk to am, if i se paopa nain wan fɔ get am den a go du wetin fɔ du..*

As long as I am the chief in this community, I will not let anyone take advantage or steal from another person. You did well informing me. First I will talk to him, if he insists, I will take the appropriate actions.

Shero: *Tenk yu, le Gɔd bles yu.* Thank you. God bless you.

Chief: *Naw naw so, a de kam put stɔp to den kayn advantej ya we pipul den de tek pan den disebul pipul dem na dis kɔmyuniti.*

I will put immediate stop to the discrimination and abuse of people living with disability in this community.

Radio Discussions, discussants focus on:

- [Myth and misconception on disability](#)
- [Disability is not inability](#)
- [Need for Inclusion](#)

Open Phone Lines – LWL team to document feedback