

# Challenging Prejudice and Discrimination: What Would You Do?

**prejudice:** A preconceived negative feeling or opinion about a person or group of people, not based on reality or experience.

**discrimination:** Unfair treatment based on prejudice against a group, class, or category that a person belongs to, rather than on individual merit.

Consider the following scenarios, then answer the questions below each one.

*A girl at school is wearing a headscarf. She enters the library and two kids make a remark about terrorists. The girl lowers her head and goes to a far corner of the library to sit by herself.*

Why is this girl being discriminated against? What is the prejudice underneath the kids' remarks? What can you do to counteract this act of prejudice? What can you do to support this girl?

*A student who looks like a boy and likes to wear eyeliner walks into the cafeteria. Two boys whistle at him and start to laugh at him as he walks by.*

Why is this student being discriminated against? What is the prejudice underneath the boys' disrespectful actions? What can you do to counteract this act of prejudice? What can you do to support this student?

*A Latina student raises her hand to answer a question in history class. Someone in the back of the room whispers, "Why don't you go back to the country you came from? You don't belong here."*

Why is this girl being discriminated against? What is the prejudice underneath the disrespectful words that were said? What can you do to counteract this act of prejudice? What can you do to support this girl?

- Describe a time when you, your family, or someone you know was discriminated against.
- What other acts of discrimination are you aware of?
- Why is it up to each of us to counter acts of prejudice and discrimination?
- What do you think our world would be like if prejudice and discrimination no longer existed?
- What can we each do to make that happen?