**No Offence Meant**

**Activity/Scenario**

You are teaching English in a foreign country. A parent has donated a large fluffy toy to the classroom. The children want to have a competition to name it. What do you need to consider before saying ‘Yes’ to them?

EXAMPLE CLASSROOM / VLE STEPS

1. Initial discussion
2. Individual Worksheet:
   1. What do you need to consider before saying ‘YES’ to the competition – *to be completed after initial discussion in group / classroom*
   2. On second thoughts: What do you need to consider before saying ‘YES’ to the competition – *to be completed after completing reading / using resources*
3. Learning about Cultural Awareness – using the resources and materials provided (see below)
4. Discussion / forum topics
   1. Is cultural awareness only an issue when outside your own country?
   2. Is it illegal to be ignorant of other cultures?
   3. Does this scenario only apply to teachers – how could it apply to all / any of us?
   4. What constitutes a culture?
5. Reflection – *Having learned about cultural awareness and worked an example recognise what you need to do differently now and in the future, and recognise what you have learned*
   1. revise the worksheet (2b above)
   2. What would I do differently if I were in that situation knowing what I know now?
   3. What are the implications of this learning for me, for my studies, for my life and my career choice
   4. Employability skills – checklist – what skills have I learned as a result of this scenario and workshop?
   5. Self awareness checklist – what have I learned about myself as a result of this scenario?

**Cultural Awareness - REALITY**

**The Independent - Tuesday, 27 November 2007**

**Teacher held for teddy bear 'blasphemy'**

By Terri Judd  
A British primary school teacher in Sudan is facing 40 lashes and up to a year in jail for allowing her pupils to name a teddy bear after the Prophet Mohamed. Gillian Gibbons has been imprisoned under strict blasphemy laws for showing "contempt and disrespect against the believers".

**MEDIA LINKS**

**Video**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7112929.stm> excellent video summation of the case

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/article/0,,30200-1294365,00.html> - with video of MP discussing issue

**Headlines**

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/africa/article3198874.ece>

The Independent

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/africa/article2951262.ece>

Sudan police throw teacher in jail for teddy bear named Muhammad

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1687755,00.html>

The Blasphemous Teddy Bear

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2007/12/05/notes120507.DTL>

Let us kill all the teddy bears: Note to radical Muslims: I've now named my favourite [sic] coffee mug 'Muhammad.' Hope that helps

<http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-11/30/content_7172802.htm>

China news reporting the incident

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/ondeadline/2007/11/teacher-faces-l.html>

Teacher faces lashing, prison after class names teddy bear 'Mohammed'

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/article511199.ece>

Facing 40 lashes for ‘Islam slur'

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese_teddy_bear_blasphemy_case>

Wikipedia version of events + references

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7115821.stm>

What can’t be named Mohammed