Cultural Stereotyping Myth Busting
What Is a Stereotype?

A **stereotype** is an idea or belief held by a person, about an individual or group, based on limited information. Stereotyping is a type of **prejudice**.

If you base your opinion on what somebody is like according to their appearance, it’s stereotyping.
What Is Cultural Stereotyping?

Cultural stereotyping is forming opinions about people based on where they come from or where they live. We can recognise some examples of cultural stereotyping as being ridiculous. For example, not all French people wear berets and stripy tops!

Can you think of any examples where you have seen stereotypes?

Think, Pair, Share.
What’s Wrong?

Cultural stereotyping is wrong because it can lead to:

• people getting the blame for something that someone else did;
• the victim feeling isolated;
• someone being verbally abused or physically attacked, sometimes with serious consequences.
Give Everyone a Chance

Have you ever heard these expressions?

“Don’t judge a book by its cover.” (George Eliot)

“Never judge someone by the opinion of others.” (Anon.)

What do they mean?
Hate Crimes

A **hate crime** is a crime that’s motivated by prejudice.

It is an act that discriminates against someone's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity. These are called protected characteristics.

Hate crimes are sometimes violent, but they can also be non-violent. They can be committed by individuals, large groups of people and even governments.

Any act that discriminates someone based on protected characteristics is a hate crime.
What Should We Do?

Instead of stereotyping, we should:

• take the time to get to know people, instead of making assumptions about them;
• say ‘no’ to prejudice;
• adapt our words and behaviour to be more sensitive to others;
• learn about other cultures or traditions;
• challenge cultural stereotyping if we hear it happening.
Glossary

**cultural stereotyping**  
- Forming opinions about people, based on where they come from or where they live.

**hate crimes**  
- A crime (often violent) that is motivated by prejudice.

**prejudice**  
- A formed idea or dislike of someone or something, which is not based on a reason or actual experience.

**stereotype**  
- An idea or belief held by a person, about an individual or group, based on limited information.