**Vignette: Different is normal**

As the door swings open, Zola enters, joining the group late. The discussion continues and she shares her view that, “different is normal,” bringing a fresh perspective to the conversation. Zola looks around at the group, advocating for inclusive policies and dynamic classroom strategies that not only address, but celebrate diversity. Emily passionately shares her experiences as a Life Science teacher, detailing classroom discussions that challenge misconceptions and educate students about the biological and psychological aspects of homosexuality. These efforts are aimed at normalising LGBTIQ+ identities and fostering a more inclusive school environment that celebrates diversity. The group discusses the need for comprehensive strategies to combat homophobic victimisation, ranging from explicit policies against bullying to embedding inclusivity in the curriculum. Olivia interjects the conversation to leave for a personal commitment, but shares her last sentiment of her own experience of the school before she goes; “I’ve been in a lot of schools, and this is different. This is home. We don’t have to hide.”

**School** level: Teachers

**Place**: Johannesburg, South Africa

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