

Topic: Rights and Responsibilities
(International Catholic Migration Commission, Turkey)

Activity: Offenses and Consequences

Objective	Through comparing the consequences of some offenses in participants' countries of origin and the U.S., participants will be able to better understand U.S. laws.
Lesson Time	30 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity worksheet containing offenses and consequences in country of origin and in U.S. (see sample below) for each participant• Writing implements for each participant
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Divide participants into 4-5 groups. If there are illiterate people among participants, mix the literate and illiterate in each group.2. Distribute activity sheets and writing implements to each participant.3. Assign each group 5-6 statements on the activity sheet.4. Bring the large group back together and go through the offenses with participants by presenting the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Guess whether offenses mentioned are crimes or not in both of the countries stated below. Further discuss whether they are enforced or not.b. Guess what consequences would be in the U.S.c. Which offenses are considered to be more serious in the U.S. than in your country of origin?d. Which one of these offenses can result in the loss of status, not being able to get a job, a bad credit history, or not being able to get a green card?e. Is this act illegal? What is the consequence? Is the law actually enforced?

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Activity Worksheet: The Consequences of Offenses

1. Driving under the influence of alcohol

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

2. Driving without a license

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

3. Shoplifting

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

4. Creating, selling, buying and using pirated copies of copyrighted products (audio CDs, DVDs, VCRs, VCDs, computer software, books, etc.)

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

5. Selling drugs

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

6. Female circumcision

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

7. Littering

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

8. Criticizing the government in a newspaper or in a public speech

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

9. Avoiding paying of taxes

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

10. Welfare fraud

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

11. Physical sexual harassment/rape

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

12. Drinking alcohol in a public place

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

13. Polygamy

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

14. Having a same-sex relationship

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

15. Driving an uninsured car

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

16. Hunting and fishing without a license

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

17. Driving a car without wearing a seatbelt

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

18. Infants/small children riding in a car without being in a specialized car seat

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

19. Leaving children below the age of 12 unattended

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

20. Smoking in a public place

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

21. Adultery

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

22. Bribing police officers or other public officers

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

23. Trespassing

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

24. Loitering

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

25. Carrying weapons

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____

26. Not carrying identity documents

Country of origin: _____ In the U.S.: _____
