

Eleanor Roosevelt quotation

‘Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.’

Eleanor Roosevelt quotation

Chair of the UN Human Rights Commission that drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948



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What, why, who, how?

WHAT is your issue? What is wrong and what needs to change?
What human rights are involved? Are any rights being denied?



WHY does this issue occur?



WHO can help sort out this issue?



HOW could you persuade them or work with them to bring about change? What action could you take?

Activity 10 Part 1 RESOURCE SHEET 3

Ideas for taking action

These are some of the people who can have power at local, national and global levels.
Can any of them help you sort out your chosen issue?

Members of the community (school/local/nation)
School council
Teachers, senior teachers and governors
Friends and family
Local community groups
Local council
The police, fire service, doctors, nurses
The government and other political parties
NGOs and charities
The media

How could you persuade them or work with them to bring about change?
Choose one or more of the actions below or think of your own

Raise awareness: change attitudes and behaviour	Lobby and persuade: change policies
Deliver an assembly	Organise a petition to show support for your aims
Run a workshop for people in your school	Collect evidence (eg research, interviews, videos) and present your findings to people who are responsible for this issue
Write an article for a local magazine or newspaper	Write a letter to the people who are responsible for this issue, persuading them to help you
Ask adults to help set up a blog or start up a discussion on an existing website or on social media	
Create posters with a campaign slogan	
Organise an exhibition/arts competition/event/film screening	Invite your local MP or another person in a position of authority to school for a Q&A session on the issue
Work with others: support charities and NGOs	
Organise an event, eg non-uniform day, cake sale, talent show to raise money for a charity or NGO	Contact a charity or NGO that works on this issue and find out what action they recommend
Invite a speaker in from a charity or NGO of your choice. This could be an Amnesty Speaker	

Weighing it up grid

		How easy is it to achieve this action? Consider the time, resources, skills and opportunities you have		
		Difficult	Average	Easy
How much impact will this action have? Consider the type and number of people you can influence	Big impact			
	Average impact			
	Little impact			