



Amnesty International

HUMAN RIGHTS

& CURRICULUM
& FOR EXCELLENCE



Amnesty International produces resources linked to Curriculum for Excellence, to help teachers bring human rights to life in the classroom. This booklet provides an introduction to teaching human rights and to the resources available free of charge from our website: www.amnesty.org.uk/scotlandeducation

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights are what every human being needs to live a healthy and fulfilled life and to participate fully in society. They are entitlements – you have them just because you are human. Human rights are:

- **universal** (they apply to everyone equally);
- **inalienable** (they cannot be taken away from people);
- **indivisible** (they are all connected).

The basic framework of human rights is set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations in 1948. The preamble of the UDHR recognises that all human beings have rights, and declares its aim of contributing to freedom, justice and peace in the world. The 30 articles of the declaration define human rights.

WHAT IS HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION?

Human Rights Education (HRE) is a long-term, interactive process to develop:

- knowledge and understanding about human rights;
- attitudes and behaviour respectful of those rights;
- skills to uphold and protect those rights.

WHY TEACH HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights are a core element of **Health and Wellbeing** in Curriculum for Excellence.

As I explore the rights to which I and others are entitled, I am able to exercise these rights appropriately and accept the responsibilities that go with them. I show respect for the rights of others.

**CfE, Health and Wellbeing,
Experiences and outcomes**

Curriculum for Excellence enables students to become responsible citizens with respect for others and a commitment to participate in all aspects of life.

To achieve this, young people need to grow in understanding of their own place in the world, and the impact their actions may have on the lives of others, including those of different beliefs, cultures and backgrounds.

TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The classroom should be a safe place to explore and understand human rights issues. If controversial issues are not taught in schools, students may not get the opportunity to form their own opinions about some of the major issues facing society today.

Amnesty resources include guidance on teaching controversial issues and suggest techniques to encourage discussion and avoid biased teaching.

RESOURCES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SEEKING SAFETY

This pack for P3 and beyond explores asylum and refugee issues, approaching the issue from global, UK and Scottish perspectives and encouraging students to draw parallels with their own lives. Inherently interdisciplinary, it promotes skills and knowledge in RME, Social Studies, Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and English, Expressive Arts, and Numeracy. This free resource can be downloaded from www.amnesty.org.uk/scotlandeducation



LIFT OFF

The Lift Off pack, developed by Amnesty for use in Ireland, is an outstanding human rights education resource which can be used to deliver Curriculum for Excellence in Scottish primary schools. It promotes a human rights climate and collaborative working in the classroom.

Pupils go on an imaginative journey with Croc, a visitor from another planet who is intrigued by the society it encounters. It investigates the diversity of this new planet and the ways in which the inhabitants interact. As they help Croc to report back on the ways of planet Earth, children are encouraged to reflect on their society. Croc encounters problems and things it does not understand, and children are provoked to think critically

about their interactions with others and how these affect the rights of those around them.

Interdisciplinary links are at the heart of the Lift Off resource. It requires young people to talk in groups, debate and write poetry; to engage in role play, mime and artwork; to make graphs and charts; and to study historical periods and figures.

Lift Off activities can be downloaded for free from: www.liftoffschools.com

COMING SOON

New Primary resource, tailored to Curriculum for Excellence, with lots of ideas for introducing human rights into the classroom. Sign up for TeachRights for details on how to access the latest Amnesty resources.
www.amnesty.org.uk/teachrights

RESOURCES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The resources listed below can be downloaded for free from our website. Some are tailored specifically to Curriculum for Excellence and others can easily be adapted.

SCOTTISH RESOURCES

Free to download from www.amnesty.org.uk/scotlandeducation



China

Amnesty International offers a range of resources for S1-4 on human rights in China. They allow pupils to develop important skills in: English, Literacy, Health and Wellbeing, RME and Expressive Arts. Available in English and Gaelic.



Child Soldiers

This resource for young people aged 11-14 takes an issue which is both engaging and emotionally resonant for students, and promotes skills and knowledge in: Literacy, Social Studies, Expressive Arts, and Health and Wellbeing.

Slavery Today

This resource for young people age 14+ deals with modern forms of slavery, with a particular focus on trafficking. Available in English and Gaelic.

OTHER AMNESTY RESOURCES

You can find a range of free resources on our UK website www.amnesty.org.uk/education. They include resources written for curricula across the UK, on topics including:

- torture;
- the death penalty;
- violence against women;
- refugees.



Right Here, Right Now

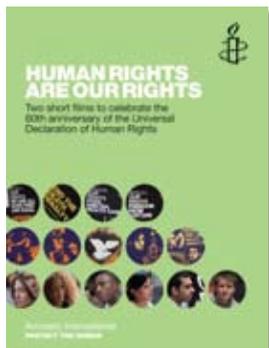
This resource with 12 lesson plans on human rights issues was developed by Amnesty International in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and British Institute of Human Rights. Intended for citizenship teachers in England, it can easily be adapted to deliver CfE. Download or order your free copy at www.amnesty.org.uk/education

INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES

Amnesty's teaching resources support teachers of different stages and specialisms. The resources listed here can be used in classrooms, across subject areas, and in themed interdisciplinary activities that go beyond the classroom.

Many of these resources would be suitable as a starting point for a day of activities centred on citizenship. This enables staff and students to work together across a range of curricular areas, with a consistent theme to create a sense of overall purpose.

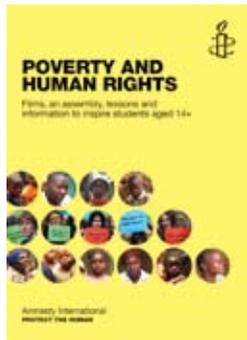
RESOURCES FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES



Human Rights Are Our Rights

This free resource pack is particularly suitable to mark Human Rights Day on 10 December. It includes two short films, a lesson plan and other activities relating to the anniversary of the UDHR.

To order your copy email student@amnesty.org.uk
More information from www.amnesty.org.uk/education



Poverty and Human Rights

This free resource (available from September 2009) includes a film DVD with a case study of rights in a Kenyan shanty town; a ready-to-use assembly (particularly suitable for 17 October, the International Day for Eradication of Poverty) and lesson plans.

Order your copy at www.amnesty.org.uk/povertypack



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Poster of the UDHR (in English or Scots) and pocket-sized human rights passport. To order, email scotland@amnesty.org.uk

INTRODUCING HUMAN RIGHTS

AN ACTIVITY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

This exercise is a sample of the activities that you can use to introduce human rights into the classroom.

WHAT YOU NEED

Rights cards (download articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from our website www.amnesty.org.uk/education)

Group size: Up to 30

Preparation: Make a clear space, enough for all students to stand in a line, with start and end points clearly signposted with 'most important' and 'least important'.

Explain that each student will be given a card with a human right on it, and that they will be asked to decide how important this right is, relative to other rights. Issue each student with a card, and ask them first to meet with a partner to check that they understand their card, and to discuss what this right might mean in practice:

- in your life;
- in other countries;
- in other periods in history.

Ask students to agree on an order of importance in a line, from least important to most important. This will require some discussion, which should be encouraged. If students are likely to agree too readily, ask them to argue in favour of the right they have been given. If necessary, fewer rights cards can be issued – maybe one per pair or group.

After a line-up has been agreed, the lesson can take several directions, depending on the group.

- Encourage further discussion by halving the line and pairing students up with someone from halfway down, to explain why they were willing to accept their placing.
- With the line in place, hold a whole class discussion on the reasons for the order.
- Stick the rights cards on the wall in the order the students chose, and discuss the order as a class or in groups.

Eventually, the truth must be broken to the whole class: it's a trick exercise, because the rights are indivisible and all equally important.

Introduce the group to the concept of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At this stage, they should discuss why they were willing to accept the idea that some rights were more important than others: perhaps it was because they could relate more to some, or they had experienced or heard of abuses?

26 Everyone has the right to an education

6 Everyone has the right to be treated equally by the law

3 Everyone has the right to life and to live in freedom and safety

19 Everyone has the right to say what they think and to give and receive information

4 No one has the right to treat you as a slave, nor should you make anyone your slave

5 No one has the right to torture you or subject you to cruel and degrading treatment

25 Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living and medical help if they are ill

10 Everyone has the right to a fair and public trial

24 Everyone has the right to rest and leisure

MORE FROM AMNESTY

STAY INFORMED

Sign up to TeachRights – Amnesty’s free e-newsletter for teachers – with all the latest information on our education materials, human rights dates, courses and other resources.

Sign up at

www.amnesty.org.uk/education

GET INVOLVED

Amnesty youth groups

Amnesty has 50 youth groups in schools across Scotland, who write letters, raise funds, organise events and generally have fun in the process. Youth groups are a vital part of our movement, promoting and protecting human rights. Every month, the groups receive a mailing packed with information, cases to work on and campaign ideas – and they are invited to Amnesty events.

More information

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

or email student@amnesty.org.uk

School speakers

Amnesty’s volunteer speakers have been trained to talk to young people about human rights and Amnesty’s campaigning work. If you would like a speaker to visit your school to give a talk or run a workshop email student@amnesty.org.uk

CONTACT US

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PROTECT THE HUMAN