

SPEAK FREE LESSON PLAN BACKGROUND



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Above: Peter Benenson, Amnesty founder, who believed that individuals can make a difference.

WHAT YOU NEED AND WHERE TO FIND IT



- Lesson **PowerPoint**
- Film clips (*Signatures*, and *You are Powerful* or *Bullet* embedded in the Speak Free lesson **PowerPoint**)
- Lesson **Information Sheet 1**, Part 1 – *How Amnesty International began* and Part 2 – *Happy Birthday Amnesty!*
- Lesson **Information Sheet 2** – four Amnesty campaigns/cases: cut out, one per group
- Lesson **Information Sheet 3** – for extension activity
- Lesson **Worksheet 1** – current case information and campaign planning: one per group



- Amnesty stickers to give out to students



- Teaching controversial issues guidance www.amnesty.org.uk/education
- Summary version of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sticker competition:



- Sticker competition design template and competition guidelines also on www.amnesty.org.uk/education



AIM OF THE LESSON

Students will:

- consider the human right to freedom of expression and the implications of its denial in different contexts
- critically evaluate the role of Amnesty International in upholding human rights
- explore creative approaches to taking action and campaigning.

KEY SKILLS

- Critical and creative thinking
- Communication
- Evaluation
- Campaigning/taking action
- Empathy
- Group work
- Reflection
- Literacy
- Questioning
- ICT/art and design (sticker competition)

TIME

1 hour

PREPARATION

You may find it helpful to cover the following topics before teaching the lesson:

- the role of pressure groups/non-governmental organisations – see the *Introduction to Amnesty* PowerPoint (on **CD**)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see **online**)

USEFUL LINKS

www.amnesty.org.uk/education

More resources on bringing rights to life in the classroom

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

More information on youth action and campaigning

PLEASE NOTE

- **FILMS:** We recommend that you watch the film clips before showing them to your students to check that they are age appropriate. *You are Powerful* may be more suited to a 14+ audience.
- **GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN:** (mentioned in Information Sheet 2). This campaign encourages people to send a message of support for people facing human rights abuse. The cards give hope and encouragement to the recipients – and make police, prison staff and authorities aware that the world is watching what they do.

SPEAK FREE TEACHING THE LESSON



STARTER – 5 MINUTES

- Show the image depicting the denial of freedom of expression (*Speak Free PowerPoint* slide 2). Discuss with the students what they think it represents.
- Explain that during the lesson, they will be looking at the right to freedom of expression, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (slide 3).
- Share the lesson aims (slide 4).

ACTIVITY A – 15 MINUTES

(*Speak Free PowerPoint* slides 5–7)

- **Information Sheet 1.** Read out Part 1 – *How Amnesty International began*.
- Discuss in pairs: What could / should have been done about the case of the Portuguese students?
- Ask for a volunteer to report back one or two ideas.
- **Information Sheet 1.** Read out Part 2 – *Happy Birthday Amnesty!*
- Show *Signatures* – an Amnesty film demonstrating the power of an individual signature on a letter/petition (Film is linked from the **PowerPoint**).

ACTIVITY B – 35 MINUTES

HAVE THINGS CHANGED IN THE 50 YEARS SINCE AMNESTY WAS FOUNDED?

- Explain that there are still many examples of human rights abuses around the world. Amnesty deals with a small percentage of cases, examples of which will be looked at in more detail.

AMNESTY'S CAMPAIGN WORK

(*Speak Free PowerPoint* slide 8)

- **Information Sheet 2.** Arrange students into small groups. Each group looks at a different campaign/case study from Information Sheet 2.
- Ask students to evaluate Amnesty's role in these campaigns/cases. What action did Amnesty take? Did it help to change the situation? What more could have been done?
- Each group to report back.

A CURRENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CASE – JOHAN TETERISSA

(*Speak Free PowerPoint* slide 9)

- **Worksheet 1.** In groups, students look at the case of Johan Teterissa, a primary school teacher in Indonesia imprisoned for leading a peaceful protest.
- Read out the case history.
- Ask students to discuss how they could set up a creative Amnesty campaign for Johan. What action would they take? How would they encourage others to get involved?
- Each group to report back their ideas to the rest of

the class.

PLENARY – 5 MINUTES

(*Speak Free PowerPoint* slide 10)

- Show film clip *You are Powerful*, or *Bullet* if more age-appropriate (link from **PowerPoint**). Explain to students that even though we may think we can't achieve change when faced with big challenges, we all have the power to make a positive difference.

STICKER COMPETITION

- ▶ Give students an Amnesty sticker (included with this **booklet**). They can visit our website and find out how they can get more involved in campaigning for human rights.
- ▶ Enter our sticker design competition. Guidelines and a design template are on the **CD**, and **online**.

DIFFERENTIATION

For younger pupils, you could simplify Activity B by focusing on one of Amnesty's campaigns (Information sheet 2) together as a class, rather than pupils exploring different cases in groups. For an **extension activity** for more able pupils, you could give them Information Sheet 3 (text of Peter Benenson's original article) during Activity A.

Below: Primary teacher Johan Teterissa, jailed for a peaceful protest. (see worksheet 1)



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