

LESSON 5

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

A lesson that explores the right to free speech using key communication and critical thinking skills, with a mixture of film and informative text. The lesson can be used alone or to launch a cross-curricular creative campaigning project.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

STARTER

5 MINS

Students are introduced to the idea of freedom of expression.

- Show the image depicting the denial of freedom of expression (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 objectives (slide 4).

MAIN

15 MINS

Students consider cases where the right to free speech has been denied and others have spoken up on their behalf.

- Using Resource sheet 1: *About Amnesty International*, read out Part 1 – How Amnesty International began. Show slide 5.
- In pairs students discuss what could/should have been done about the case of the Portuguese students. Each pair reports back one or two ideas to the class.
- Read out Part 2 – More than 50 years of Amnesty! Show slide 6.
- Show *The power of a signature* – an Amnesty film demonstrating the power of an individual signature on a letter/petition.



RESOURCES



- PowerPoint presentation
- Resource sheet 1: *About Amnesty International*
- Resource sheet 2: *Current cases and campaigns*
- Worksheet 1: *Current case information and campaign planning*
- Film: *The power of a signature* (2 mins 30 secs)
- Film: *You Are Powerful* (1 min 30 secs)
- Film: *Bullet* (1 min)

DEVELOPMENT

35 MINS

Students think about whether things have changed since Amnesty was founded and investigate how to campaign to end human rights abuses.

- Explain that there are still many examples of human rights abuses around the world. Show slide 7 to introduce Amnesty's campaign work. Tell students that they will now take a closer look at some of these cases.
- Arrange students into small groups. Each group looks at a different campaign/case study from Resource sheet 2: *Current cases and campaigns*.
- Ask students to consider 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 reports back to the class.

Students design their own campaign for a current case.

- Using slide 8 and Worksheet 1: *Current case information and case planning*, students consider the case of Johan Teterissa, a primary school teacher in Indonesia imprisoned for leading a peaceful protest.
- Read out the case history.
- In groups, 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 reports back their ideas to the class.

PLENARY

5 MINS

Show film clip *You Are Powerful*, or *Bullet* if more age-appropriate. Explain to students that even though we may think we cannot achieve change when faced with big challenges, we all have the power to make a positive difference.

