

# Twelve Activities for Activism

One way to challenge injustice, inequality and intolerance is by being active. This resource '12 activities for activism' has been developed to support children with this. There are activities and some history about the ways that people have stood up for matters that they believe in and how people can make a change.

This resource is designed to support and work alongside your school's curriculum and the work that schools already do. On the second page there are links to websites and resources for each activity. The links have been selected to support an adult to develop ideas. Although some of the links are aimed at children, not all of them are, so please check each link before you use them.

To further support this work and to complement what schools are doing already in supporting their school community, HLT has collated a selection of resources on a 'padlet' called 'Using Our Voice'. This links to a range of resources on discussing current events and black lives matter, booklists for children and adults, programmes to support understanding racism, Black History resources and resources to teach tolerance and respect.

The link is: <https://padlet.com/HLTWellbeing/10sprynh5t7wirdh>

The QR code is:



These resources and other resources can also be found on the Hackney Primary Home Learning Page: [click here](#)



### Start with yourself

Every small action makes a difference. Question yourself and discuss with family and friends how inclusive you really are? Have you ever shown intolerance of others who may be different in some way from you either in the language you have used and the choices you have made? Maybe unconsciously? Start by recognising these feelings and keep challenging yourself to make permanent changes to behaviours and attitudes.

#### Support others

Be Ella and Marilyn!  
Ella Fitzgerald was a brilliant jazz singer but because she was a black woman, she didn't get chances to sing in big, famous venues. Marilyn Monroe, a famous white actress, wanted this to change. She promised the venues that if they let her friend Ella sing, she would sit in the audience every night.



If you have not experienced an injustice or an inequality, there will be friends or people you know who have. Support them:

Ask them what you can do to make a change?

Stay true to yourself and your beliefs and values even when it might be hard.



Patrick Hutchinson 13th June 2020

#### Protests/ Marches

People protest inequality, injustice, and to increase public awareness. Look at protests that have happened through history. E.g.  
1888 *Match Girls Strike Bethnal Green*  
1903-1914 *Suffragette's protests*  
1930 *Gandhi's Salt March*  
1936 *Jarrow March to London*  
1963 *Civil Rights march on Washington*  
1968 *Mexico Olympics Black Power salute*  
1976 *Soweto Uprising*

Think about what they were protesting about and whether they caused a change? How and why would you protest?



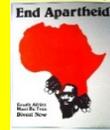
Bryant and May Match Girls Strike 1888



Mexico Olympics 1968

#### Posters/Placards

Posters and placards have always been used as ways to inform people, raise awareness and share information. They are short, succinct and normally have a powerful picture or image. What is that you want to raise awareness about? Design and create a poster that reflects what the issue is, why it should change and what people can do. Think of a strong image and text that will draw people's attention



End Apartheid in South Africa Poster



Placard at a rally

#### Speeches

Freedom of speech has always been important. Some people are still unable to speak freely. In the UK you should be able to speak about what you believe in. Speakers Corner, in Hyde Park, London has been a symbol of free speech and many famous people have spoken there. Powerful speeches have often been a catalyst for change or as a rallying cry. Look at and read some of the famous speeches made against inequality and injustice. E.g.  
*Nelson Mandela, 1964 I Am Prepared To Die*  
*Martin Luther King, 1963 I Have A Dream*

Write a speech about what you believe in and why. Read it out and let it be heard.



#### Letters

Write about it to people who should listen e.g.  
*Your Head Teacher*  
*Your local MP*  
*The Prime Minister or the government*  
*The Mayor of Hackney*  
*The Mayor of London*  
What do you want to raise awareness of or change? Who is being affected and why? Why is this so important? What action do you want to see? Give examples.

Siegfried Sassoon Letter of protest to end World War 1 1917



#### Petitions

These are when people want to make a change and then get others to sign to show their support. Petitions show that a lot of people feel strongly about an issue. If you send a petition to the UK government, after **10,000 signatures**, petitions get a response. After **100,000 signatures**, petitions are considered for debate in Parliament.

Petitions are also a way of telling people about the change you want to make. Create a petition, talk to people and ask them to sign it. Find out about petitions in history or petitions that are happening now.



Maori Land March petition in New Zealand 1975

#### Find out! Read, research the present and the past

If you have not experienced an injustice or an inequality but want to understand how others feel, think or have experienced it then read about it. Read about the past and people who stood against injustice, inequality or to make a change. What did they do? Why did they do that? Why were their actions important?  
*1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a segregated Montgomery Bus.*  
*1960 Greensboro, Carolina, a young African American student staged a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter. It spread to other colleges and forced change.*  
Talk to people about your and their experiences.



#### Songs

Songs have often been used to show solidarity, support or to raise awareness. These might be chants that people can join in or songs that people listen to and reflect on. Listen to some famous protest songs E.g.  
*Woody Guthrie: 'This Land Is Your land' 1944*  
*Bob Dylan; 'Candle in the wind' 1963)*  
*James Brown: 'Say It Loud - I'm Black And I'm Proud 1968*  
*Bob Marley 'Get up, Stand up' 1973*  
Find out what they were written in protest to. What lyrics can you hear? What emotions do they make you feel?  
Can you write a song about your cause or in support?



Sam Cooke A Change is Gonna Come 1964

#### Poetry

Poetry and human rights have always been closely linked. Unlike prose, the rules of poetry are meant to be bent and broken, allowing writers to use words like paint on a canvas. The results can be powerful and emotive. Read the following poems about overcoming injustice and remaining strong and hopeful.  
*'Won't you celebrate with me': Lucille Clifton*  
*'Lift Every Voice': James Weldon Johnson*  
*'Still I Rise': Maya Angelou*  
*'I too': Langston Hughes*  
*'Speech to the young': Gwendolyn Brooks*  
Think of a time you encountered something difficult but you over came this and remained strong and positive. Write a poem about your experience. Try to use repetition, rhetorical questions, and imagery such as metaphors and similes.



Maya Angelou

#### A public monument

Statues, plaques, street names etc. are often put up to remember a person, a time or an event. There are many statues/ names from the past that do not reflect the society and values believed in now. There are some statues that are of people whose actions caused harm and hurt. Think about a person or event that you think it is important to remember. Why is it or are they important? Why should there be statues/streets or places to remember? Design a new statue that reflects the values that you think we should all believe in e.g. respect, tolerance etc.

Mary Seacole Statue 2016



The links below are selected to support an adult to develop ideas. Although some are aimed at children, not all the links are.

There are many more resources to support on the Using Our Voice Padlet [Click here for link:](https://padlet.com/HLTWellbeing/10sprynh5t7wirdh)

<https://padlet.com/HLTWellbeing/10sprynh5t7wirdh>

or use the QR code:



### Protests

**Suitable for children:**

Children's society: How to protest

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/campaign-for-change/how-to-protest>

Protest in history from BBC: (KS2)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/the-people-are-revolting-the-history-of-protest/zdpdgwx>

**Adult information websites to be mediated:**

People's History Museum: Have you say and EYFS protest songs

<https://phm.org.uk/learn/ideas-worth-exploring>

### Read and research about it

**Suitable for children:**

Book Trust interview with author Tiffany Jewell of This book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action and Do the Work [Click here](#)

**Adult information websites to be mediated**

UKLA reading list: [Click here](#)

Guardian Book list

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jun/04/no-reader-is-too-young-to-start-anti-racist-books-for-all-children-and-teens>

Booktrust Black Lives Matter book list:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/black-lives-matter/>

Women's history: Rosa Parks: [Click here](#)

### Start with yourself:

**Adult information websites to be mediated:**

[https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond\\_golden\\_rule.pdf](https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond_golden_rule.pdf)

Black Lives matter Guiding Principles: [click here for doc](#)

Talking to children about the guiding principles: [click here for doc](#)

### Posters

**Adult information websites to be mediated:**

Posters of protest

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/posters>

Northern Ireland Political Posters:

<https://www.dividedsociety.org/explore/posters>

### Petitions

**Adult information websites to be mediated:**

Information about petitions from Gov.uk

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions?state=all>

### Songs

**Adult information websites to be mediated**

Rolling Stone protest songs:

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-lists/readers-poll-the-10-best-protest-songs-of-all-time-141706/bob-dylan-blowin-in-the-wind-2-173156/>

Timeout: Best protest songs

<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/music/best-protest-songs-of-all-time>

**Links to songs on You tube**

[This Land is your land](#)

[Blowin in the wind](#)

[Say it loud and say it proud](#)

[Get up stand up](#)

[A change is gonna come](#)

### Challenge others

**Suitable for children**

Challenging Racism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zgvnvcw>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zv9g9j6>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zgd4d2p>

### Speeches

**Suitable for children:**

Martin's Big Words Teacher Tube reading [click here](#)

Martin Luther King I have a Dream

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01lr4sh>

Barack Obama 50th Anniversary speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPKCljF6YAo>

7 Speeches that changed the world

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/46840111>

**Adult information websites to be mediated:**

Speakers Corner in Hyde Park London [Click here](#)

How to make a good speech:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01kycdd>

### Poetry

**Adult information websites to be mediated**

Poetry foundation

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/101581/poems-of-protest-resistance-and-empowerment>

Social Justice poem:

<https://poets.org/text/social-justice-poems-kids>

Tolerance classroom poetry resources:

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/sharing-our-colors-writing-poetry>

Langston Hughes:

<https://poets.org/poem/i-too>

Speech to the young: <https://poetrysociety.org/poetry-in-motion/speech-to-the-young-speech-to-the-progress-toward-among-them-nora-and-henry-iii>

### Support others

**Suitable for children**

Ella Queen of Jazz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf0vYVeFDDQ>

**Adult information websites to be mediated:**

Patrick Hutchinson interview channel 4

[Click here](#)

### Letters

Mental Floss: Letters that changed the world

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/20427/6-open-letters-changed-world>

British Library

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/siegfried-sassoons-statement-of-protest-against-the-war-and-related-letters>

Letters of Note:

<https://lettersofnote.com/>

### A public monument

**Adult information websites to be mediated**

Mary Seacole Statue:

<https://www.maryseacoletrust.org.uk/mary-seacole-statue/>

<https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/news-and-events/2016-news/June/20160630-mary-seacole-statue-unveiled.aspx>

William Gladstone Statue and why he has a red hand

<https://romanroadlondon.com/red-hands-william-gladstone-statue/>

Hackney councils response to statues: [Click here](#)