



Classroom Activity

Ideas about the way the world treats children.

This activity is designed to present pupils with the opportunity to discuss what children's rights means to them

Objectives:

- To expose students to ideas about the way children are treated in the world
- To see how aspects such as provision of health, education and opportunity affect children
- To encourage students to define their own ideas about the treatment of children worldwide

Materials: The quotes pages – cut into individual quotes for each group of pupils

Write the following words on the board:

- Education
- Health
- Freedom
- Democracy
- Opportunity
- Justice
- Family

Procedure

1. Arrange students into groups and give each group a set of any or all the quotes.
2. Get them to look at the quotes and see how many of the words on the board apply to each quote and in which order of relevance. If they feel that better words can be used they should be encouraged to apply the ones they come up with.
3. Each group should then work to come up with a 'mission statement' using any or all of the key words on the board (or others they have defined in response to the quotes they have read) as a starting point. This mission statement should outline how they believe the children of the world can be ensured a more hopeful future. They should read out the mission statement and discuss the similarities or differences.

"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."
Kofi Annan

"Child labor and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labor of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labor to the end of time."

Grace Abbott

"The first and continuing argument for the curtailment of working hours and the raising of the minimum age was that education was necessary in a democracy and working children could not attend school."

Grace Abbott

"These children and their parents know that getting an education is not only their right, but a passport to a better future - for the children and for the country."

Harry Belafonte

"Children who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS are not only just as deserving of an education as any other children, but they may need that education even more. Being part of a school environment will prepare them for the future, while helping to remove the stigma and discrimination unfortunately associated with AIDS."

Harry Belafonte

"Children do not constitute anyone's property: they are neither the property of their parents nor even of society. They belong only to their own future freedom."

Mikhail Bakunin

"Giving kids clothes and food is one thing but it's much more important to teach them that other people besides themselves are important, and that the best thing they can do with their lives is to use it in the service of other people."

Dolores Huerta

"The most revolutionary thing anybody can do is to raise good, honest and generous children who will question the answers of people who say the answer is violence. That's what the schools should be doing."

Coleman McCarthy

"I hope to leave my children a sense of empathy and pity and a will to right social wrongs"

Anita Roddick

...180 million kids are engaged in the worst forms of child labour. Put it all together and it is not only morally unacceptable, but politically dangerous.

Juan Somavia

Did you know that every two hours the nations of this world spend as much on armaments as they spend on the children of this world every year?

Peter Ustinov

"...in serving the best interests of children, we serve the best interests of all humanity."

Carol Bellamy