



SERVICE-LEARNING: TAKING ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Education (HRE) aspires to promote and protect human dignity, not merely by valuing and respecting human rights, but by fostering personal action to guarantee these conditions. For educators, service-learning puts human rights theory into action by transforming the classroom into a site of social change where students are empowered to become active citizens who question and inform society.

WHAT is service-learning?



Service-learning is a methodology wherein students learn about a specific issue through active participation which engages them in service and reflection through and upon completion. To set up a service-learning project, there are three parties that should be involved: 1) the school working to educate students on human rights, 2) the students, and 3) the organization receiving the service. For a service-learning project to be successful, it is important to construct educational activities that are mutually beneficial to all parties and collectively address social issues.

WHY teach through service-learning?

- Teaches about human rights while working to protect them.
- Engages learners in their community.
- Turns theory into action.
- Takes human rights out of the classroom and into the real world.
- Teaches critical thinking and problem solving.
- Encourages learners to form their own opinions and beliefs and then act on those beliefs.
- Allows learners to cultivate a sense of shared responsibility.
- Provides a service that is needed in the community.
- Empowers students to realize that they can make a difference.

WHERE can human rights and service-learning take my classroom?



THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

At Carver Scott Educational Coop, high school students learned about how The Advocates for Human Rights was helping children in Nepal stay out of forced child labor by ensuring their access to education. In response, the students developed a project to support the school. The Chaska students wrote letters to the students in Nepal, created presentations to educate others about child labor, and raised money for the Sankhu-Palabari School by selling baked goods and student-made crafts. The monetary gift, letters, and photographs were delivered to the students in Nepal by The Advocates. In recognition of their work, the students received a service-learning award from the State of Minnesota, which included a \$200 grant. The students used the money to pay for a year's tuition for one student in Nepal. Source: www.discoverhumanrights.org/.



THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND HOUSING

Hunger and homelessness continue to pervade many American cities. Eighth and Ninth graders from a junior high school in New Mexico decided to ban together and combat these issues in their local community. Students partnered with a neighborhood soup kitchen and orphanage, gaining firsthand experience in running the facilities. Calculating supply costs, planning menus, cooking meals, and helping maintain the building were vital tasks that students helped fulfill. In addition, students created handmade books and games for the children at the orphanage and interacted with them on a daily basis. Through their work and personal encounters with poverty, students gained an awareness and deeper sense of empathy for those in less fortunate circumstances. Source: www.nylc.org/resources/projects/hunger-homelessness-and-loneliness.

SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN MINNEAPOLIS!

The Advocates for Human Rights has been working with educators and students for nearly 20 years. We currently have opportunities for Minneapolis teachers in **Grades 5-8** who are interested in creating a service-learning project in their school. We work with each class individually to create "tailor-made" service-learning opportunities based on students' interests and the needs in the community. To learn more, please contact Sarah Herder, Education Director, at sherder@advrights.org or 612-746-4691.

SERVICE-LEARNING AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCES

THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

DISCOVERHUMANRIGHTS.ORG



Rights Sites Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter designed to support human rights educators with lesson plans, resources, and more! Download our Fall 2011 edition on service-learning!

Discover Human Rights Toolkits

A series of toolkits that help educators teach about important human rights issues within the U.S. Each toolkit includes fact sheets, lesson plans, and take action ideas.



Service-Learning Training

In-depth training for local teachers on how to integrate human rights and service-learning into the classroom. Presenters demonstrate lessons, discuss best practices, and provide resources to enable educators to bring to life human rights concepts, issues, and principles for their students.

Youth Appropriate Web Resources

Youth-friendly websites with resources and ideas on how students can take action on human rights issues.

RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

Activist Learning

freetchild.org/AL/community.htm

A youth-focused site, actively encouraging self-direction and education through community activism with inspiring stories of youth making change.

Free the Children

freethechildren.org

Features excellent tools and actions, all designed for youth. Download the "Youth in Action Toolkit," sign up for a leadership academy, or join an overseas international development project.

TakingITGlobal

takingitglobal.org

A global community for youth with useful resources such as the "Workshop Kit and Guide to Action." View other youth-led projects by region or topic.

UNICEF Voices of Youth

unicef.org/voy

A forum for youth to learn, speak out, connect with other youth, and take action. Provides strategies for action on key human rights issues around the globe.

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

The Complete Guide to Service Learning

freespirit.com/catalog/item_detail.cfm?ITEM_ID=124

A compilation of activities, ideas, and resources. Provides an overview of the basic elements of service-learning and detailed instructions. Grades K-12.



Get Global

getglobal.org.uk/

A range of innovative and participatory activities promote a skills-based approach rather than a content-based approach, so they can be used within different subject areas and with all ages.



Human Rights and Service-Learning

hrea.org/pubs/AIUSA-HREA-ServiceLearning.pdf

Lesson plans and service-learning projects divided into five human rights topic areas: environment, poverty, discrimination, children's rights to education and health, and law and justice. Grades 8-12.



Kids as Planners

kidsconsortium.org/kidsasplanners_overview.php

Provides teachers and school administrators with a road map for integrating service-learning into their classes and curriculum.



National Service-Learning Clearinghouse

servicelearning.org/

A website with timely information and relevant resources to support service-learning programs, practitioners, and researchers. It operates a national listserv for service-learning to discuss and exchange ideas.



National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)

nylc.org

NYLC hosts the annual National Service-Learning Conference. The website includes project ideas searchable by subject, grade level, or key word.



Teen ACTION

nyc.gov/html/dyccd/html/afterschool/teen_action.shtml

A service-learning curriculum aimed at helping youth in grades 7 – 10 learn about community issues through a human rights framework and implement a meaningful service project that meets a need in their community. The curriculum is free and downloadable.



Teen Guide to Social and Global Action

freespirit.com/catalog/item_detail.cfm?item_id=584

Provides everything youth need to start making a difference at the local, national, or global level. Includes handouts. Grades 3-12.

