

# 3 About social action: Contents and activity ideas

Social action aims to bring about social change that will benefit people, communities or societies.

In this section, students explore 12 different types of social action that are grouped into six main approaches, based on similar skills. Every social action won't fit neatly into these categories, but the categories can still provide a comprehensive starting point for students to assess which approaches might work well for their chosen issue.

Authentic human stories provide another starting point and a powerful way to stimulate creative imagination. Stories help students see possibilities to influence change and feel inspired to create their own unique social action. Inspiration fuels a deeper motivation in students to persevere through barriers and challenges to complete their social action.

This section includes a set of social action case studies and a set of photo stories that can be used in different ways and combinations with a variety of ages. Choose any that are relevant and help students appreciate different social action approaches.

- Case studies (8) – these are more detailed, including three from New Zealand. Each case study has a folder with one main case study pdf and any related resources such as a video, photo album, further information or report. The types of social action are listed in the contents in *italics*.
- Photo stories (13) – these are shorter and can be used with younger readers. Share or print the 13 photo jpgs. Alternatively, order printed copies of the Making it Right poster and cut out the high-quality photos to use instead. The types of social action are listed in the contents in *italics*.

Using social action examples from global contexts can break down perceptions of socio-economic and resource advantage or constraint. Find out the human development ranking for each country and compare this with New Zealand's high ranking (HDI 16 in 2018). Global examples that portray 'anyone, anywhere' may challenge stereotype responses and help students realise that 'if they can do it, then so can we'!



The Human Development Index (HDI) is a ranking of 189 countries using factors such as life expectancy.

1-59 = Very high (2018 NZ HDI 16)

60-112 = High

113-151 = Medium

152-189 = Low

To find the country ranking for the case studies and photo stories visit: <http://hdr.undp.org/en>

Select the most recent report to find where each country is ranked out of 189 countries.

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### Introduction, contents, activity ideas

#### About social action



#### Resources



All Resources The world of social action Resources A-G



Resource A The world of social action



Resource B Informing, Sharing opinions, Raising awareness



Resource C Investigating, Advising



Resource D Service activity



Resource E Fundraising



Resource F Joining or leading, Cooperating



Resource G Advocacy, Lobbying, Activism



#### Student sheets



Student sheet 1 Social action continuums



Student sheet 2 Combining social actions

### Inspiration



#### Case studies 1–8



01 Cook for a Cause: New Zealand *Service activity, Fundraising*



02 Kids off Nauru: New Zealand *Advocacy, Lobbying*



03 Fair for All refugee policy: New Zealand *Sharing opinions, Informing, Lobbying, Advocacy*



04 Eco club takes action: Georgia *Investigating, Advising*



05 Video advocacy for kindy: Georgia *Raising awareness*



06 School closure reversed: India *Cooperating, Lobbying*



07 Community action for clinic: Bangladesh *Collaboration*



08 Child rights bring change: Bangladesh *Joining or leading, Raising awareness, Investigating, Advising, Service, Lobbying, Activism*



#### Making it Right photo stories



#### Making it Right photo jpgs (see list below)



Resource 2 Captions and photos



Resource 3 Photo stories



Resource 4 Quotes

#### Photos

01 Ethiopia *Raising awareness*

02 Philippines *Raising awareness*

03 Thailand *Service activity, Joining or leading*

04 Philippines *Advocacy*

05 India *Service activity, Raising awareness, Lobbying*

06 India *Raising awareness, Fundraising, Joining or leading*

07 Indonesia *Raising awareness, Informing, Sharing opinions, Advocacy*

08 Kosovo\* *Joining or leading, Cooperating*

09 Albania *Advocacy, Activism*

10 Rwanda *Raising awareness, Advocacy, Lobbying, Activism*

11 Democratic Republic of Congo *Many types of action*

12 Ethiopia *Many types of action*

13 Bangladesh *Joining or leading, Cooperating*

\* Kosovo (Republic of Kosovo) is a partially recognised state because it's a disputed territory.

# ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION – ACTIVITY IDEAS

Choose a selection of activities most suitable for your students or adapt the resources to fit your own plans. Try not to define social action too soon so students can form their own definition after considering the different approaches and examples.

## A Step forward

Find out about your students' prior social action experience. Ask students to stand at one end of a large empty space. For each item you read out, if they have participated in this personally or with others, they can take a step forward. Emphasise that this is a reflective activity rather than competitive. Organise the list to start with social actions you know many have participated in previously. The aim is to break down one of the barriers which is thinking that social action is too hard or too big. Your students might be surprised by how active they are as a group. Note: You could participate with students and step forward for any activities you've also participated in.

- Commented about an issue online or in conversation
- Fundraised for a cause
- Joined a social action group or organisation
- Taken part in a strike or protest
- Signed a petition
- Written to a politician
- Contacted a company to raise an issue
- Boycotted a company/product
- Written a letter to an editor
- Cleaned up pollution/planted a tree

## B Definition of social action

Ask students to draft their own definition of social action then share their definitions with others. How can they tell when an activity is social action? When would an activity NOT be social action?

## C Grouping or ranking

Print copies of **Resource A The world of social action** and cut out the 12 bubbles to form sets, one set per pair or group. Ask students to rank or group the 12 kinds of social action according to:

- Length of time they take
- Individual or group activity
- Student led or teacher led
- Collaborating or confronting
- Action-based or information-based

Invite feedback: What did they discover? What stood out? What kinds of groupings or categories did they see?

What similarities and differences did they discover? Were they surprised about any of the social actions?

Which kinds of social action are missing? Other comments or questions?

## D Social action approaches

Share **Resources B–G** with students as pdfs, printed on A4, printed on A3 for groups, or displayed on the wall.

- Identify the main features of this approach and describe examples of this from your experience.
- What do you like and dislike about this approach? What do you find achievable or unachievable about it?
- How could this approach be appropriate for the child rights issue you're interested in?

## E Find and evaluate

Ask students to use what they have learned to evaluate social action examples from the media or from their own experience, for example: School strike for climate change.

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/local-elections/27-09-2019/my-doppelganger-is-trying-to-save-the-world-and-you-should-listen-to-her/?fbclid=IwAR20dBojgspVdDgXoM0QoYLyLIxaCFU8ubqkRkdt0TfE4kpniZxIFR7-hw>





# INSPIRATION – ACTIVITY IDEAS

In total there are 21 social action case studies/photo stories in two sets. Use one set, both sets, or a mix of both that suit the age and reading level of your students. Students can also choose the case studies and photo stories of most interest and relevance to them. Share the jpgs, pdfs and digital resources, or print and share hard copies to use with groups.

## i Making it Right photo jpgs and Resource 3 Photo stories



## ii Case studies 01-08



The case studies/photo stories can be used in a variety of ways:

- Use as a teacher resource and present a small selection to groups or the class.
- Distribute different ones among groups who report back to the class.
- Students choose one then work with other students who chose the same one.
- Students choose a variety of case studies/photo stories they're interested in.
- Students could choose their top three.
- Alternatively, they could choose any like their own social action ideas or preferences.

Share the case studies/photo stories with groups or individual students.

- Compare the case studies/photo stories with **Resource A The world of social action**. Identify the core actions involved in the social action(s).
- Complete **Student sheet 1 Social action continuums** by identifying the distinctive features of this action.
- Choose which case studies/photo stories are most inspiring and describe why.
- Discuss how different social actions can be combined to create a campaign and how a large campaign can be stripped back to a single main action. Use **Student sheet 2 Combining social actions** to explore and analyse different examples of social action provided from the case studies and photo stories, from the media, or from your experience.
- Choose any case studies/photo stories that are useful or inspiring for planning your own social action.