

# HUMAN RIGHTS HERE AND NOW

Addressing Contemporary Human Rights Issues

## 800,000 GOOD REASONS TO TEACH ABOUT DACA: A TOOLKIT FOR EDUCATORS

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Since 2012, nearly 800,000 undocumented young people who came to the USA as children have been allowed to go to school, work, or serve in the military without fear of deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. On September 5, 2017, President Trump rescinded the program and gave Congress six months to determine the fate of DACA recipients. “The deportation clock is ticking on hundreds of thousands of young people who know no other country,” said Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois. Work permits begin to expire on March 5, 2018, and all protections under the program will be stripped away on a rolling basis over the next 2 1/2 years.

Who are these so-called “dreamers”? Why do some people feel they should be expelled from the United States? Why do others agree with Human Rights Watch that Trump’s repeal of DACA will expose hundreds of thousands of people to deportation by a cruel and unjust immigration system?

This DACA toolkit offers educators resources for addressing this important and controversial human rights issue that faces schools and communities across the country.

## BACKGROUND RESOURCES

- **How Much Do You Know About DACA Survey**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/How-Much-Do-You-Know-About-DACA-Survey.pdf>
- **DACA FAQ**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-FAQ-1.pdf>
- **DACA Glossary**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-Glossary.pdf>
- **DACA Recipient Testimonies**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-Recipient-Testimonies-for-Toolkit.pdf>
- **DACA By the Numbers**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-By-the-Numbers.pdf>
- **Fact Checking Attorney General Jeff Sessions on DACA**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Fact-Checking-Attorney-General-Jeff-Sessions-on-DACA.pdf>
- **Five myths about DACA**  
<http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Five-myths-about-DACA.pdf>

## MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES ON DACA

- **Video Testimonies from DACA Recipients, from Human Rights Watch Student Task Force (11 short videos)**  
[http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=7929](http://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/?page_id=7929)
- **What is DACA? from CNN (1:57)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJCyApAugdY>
- **Dreamers Respond to DACA Ending, from CNN (2:14)**  
<http://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2017/09/05/dreamers-respond-to-daca-ending-sg-orig.cnn>

## CLASSROOM LESSONS ON DACA

- **Blogging, Civic Engagement and the Dream Act, PSB**  
[www.thedreamisnow.org/pages/download?filename=facilitator-guide.pdf](http://www.thedreamisnow.org/pages/download?filename=facilitator-guide.pdf)
- **Discussing DACA, Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility**  
<http://www.morningsidecenter.org/teachable-moment/lessons/discussing-daca>
- **The Dream is Now, Common Sense Media**  
[www.thedreamisnow.org/pages/download?filename=facilitator-guide.pdf](http://www.thedreamisnow.org/pages/download?filename=facilitator-guide.pdf)
- **The History and Human Face of DACA, PSB**  
<https://ww2.kqed.org/lowdown/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2017/09/The-History-and-Human-Face-of-DACA-lesson-plan.pdf>
- **What Should Be Done about DACA? Anti-Defamation League**  
<https://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/what-should-be-done-about-daca>

## TAKING ACTION ON DACA

- **Your school community:**
  - » Meet with your school's administrators and ask what their policy is to protect the human rights of DACA students? If your school or school district hasn't articulated a policy of support and protection for DACA students, urge them to develop a policy and counseling for DACA students. (Many model school district statements and programs are available online.)
  - » Set up discussions/teach-ins on campus to educate others about DACA through a human rights lens.
  - » Organize a vigil or protest day/event or humanity chain on your campus/in your community and get it covered by the press.
  - » Write an op-ed for your school and/or local newspaper.
  - » Create a poster wall of DACA information
- **Your elected representatives:** What are your elected representatives' positions on pending immigration? On DACA legislation? Do you support or oppose these positions? Write your elected representative and let them know your opinion. Write a thank-you letter if you agree with their positions.
- **Resources for Educators Supporting Dreamers, from the National Education Association**  
<http://educationvotes.nea.org/neaedjustice/daca-resources/>
- **Resources for Protecting DREAMers, from Here to Stay**  
<http://weareheretostay.org/#action>
- **United We Dream**  
<https://action.unitedwedream.org/petitions/keep-the-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca-program>