Learning Activity 7

TAKING ACTION FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Note: For those who are inspired by learning about the CRC and want to work for children’s rights, the following advocacy activities are offered. The process of developing arguments in Activity 6, “It’s Up for Debate,” is highly recommended.


Action 2: Work for ratification of the CRC by developing persuasive, research-backed arguments using the following procedure:

For research:

- Ask participants to choose one country that has already ratified the CRC. Have them do research to and concrete examples of how the CRC has been beneficial to that country.

- Have participants develop a 1-2 minute public service announcement (PSA) to be played in the United States. The PSA should highlight the benefits of the CRC according to their research. Participants should fill out the PSA Planning Form (see Handout 7A) as part of their preparation.

In group sessions:

- Select three participants to act as a panel of judges. Have them use the PSA Scoring Guide (see Handout 7B) to score each presentation.

- Ask for a volunteer to present his or her PSA to the group. Have other participants present as time allows.

- Select one or more of the strongest PSAs to present to other groups and the wider community in order to raise awareness about the topic.

Action 3: Advocate for ratification of the CRC in the United States by participating in one or more of the following activities. For more information, visit the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the CRC at [childrightscampaign.org/take-action](http://childrightscampaign.org/take-action).

- Write to your senator or other elected of officials to express how you feel about the CRC and to push the Senate toward ratification. They need to hear from you in order to feel that this matters to their constituents.
- Organize a celebration of Universal Children’s Day (November 20) and educate your community about the CRC at the event.

- Write a letter to the editor, write an op-ed, or blog for a newspaper, magazine, or website about U.S. ratification of the CRC. Talk about the issue on a local radio or TV cable program. Use the 10 talking points at childrightscampaign.org/take-action/raise-public-awareness to help you organize your ideas.

**Action 4: Research US ratification record.** Have participants examine the map at indicators.ohchr.org, titled *Ratification of 18 International Human Rights Treaties* and research some of the treaties listed to compare the U.S. ratification record with that of other countries. Have participants write an essay or prepare an oral presentation exploring why the United States has ratified relatively few treaties.


**Action 6: Lean about UNICEF’S Child-Friendly Schools** model and consider how your school or community can support and further its aims. See https://www.unicef.org/cfs/.


**Action 8: Support the work of non-governmental organizations working for children’s rights in the USA.** For example:

- **American Civil Liberties Union Children’s Rights Program (ACLU)**  
  https://www.aclu.org/other/childrens-rights-and-human-rights-program

- Children’s Defense Fund (CDF):  
  https://www.childrensdefense.org/activism/advocacy/

- **Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC)**  
  http://dignityinschools.org

- Save the Children  
  https://www.savethechildren.org

- UNICEF USA: www.unicefusa.org
Learning Activity 7

Public Service Announcement Planning Form

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Fill in the following information for the PSA:

Who: ____________________________________________________________

What: ____________________________________________________________

Where: ____________________________________________________________

When: ____________________________________________________________

Why: ____________________________________________________________

How: ____________________________________________________________

Target group (e.g., young people, university students, politicians, families, etc.):
________________________________________________________________

What type of media would you use to promote your PSA (e.g., radio, television, Website, etc.)? Why?
________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

How will your PSA grab people’s attention?
________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________
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<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>Clearly states the intended audience</td>
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<td>Addresses why the chosen country should ratify the CRC</td>
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<td>Reveals where the PSA should be placed and why</td>
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<td>Creatively engages the audience</td>
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<td>Presents a clear creative structure</td>
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<td>Stays within the time limit</td>
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