

HUMAN RIGHTS POSTCARD ACTIVITY

In your pack containing your copies of the Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights, you will also find a pack of 30 human rights postcards, each featuring one of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These have been designed to stimulate conversation, self-reflection, and discussions with others so that we can come to understand human rights and their impact on us and those around us. Whilst this may begin in the classroom, these activities can be shared across your school and can even include your local communities.

Here is a selection of activities you can do with these wonderful postcards on Human Rights Day, on Friday 10th December, or any time you like!

1. Hand out the human rights postcards to students, so everyone has one (if more than 30 students you will need to make some duplicates – a downloadable copy is available on www.poeticdeclaration.org). Ask if everyone understands the Article on their card – if not, invite them to ask the rest of the class – see if anyone else can explain it, and if not explain it yourself.
2. Spend 2 minutes reflecting as individuals on the selected Article considering:
 - » **What does it mean to have this human right?**
 - » **How does this affect your life?**
 - » **How would your life be different if you didn't have this right?**
 - » **Can you think of any examples of where this right isn't or hasn't been protected?**

Then, in pairs, share your Article, and discuss the questions with each other. If you have time, form groups of 4 to discuss further, so each student has considered 4 different Articles.

3. Invite students to return to their card and imagine the government has decided to withdraw from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and will no longer protect this human right. Write a postcard to the Prime Minister arguing why this right is important to you, how will this affect your life, and explore how can you articulate your voice to campaign for its continued protection. This Activity could lead to a class or school wide project where young people campaign or protest for the rights that matter to them most.
4. Students present their arguments to the class. This could then be turned into a creative activity, where students write a story or poem exploring what the world would be like if this right were no longer protected (look at Joelle Taylor's poem, *The Quiet Men*, in the resource pack, as an example of this). They can share these stories and poems at a school assembly where their families and the local community are invited to watch and learn about human rights.