

Workshop: Suitable for Students ages 12-14)

Mercy Global Concern: Leaven for Good in a Hurting World.

Part 1: Purpose of Mercy Global Concern (MGC)

Mercy Global Concern is the project of the worldwide Sisters of Mercy at the United Nations in New York.

The Sisters of Mercy set up an office at the United Nations in New York in 1998 in order to bring the **spirit of Catherine Mc Auley to the one forum in the world where all nations have the potential to meet at equals.** Mercy Global Concern is the mechanism by which all those associated with the Sisters of Mercy may interact with the UN system.

At the UN we use the tool of **advocacy** to work on behalf of poor people and work with other major international bodies. In line with what Catherine Mc Auley did in her day, we use conscious and awareness raising as tools to challenge all of us to move beyond our comfort zones to make a real difference.

When we use the word **advocacy** we mean that we get involved in a political process consisting of actions designed to transform popular interests into rights; a process aimed at influencing decisions regarding policies and laws at national and international levels. An action is taken to draw a community's attention to an issue and to direct policy-makers to a solution.

Why do we use the word **GLOBAL** in our name? We do this because as Sisters of Mercy who work in 44 countries, we believe that we live and work in the community of life called the **Global Village**. We do what we do because we believe passionately in Human Rights for all.

Part 2: Introducing the universal Declaration of Human Rights

INPUT:

Having watched the power-point on the *Global Village*, you can see that much of what you saw is about Human Rights.

What exactly do we mean by **Human Rights**?

Everyone has the Right to:

To familiarize students with the declaration use the alphabet below.

- A: ASEMBLE
- B. BIRTHRIGHT
- C. CONSCIENCE
- D. DIFFERENCE
- E. EQUALITY
- F. FAIRNESS
- G. GIVERNMENT
- H. HOME
- I. INNOCENT
- J. JUSTICE
- K. KINDNESS
- L. LIFE
- M. MARRIAGE
- N. NATIONALITY
- O. OPINION
- P. POSSESSIONS
- Q. QUESTION
- R. RELIGION
- S. SCHOOL
- T. TRAVEL
- U. UNION
- V. VOTE
- W. WORK
- X. X-RAY
- Y. YOUR CULTURE
- Z zzzz - REST AND LEISURE.

Activity 1: Understanding the Universal Declaration.

Working in groups of 4 get the students to decide what these words might mean if you are living in (1) in Australia (2) in Pakistan (3) Nigeria (4) USA. Remember to reflect on the Global Village.

What does it mean to be a Global Citizen?

Activity 2: Develop a Global Citizen's passport.

Our World, Our Rights

PASSPORT. Draw a square and put your photo into it.

1. Personal Details:

- Given Name;
- Family Name
- Address/
- Date of Birth.

2. Your Culture: Everyone has a right to celebrate their customs and culture.

- Draw a square and put your flag into it.
- Name one thing about your culture or customs that are different from someone who lives near you.

3. X-Ray: - Everyone has the Right to Medical Care.

- Have you ever had an x-ray?
- When did you last go to the doctor?
- Have you ever been to hospital?

4. Assemble: Everyone has the right to assemble in a peaceful way.

- Have you ever heard of people who were not allowed to hold a public meeting?

- Where did this happen?
5. **Birthright**: No one has any right to take away your birthright.
- Write down when and where you were born
 - Name one right you have since you were born.
6. **Work**: Everyone has the right to work for a fair wage.
- What work (not schoolwork) have you done?
 - For whom?
 - Did you receive a fair wage?
8. **Vote**: Everyone has the right to take part in choosing the Government of their own country.
- In which year will you be able to vote
 - Do you think that you will use your vote?
7. **Conscience**: Everyone can have their own conscience and can have their own thoughts.
- Do you know of anyone who has been imprisoned for having their own thoughts?
 - What happened to them?
9. **Diffrence**: Everyone is equal despite differences in skin colour, sex, religion, and language.
- Write down three ways that you are different from someone else in your class.
10. **Travel**: Everyone has the right to travel within a country and to return to their own country.
- What places in Australia have you visited?
 - What countries have you visited outside of Australia?
11. **Equality**: Everyone is born free and should be treated in the same way.
- Give Three ways in which boys and Girls are not treated in the same way.
- 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
12. **Fairness**: Everyone has the right to a fair trial

- When was the last time you saw someone treated unfairly? What happened
 - What did you do about it?
13. **School:** Everyone has the right to go to school.
- Which school/s have you attended
14. **Religion:** Everyone has the right to practice and observe all aspects of their own religion.
- Do you have a religion?
 - If so, where do you worship?
15. **Government:** Everyone has the right to take part in choosing the government of their choice.
- What is the name of the Australian PM?
 - What political party do they belong to?
 - Do you know the name of another party?
16. **Home:** Everyone has the right to their own property and possessions. This can include their home.
- Name a place where you have lived.
 - Where do you live now?
17. **Question:** Everyone has the right to question those in authority and receive information.
- Have you ever questioned anyone in authority.
 - How did it feel?
18. **Possessions:** Everyone has the right to own property and possessions.
- What is your favourite possession?
 - Why do you like it?
19. **Innocent:** Everyone should be considered innocent until proven guilty.
- Have you ever seen someone accused of something they did not do?
 - What happened?
20. **Opinion:** Everyone has the right to say what they think
- Have you ever been stopped from saying what you think?
 - Why do you think this was?
21. **Nationality:** Everyone has the right to belong to a country.
- What is your nationality?
 - Do you have your own passport?

- Have you used it to travel?
22. **Kindness:** No one has the right to hurt or torture you.
- Name two kind things you did yesterday?
 - 1)
 - 2)
23. **Life:** Everyone has the right to live in freedom and safety.
- Who helps to keep you safe?
24. **Marriage:** Everyone has the right to marry and have a family.
- Why do people marry?
 - What is the legal age of marriage in Australia?

Activity 3: The students have explored some key ideas in the Declaration of Human Rights.

1. After the students have completed the exercise above, show them again the power-point on the Global Village. Question: In the light of what you have seen do you think that all people have rights?
2. **How can we make a difference in the lives of some of the people we saw in the Global Village.** Discussion

Activity 4: Exploring Everyday Rights: Learning about the UN

- Introduce the students to the cyber-school bus.
- Explore one of the country's where the Sisters of Mercy work
- Organize an activity /fundraising event to help that country

RESOURCES:

Our World, Our rights - Teaching about Rights and Responsibilities. AI
WWW.UN.Org Cyber School bus
Mercy Global Concern: Leaven for Good in a Hurting World-
mercyun@aol.com

Where in the World are My Sisters? mercyun@aol.com
Power-point - The Global Village mercyun@aol.com
60 ways the UN makes a difference: www.un.org/works

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