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We Demand Change!

Form time session

**For:** Form tutors to use with KS3/4/5 students

**Duration:** 15 minutes

**Learning objectives:** Students will:

* understand why speaking out for justice is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and therefore a fundamental part of the Catholic life and mission of the school.
* know some examples of campaigns for just causes that have had some success.
* know some ways to campaign responsibly and effectively and that CAFOD can help with this.

**Structure:**

* What is campaigning? – together, write a class definition of campaigning.
* What’s Catholic about campaigning? – students choose a quote and say why it appeals.
* Campaign issues – watch 1-minute video; spot the issues being campaigned about. Students discuss which issues are of most concern to them.
* Campaign action:
  + EITHER students research our latest campaign and take action with CAFOD.
  + OR write to their MP on an issue of concern to them, using the template.

**FORM-TIME SESSION: “We demand change!” [15 mins]**

*“Inspectors will most likely draw upon some or all of the following evidence sources in making judgements about the extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school:*

* *records of pupil involvement in charitable activities and* ***campaigns****, for example Caritas,* ***CAFOD****, Missio, ACN, SVP, Mini Vinnies*
* *records of pupil involvement in* ***advocacy work and campaigning work*** *and transformational action for the poor, the marginalised and the unjustly treated, for example* ***writing to MPs****, sending Christmas cards to prisoners, work for climate concerns.”*

Catholic Schools Inspection framework

*“The aim of a school’s curriculum is to support its learners to become... ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.”*

Welsh Government Guidelines

**What is ‘campaigning’?** [3 minutes]

**Communicate to students:** Explain that you are going to have a quick session on campaigning. Give students one minute to write their own definition of “campaigning”. Take some suggestions. Agree a class definition and write it on the whiteboard. (Something like: Working together with other people to speak out against injustice and bring about change.) Discuss that change happens because people call and take action for change. Doing nothing is not an option if we want to overcome injustices and make the world a better place.

**What’s Catholic about campaigning?** [5 mins]

**Explanation of task:** Scatter the phrases, each of which reveals an aspect of Catholic Social Teaching, around the room and let students circulate to read them, then stand next to the one that speaks to them most. Ask a few students to read out their phrase and say why it struck them.

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| Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers… He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”  (Luke 11:15-17) | “It is not just certain individuals but all [people] who are called to further the development of human society as a whole… The reality of human solidarity brings us not only benefits but also obligations.”  Saint Pope Paul VI,  *Populorum Progressio,* 17 | “When we struggle for human rights,  for freedom, for dignity, when we feel it is a ministry of the church to concern itself for those who are hungry, for those who have no schools, for those who are deprived, we are not departing from God’s promise... The church knows it is saving the world when it undertakes to speak of such things.”  Saint Oscar Romero |
| “Now listen, you rich people… The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you.”  (James 5:1-6). | “Love does not stay idle.”  Saint Catherine of Siena | “We do not want… a Church that will move with the world. We want a Church that will move the world.”  GK Chesterton, Catholic Author |
| Jesus said:  “Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them.”  (Luke 11:46) | “It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention.”  Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 11. | “The first duty of a parliamentarian  is to use their voice  on behalf of those  whose voices have been silenced.”  David Alton, Catholic campaigner for human rights and member of the House of Lords |
| “Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt  in every action that seeks  to build a better world.”  Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 231. | “Solidarity... is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself  to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all  really responsible for all.”  Saint Pope John Paul,  *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 38 | “When the good of others  is at stake,  good intentions are not enough.”  Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 185 |
| “Working for CAFOD as a young campaigner, I discovered  Catholic Social Teaching and was hugely inspired and influenced by a Church that took action for peace and justice. The need for global solidarity today is as great as ever.”  Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD | “It is an act of charity to assist someone suffering, but it is also an act of charity, even if we do not know that person, to work to change the social conditions that caused his or her suffering.”  Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 186 | “The Church feels called to take her stand beside the poor, to discern the justice of their requests,  and to help satisfy them.”  Saint Pope John Paul,  *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 39 |

**Note to teacher:** Draw out that these quotes all reveal something about Catholic Social Teaching and about a Catholic’s calling to speak up and take action against injustice. That is why Catholic schools take part in campaigning.

**Campaign issues** [3 minutes]

**Preparation of task:** Watch the new 1-minute videoat cafod.org.uk/DemandChange (available 5/6/23).

**Explanation of task to students:** Ask students to identify the injustices that people in the video were protesting against.

Which injustice do you feel most strongly about?

Which other unjust situations in the world would you most like to change?

**Campaign action** [4 mins + continue in own time]

**Explanation of task:** Ask students to visit CAFOD’s website to research its latest campaign and how they can get involved.

**OR**

**Explanation of task:** Invite students to use the template below to write to their MP about an issue of injustice that concerns them. Encourage them to use all the persuasive writing skills they learned in English lessons. To find your local MP’s details, enter your postcode on this page: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

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| **TEMPLATE** |
| [Name of Member of Parliament]  House of Commons,  London,  SW1A 0AA |
| Dear [Name of Member of Parliament],  I am one of your constituents and am in Year [number] at [school name].  We have been learning that campaigning against injustice is part of Catholic Social Teaching and about ways that we can raise our voices and take action. |
| The injustice that I want to bring to your attention is: |
| I feel strongly about this because: |
| I want you to add your voice to mine by speaking out about this. |
| If you would like to visit my school to discuss our opinions and ways in which you could speak out against this injustice, please contact [insert your teacher/chaplain’s contact details]. |
| Yours sincerely, |
| [Name] |

***Teachers/chaplains:*** *This session is part of a package, including assembly and RE lesson with PowerPoints, as well as a poster and pledge-prayer cards to order.*

*Details at: cafod.org.uk/DemandChange*