

Don't just sit there – be a leader!

There are many ways to be a leader. Each of these leaders has different skills and talents.

Kezia, 20, UK



Kezia spent a year on CAFOD's gap year programme, Step into the Gap. She was based at St Cassian's youth retreat centre, Kintbury.

On any day, Kezia might be running a workshop, writing reflections, leading prayers or

preparing a presentation. She grew her skills in public speaking, learning to adapt presentations to fit the needs of different audiences. She also learnt new skills in social media, setting up an Instagram project "The Kintbury Gapper". She told us:

"I think leadership is about using your voice, standing up for what you believe and having courage to speak out. That could be speaking to family or friends, through social media or talks in your church, or any way you can."

"A highlight for me was sharing with young people my passion for social justice, while also letting them gain knowledge of CAFOD's work. I spoke in parishes and schools about my trip to visit CAFOD's work in Israel and occupied Palestinian territories. I shared how visiting those communities taught me that achieving peace is never instant but is a continual striving."

Rosana, 16, Colombia



Young leaders like 16-year-old Rosana have a plan to bring about change by taking advantage of a unique moment in Colombia's history. After 50 years of conflict, a peace deal between the formerly largest guerrilla group and the Colombian

government has created an opportunity for people to build peace in their communities.

Rosana says, "Now is the moment for the country to leave violence behind us. Violence is something that happened and something we have lived with for a long time. Young people need to start thinking about how to change this."

People in her region, Magdalena Medio, plan to educate and empower young people to resolve conflict peacefully. A vital first step on the road to a future free from violence

A CAFOD-supported project is running peace-building workshops in 34 secondary schools, teaching young people how to avoid a life of violence. Over three years, local experts will run workshops and equip young people with strong communication skills and other tools, to make peace a reality. They are also taught how to share all they have learnt with their families and neighbours.

Rosana says, "We are fighters. We believe anything is possible. As young people, we have a responsibility towards our country. We are the present."

"We are not interested in continuing with war, we have much greater aspirations."

Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013, South Africa



Nelson Mandela, served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the first South African president to be democratically elected by a fair vote.

But the road to the presidency was long and hard. In 1948 the National Party which

supported apartheid – separating people of different races – came to power in South Africa.

Active campaigning against this racist policy led to Nelson's arrest for sabotage and his sentence to life imprisonment in 1962. He served 27 years before he was eventually released and could help his party to negotiate a multi-racial society, giving everyone a voice.

Yet Nelson was famously humble, championing reconciliation and respect for all. He said: "It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory."

He told a packed Trafalgar Square during the 2005 Make Poverty History campaign: "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

Good leaders are:

welcoming

creative

inspiring

encouraging

good listeners

team players

able to use their own gifts and the gifts of others.

To increase your leadership skills

Decide what you want to achieve. Ask others to help and be creative together; it's the best way to get ideas, and great ideas can lead to great change. Spend time together and have fun with the people you're working with. This builds trust and helps people feel more confident about sharing their ideas. And remember to celebrate your success!

Where do I start?

Here is one way to be a leader right now. Organise your own [online quiz](#) as part of [Summer of Hope](#), charging entry to raise funds for CAFOD's Coronavirus appeal. Get a group of friends to help you and work out together what you want to achieve, such as a fundraising target or a total number of people contacted and hearing how coronavirus affects poor communities. Be creative together about promotion, and divide up the tasks so that people with particular strengths, for example, great on social media, get tasks where they can shine. Then enjoy running your quiz, send in your funds, and celebrate!

Other ways to speak up and exercise leadership

You'll find lots of ideas on what you can do if you regularly visit CAFOD's website, especially to learn about our latest campaigns.

- Right now you can speak up about cancelling the debt for poorer countries affected by coronavirus simply by taking our [online action](#).
- If you enjoy using your voice to inspire others, contact your nearest [CAFOD volunteer centre](#) to find out about speaking in your parish at Lent or Harvest:
- If you want to speak up in prayer and lead others to do the same – why not get creative and organise a virtual version of '[Global justice prayer stations](#)' to lead others in prayer:

Or – even better – come up with your own, unique idea for speaking out and leading others to tackle global poverty and injustice.

Remember to tell us what you're doing; email schools@cafod.org.uk or tag [@cafod](#) so we can share your ideas and inspire others to do the same.