

GETTING INVOLVED

The Council of Europe's campaigns are where you can really get involved! The campaigns so far have had a big focus on human rights – in particular, the right to life (pretty important, surely you'll agree!) – but they have also highlighted the importance of other rights, such as social and cultural rights (for example, the "Dosta!" campaign – see below).

Some of these campaigns have now finished, but that doesn't mean that the work is over – it's probably only just begun! They are still important issues which need people to take action. Maybe there is a campaign at national or even local level in your country at the moment? Find out and make a difference!

"SPEAK OUT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION" CAMPAIGN

The media (television, newspapers, radios, etc.) can have a major influence on people's attitudes towards others. The Council of Europe's new "Speak out against discrimination" campaign is working with and through the media to make people more aware of the rights of different individuals and groups who might be victims of discrimination.

The campaign will also involve developing training material for people who work in the media and promoting diversity.

To find out more about the campaign, have a look at its interactive website:

➔ www.coe.int/antidiscrimination

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

It's an atrocity that violence against women occurs every day without more being done to stop it. Statistics show that 12% to 15% of women in Europe face violence in the home every day – that's around one in eight! The Stop Violence Against Women campaign aims to raise awareness that violence against women violates their human rights, and must be stopped.

The campaign was launched to get countries to criminalise domestic violence, to provide support for victims and to create a general change in attitudes, so that violence against women in the home will no longer be tolerated.

Find out more here:

➔ www.coe.int/StopViolence

DOSTA!

"Dosta!", a Romani word meaning "enough!", is a campaign devised to bring non-Roma closer to **ROMA 11** citizens (see fact sheet 7). It was launched in 2006, as part of the Council's efforts to protect the rights of national minorities. Find out more about the Roma people – a people found in almost every country in Europe, yet who have faced discrimination and prejudice in many of them.

➔ www.coe.int/RomaTravellers

➔ www.dosta.org



➔ *"For those who turn a blind eye to racism will become accessories to prejudice and violence, and society at large will suffer."*

Gro Harlem Brundtland



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



NOT FOR SALE! STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

January 2006 – January 2008

If you thought slavery was over, think again. What's more, it's happening in our own countries – people are being sold every day to people in other countries, and are forced to work in conditions that exploit them.

The Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings was launched in 2006 under the slogan "Human being – not for sale". Trafficking of people is illegal and it is often run through members of organised crime. Women and children being trafficked can be subject to violence, abuse and sexual exploitation.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness as to how big the problem of trafficking human beings in Europe is today. It was directed at governments, local and regional authorities, non-governmental organisations, and the rest of society. It highlighted the different measures that can be taken to prevent this new form of slavery, as well as measures to protect the human rights of victims and to prosecute the traffickers.

➤ www.coe.int/Trafficking

➤ www.coe.int/HumanTrafficking

EUROPEAN DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty is something many people are against, including at the Council of Europe, and it is important to understand why.

When someone commits a horrendous crime, such as a murder, doing something horrendous back to them

does not make this better. If anything, you would be lowering yourself to their level. After all, everyone has the right to life (see fact sheet 2).

The Council of Europe played a leading role in the battle to abolish the death penalty, believing that the death penalty has no place in democratic societies. Today Europe is the only region in the world where the death penalty is no longer applied. A 'European Day against the Death Penalty' was decided upon in 2007 and will be held every year on 10 October. This marks the upholding of an important value, and sends out a strong message to other countries to do the same.

RESOURCES

"Death is not justice" – a 50-page booklet on the death penalty in Europe, which you can consult online from the Council of Europe Publishing website.

➤ www.book.coe.int/en

See also:

➤ www.coe.int/notodeathpenalty/

BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

This is a Council of Europe programme for the promotion of children's rights and the protection of children from violence. We should all remember that children are not "mini-human beings" with "mini-human rights". In fact, children are more vulnerable than adults, and therefore need more protection. The Council of Europe doesn't just condemn violence against children – it says that this violence can be prevented altogether. Respecting children's rights is crucial to development of the place we live in

called Europe, as children are its future. This programme seeks to promote children's rights and protect them from violence by encouraging each member state to do more in its own country, as well as co-operating with the other member states.

➤ www.coe.int/children/

1 The **ROMA** people are found in almost every country in Europe. Their descendants are thought to be originally from North India and they first came to Europe in the 14th century. Since then, the Roma people have faced a lot of rejection and discrimination, even persecution.

➤ MORE TO DISCOVER!

➤ www.coe.int/antidiscrimination

➤ www.coe.int/StopViolence/

➤ www.coe.int/RomaTravellers/

➤ www.dosta.org

➤ www.coe.int/Trafficking/

➤ www.coe.int/HumanTrafficking/

➤ www.coe.int/notodeathpenalty/

➤ www.coe.int/children/

TAKING ACTION! CAMPAIGNING WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTIVITIES SHEET

Getting involved in campaigns can be rewarding, informative, and also fun! Young people often have a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas to bring to a campaign. In return they can learn a lot, sometimes about a subject that is entirely new to them, and develop skills such as working in a team, speaking in public, or just getting things done to a deadline.

Some of the Council of Europe's campaigns deal with some very sensitive issues, such as the death penalty or violence against women. However, if you feel confident to do so, it might be interesting to read up on one of the campaigns and discuss the issues in class with your students. You might also like to investigate whether there is a local organisation that works on a similar issue and see whether a volunteer would come to your place of learning to talk about it.

In the meantime, here are some ideas to get you started on each of the campaigns mentioned:

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Whilst this campaign focuses particularly on domestic violence, you could use this issue to discuss women's rights more generally, to reinforce the fact that men and women have equal rights, and therefore should be treated with equal consideration.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS TOO

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations in 1948 and affirms that men and women have equal rights. Following that, the Convention on the Elimination

of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 by the United Nations. The Council of Europe member states are all party to these conventions (for the CEDAW, the United States, which has observer status, is an exception).

But what about the situation in your country? Try drawing a timeline with your students to show the major changes which happened for women in the 20th century and beyond.

For example, do women have the right to divorce? If so, when was this decided?

When did your country ratify the CEDAW?

Are there any laws about women's representation in the government, or at work?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: NEVER OK

If you do discuss the topic of domestic violence with your students, it is important to stress that domestic violence is never the victim's "fault", and it is never OK. Domestic violence also comes in many forms, meaning it is not always physical abuse. If you feel comfortable discussing the issue with your students, it would be advisable to contact a counsellor at your place of learning first to find out what support is available locally should any of your students need advice. Let your students know this information when you discuss the topic.

WHICH FIGURE IS BEHIND THIS QUOTE? →

"For those who turn a blind eye to racism will become accessories to prejudice and violence, and society at large will suffer."

Answer on the back *





DOSTA!

The Roma people are protected as a minority people. The “all different all equal” education pack is a fantastic resource for discussing with your students the issue of people of different ethnicities living together. It is available to download here:

➔ eycb.coe.int/edupack/

NOT FOR SALE! STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

When discussing the issue of human trafficking, bear in mind that many people are trafficked for sexual exploitation, so decide first whether it is appropriate to bring this to the talk, based on the age and maturity of the group.

To explore the issue, you could start by asking your students whether they have heard about human trafficking. Do they know that an estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year? Are they surprised by that figure? Why do they think people become traffickers? And how do the people they buy and sell get into that situation?

After finding out about human trafficking, perhaps from a local organisation, you could write a joint letter to your member of parliament, asking them to support the fight against this crime.

"EUROPEAN DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY"

You could use this issue as an opportunity to set up a debate. Divide the group in two, but not based on their actual opinion on the issue. Ask them to think of as many reasons why

the death penalty should or shouldn't be used, depending on what side they are representing. Perform a mini-debate, taking it in turns to present these points. Afterwards consider whether certain points are really valid given that everyone has the right to life – a right that cannot be taken away from anyone.

To move the debate on, you could consider what alternatives there are to the death penalty and what they would achieve in setting an example.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Have your students ever dreamt of working in the media?

Perhaps being a sports journalist at football matches, or one day presenting the news?

Do they think that the media is too difficult a profession to get into or that it's hard for someone from their background or with their cultural identity?

Maybe you or your students have noticed some surprising reporting that discriminates against certain minority groups.

The Campaign's website will include a resource centre from which you can download leaflets, brochures and posters, or from which you can even watch some webcasts.

If you're keen for your students to find out more about their rights, why not subscribe to the campaign newsletter? Your participation counts in this campaign.

SOURCES

- * **Gro Harlem Brundtland:** Extract of speech by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway at the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, 4 February 1993. Published in “Voices of Europe”, Council of Europe Publishing