

Time to take action



Step 6 – Time to take action and stand up for human rights

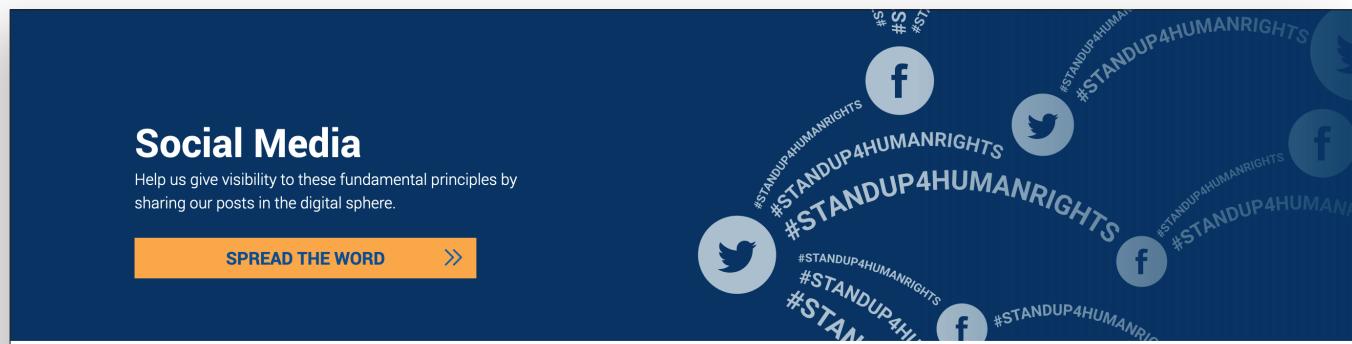
Options to get you started

You might begin by having a closer look at the website above [Take Action | Stand up for human rights | UN Human Rights Office \(stand-up4humanrights.org\)](#)

There are some options to get you started: promote, engage, reflect and spread the word.

Visit the website and click on **spread the word** and **learn more** below promote, engage, and

The screenshot shows the 'TAKE ACTION' section of the website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT, CAMPAIGNS, HIGHLIGHTS, TAKE ACTION, DOWNLOAD, HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPIONS, and PARTNERS. Below the navigation bar, there are four buttons: SOCIAL MEDIA, PROMOTE, ENGAGE, and REFLECT. A large image of people crossing a street is displayed. In the bottom right corner of the image area, there is a call-to-action box with the heading 'Take Action' and a subtext: 'All of us can promote and defend human rights. We are calling on everyone, individuals as well as governments, companies, the civil society, the UN family and others to join us and make a difference. Here are some options to get you started.'



Social Media

Help us give visibility to these fundamental principles by sharing our posts in the digital sphere.

[SPREAD THE WORD >>](#)



Promote

Raise awareness of the importance of human rights in everyday life and show how they empower us all.

[Learn more](#)



Engage

Join us in expressing your commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

[Learn more](#)



Reflect

Take stock of the state of human rights today and reflect on how each of us can stand up for rights.

[Learn more](#)

reflect to find out, what is meant by the 4 options. You can use/be inspired by any of them when you are going to take action yourself.

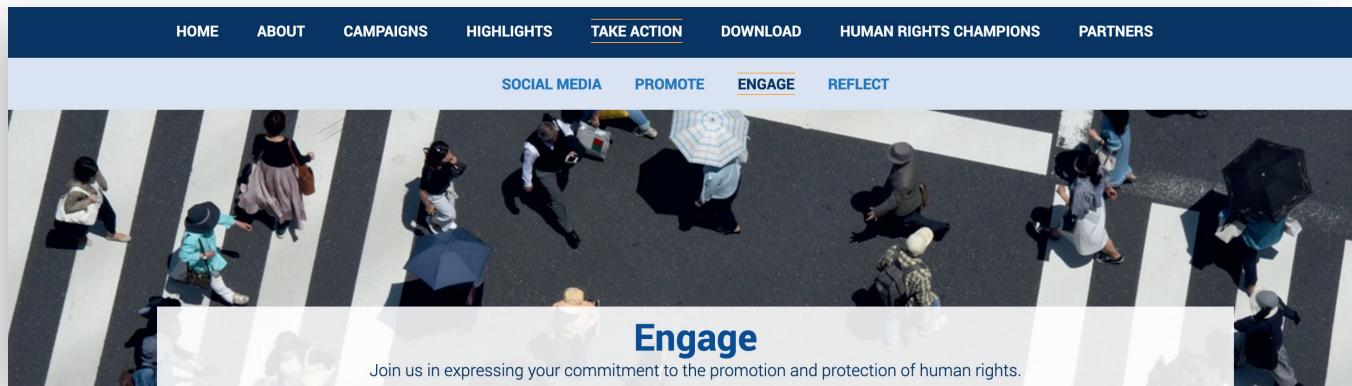
You might begin by researching the options in pairs/groups and succeed the discussion in plenum.

Examples of Actions

To inspire you further you'll get some examples of current actions to stand up for human rights.

Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine many of the examples of people acting are connected to that conflict in order to highlight the willingness of ordinary people to act in many different ways - and stand up for human rights.

The intention is not that you should act to help the Ukrainian people, but that you experience and analyse different ways to act. **You are also very welcome to find examples from your own country.**



[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [CAMPAIGNS](#) [HIGHLIGHTS](#) [TAKE ACTION](#) [DOWNLOAD](#) [HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPIONS](#) [PARTNERS](#)

[SOCIAL MEDIA](#) [PROMOTE](#) [ENGAGE](#) [REFLECT](#)

Engage

Join us in expressing your commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

So, you might begin by working in pairs/groups. Each pair/group gets one or two cases. Read the case and discuss what kind of action is taking place and what you think of the action. When everybody has finished, present your cases in plenum (if a video is included, watch it too) and discuss the actions and your attitudes to them. If your case is very short, you might find an extra case on the internet to supplement it.

Cases

1. Pupils collect money for Ukraine: "What if I was in a country that was bombed?" (Page 4)
2. Others prefer to volunteer to assist the relief organizations (page 5).
3. Human Rights Watch has chosen to highlight why leaders of the world should do more to stand up for human rights in a fair world (page 5)
4. The London Mahknovists decided to occupy a London Mansion owned by the Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska (page 6)
5. Nastia chose to sing Ukrainian folksongs to comfort refugees in the central railway station in Krakow (page 7)
6. Many people supported the aid concert for Ukraine, and students from the continuation school in Ollerup chose to sing "a simple song for freedom" (page 8-9)
7. Two Danes decided to pack their food-

truck and drove to Poland to hand out 4000 free burgers to Ukrainian refugees (page 10)

8. Marina Ousyannikova decided that enough is enough and interrupted a news-broadcast with a protest sign on a Russian Television Channel (page 10)
9. Elizabeth Wathui, a youth climate activist from Kenya and a **young champion of the earth**, gave a remarkable speech to the World Leaders Summit Opening Ceremony (page 11)
10. To have a happy ending the last example is a kind of a Christmas fairy-tail. When a photojournalist took an image of 12-year-old Gabriel Silva pulling a Christmas tree from a fetid mountain of trash in Brazil, he didn't expect what would happen next (page 11)

[HOME](#)
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[PARTNERS](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
PROMOTE
ENGAGE
REFLECT



Reflect

Take stock of the state of human rights today and reflect how each of us can stand up for human rights, every day.

Pupils collect money for Ukraine: – What if I was in a country that was bombed? Extract from the article

The eyes of the whole world are on the war in Ukraine. This also applies to the pupils in 4th grade at Allindelille Friskole in Store Merløse outside Ringsted.

"I feel sorry for them, and I also think about what it would be like if I was the one who fled," says Maggie Liu Westhal, a 4th grader.

"I just started crying and thought, what if I was in a country that was bombed, and I just think it sounded horrible to be in that situation. I wouldn't be able to do that," said Victoria Jaqueline Angelbo, who is also in the 4th grade.

On Friday, the class was in charge of a collection where the money will go to those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The students sold coffee, cake, and their own toys, among other things.

- I think it's cool that they learn to be able to give something to somebody who are in



Journalist Frederikke Denmark and Camilla Laursen, Photo: Camille Laursen, TV2 øst, March 19th, 2022

need, so I think it's important learning and cool that they take the initiative themselves, says Lonni Pedersen, who is a parent.

She is backed up by Signe Schrøder, who is also a parent. "I also think it makes the kids realize that you can do something, and that's really important as well. The class managed to collect 5000 kroner. They are now donated to the Red Cross.

You might want to read the [whole article in Danish](#)



"I feel sorry for them, and I also think about what it would be like if I was the one who fled"
– Maggie Liv Westhal

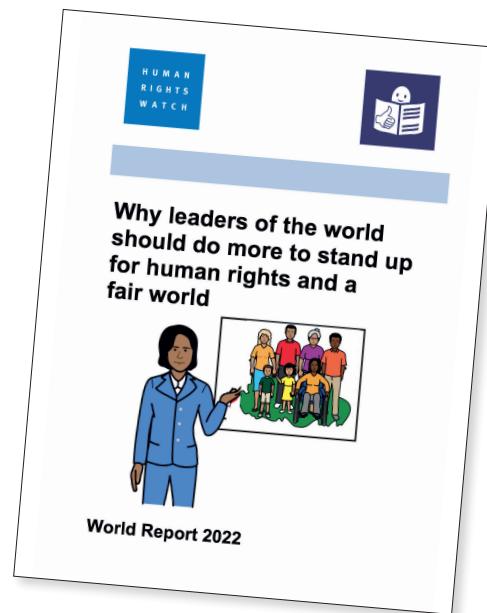
After the war in Ukraine: large increase in the number of volunteers in the relief organizations (Extract from the article) by Hans Corfitz Andersen, Ma thilde Nordenlund, Thor Malthe Andersen March 10th , 2022

While many Facebook groups provide a framework for private collections of clothing, food, and private driving of refugees from the war in Ukraine, several of Denmark's relief organizations are currently experiencing massive increases in the number of volunteers....

Both DanChurchAid, the Red Cross and the Danish Refugee Council can report massive increased interest in volunteering....

And there is ample opportunity to make a difference as a volunteer in a relief organization. For the many new volunteers can help both with the integration into Danish society and with the language...

It's very meaningful to me to help people who are in need. It's such a two-way thing.



I help them and at the same time it's very meaningful to me. It gives a lot of meaning and satisfaction, says Lars Møller.

You might want to read the [whole article in Danish](#)

Download the easy - to - read - version of the keynote essay [Microsoft Word - World Report 2020 .docx \(hrw.org\)](#)





Police enter London mansion reportedly owned by sanctioned Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska after squatters occupy property | UK News | Sky News, Tuesday, 15. March 2022

The squatters broke into the property at around 1am on Monday and declared that it "belongs to Ukrainian refugees".

The squatters call themselves the London Mahknouists, after Nestor Makhno, who led an anarchist force that attempted to form a stateless society in Ukraine during the Russian Revolution of 1917-23.

They hung a Ukrainian flag as well as two signs which read "*this property has been liberated*" and "*Putin go f*** yourself*".

They also danced, played music and one man sang lines from the Dirty Dancing song (I've Had) The Time of My Life.

In a statement, they said: "By occupying this mansion, we want to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine, but also the people of Russia who never agreed to this madness.

"*You occupy Ukraine, we occupy you.*"

One of the protesters, who refused to give his name but said he was from Lithuania, said: "All our group made peace with arrest because this was always one of the options.

"I'm ready to take the consequences for something I believe".

He also said they had done "*everything by the book*" and they had left "*no criminal damage*" in the property.

"This house could house 200 people. We have been doing a job the government should do. We have liberated the property for refugees," he added.

Deripaska has been described as "a prominent Russian businessman and pro-Kremlin oligarch" who is "closely associated" with the Russian government and President Vladimir Putin.

His wealth is estimated to be £2.3bn and he has a multimillion-pound property portfolio in the UK.

According to a 2007 High Court judgment his portfolio includes the house at 5 Belgrave Square. You might want to [Read the whole article](#)



Listen to the cut from Nastia's song [here](#). It is incorporated in the article.

Nastia sings Ukrainian folksongs to comfort refugees in the central railway station in Krakow.

Extracts from the article by Stéphanie Surruge - Krakow DR.DK 12. MARTS 2022



Nastia's clear voice soars calmly through crackling loudspeaker calls and the crying of exhausted children. The 19-year-old woman sits in the middle of the refugee chaos at Krakow Central Station, singing to her compatriots.

"I hope I can give them some comfort by playing and singing our folk songs from Ukraine. Maybe they can forget for a moment that we're all just refugees now," says Nastia, who was studying at the music conservatory in her third year when she fled last week with her three younger siblings, her mother, and her cancer-stricken grandmother.

"I've said goodbye to my father because he's become a soldier now. I also had to say goodbye to my grandfather. He's a priest, but now he's also a soldier. I hope I see them again very, very soon," Nastia says and continues:

"But I'm grateful for the help we've had here in Krakow. And I try to give back with music that you can dream to, or maybe say a prayer to.

Here at the train station, they can catch their breath after the escape, they can get hot food, mobile chargers, a few hours of sleep, medical care and transport assistance.

There are free buses to Berlin, and there are direct trains to, for example, Vienna, Prague and Budapest.

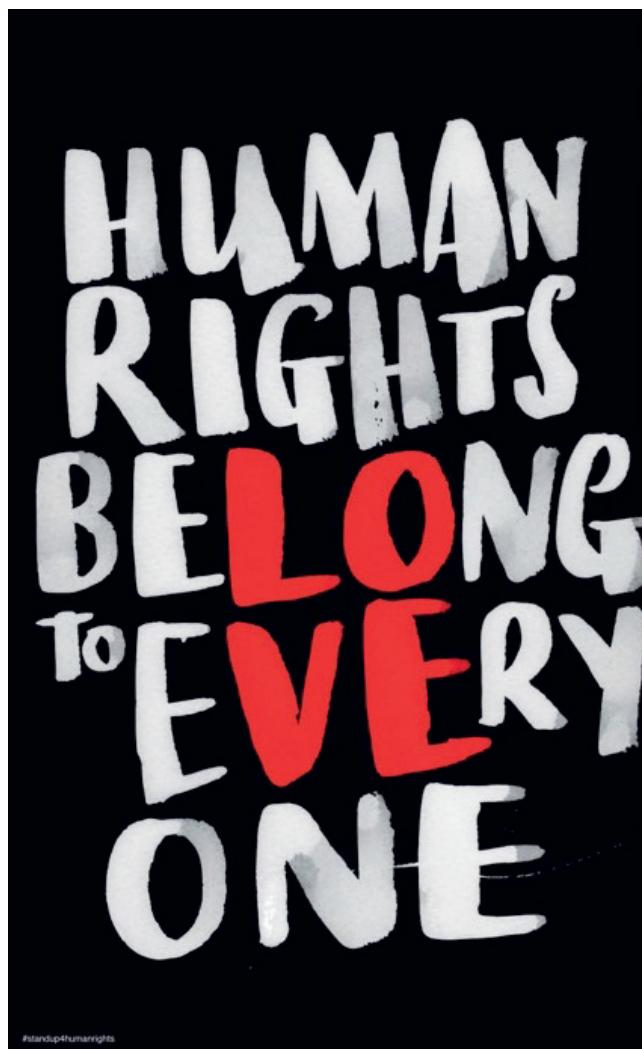
But for many refugees, it is an involuntary and unsafe lottery which train they have to board. They know only one home, and that is in Ukraine.

"We just want to go home, home to my dad, my grandfather and my school. I want to finish my education. I've even considered going back, even though there's war. But I don't.

So right now, Nastia has no other option to play than here, among her fugitive compatriots at a chaotic railway station in a European metropolis. You might want to [read the whole article in Danish](#).

Huge support for Ukraine: Support concert fetched over 165 million for relief. By Karen Klærke, DR. March 12, 2022

The money will be distributed among 18 aid



#standup4humanrights

organizations to help the victims of the war in Ukraine.

Students from Ollerup Efterskole were some of those who performed at Saturday's concert. You can listen to their contribution here: [En enkel sang om frihed](#)

"It is a very overwhelming and a touching support we have experienced from the Danes. The large amount of money raised will make a big difference for people in need," says Secretary General Charlotte Slente.

For example, the money will provide the opportunity to distribute food, cash, and medicine, among other things. Ensure people have a place to sleep and support families and children who have seen their homes bombed or have had to flee.

Even before the concert began, the Danes had donated money to Ukraine on a large scale. Various Danish aid agencies said that they have raised DKK 750 million for humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

You might want to read the [whole article in Danish](#)



A simple song of freedom is one of many anti-war songs that were written in the sixties. Bobby Darin wrote it in 1969 and it became one of the hymns for the anti-war movement. Vietnam in particular. You might want to listen to Bob Darin's original version. (lyrics here)

Come and sing a simple song of freedom
Sing it like you've never sung before
Let it fill the air
Tell the people everywhere
We, the people here, don't want a war

Hey, there, mister black man, can you hear me?
I don't want your diamonds or your game
I just want to be someone known to you as me
And I will bet my life you want the same
Come and sing a simple song of freedom
Sing it like you've never sung before
Let it fill the air
Tell the people everywhere
We, the people here, don't want a war

Seven hundred million are ya list'nin'?
Most of what you read is made of lies
But, speakin' one to one ain't it everybody's sun
To wake to in the mornin' when we rise

Brother Solzhenitsyn, are you busy?
If not, won't you drop this friend a line
Tell me if the man who is plowin' up your land
Has got the war machine upon his mind?

Come and sing a simple song of freedom
Sing it like you've never sung before
Let it fill the air
Tell the people everywhere
We, the people here, don't want a war

Now, no doubt some folks enjoy doin' battle
Like presidents, prime ministers and kings
So, let's all build them shelves
Where they can fight among themselves
Leave the people be who love to sing
Come and sing a simple song of freedom
Sing it like you've never sung before
Let it fill the air
Tell the people everywhere
We, the people here, don't want a war

I say ... let it fill the air ...
Telling people everywhere ...
We, the people here, don't want a war





Two Danes decided to pack their food-truck and drove to Poland to hand out 4000 free burgers to Ukrainian refugees (Extract from the article written by Rosa Uldall, Nicolai Styrihave – Przemyśl, dr.dk, March 16, 2022)

At present, they have handed out 3,200 burgers and hope to be able to hand out the last 800 today.

After the food truck owner posted on Facebook sharing their plans to go to Poland, support for the trip poured in.

"We've got sponsored toys that we give to kids who come by. We have also sponsored diesel for the drive and some of the raw materials for the burgers. It's great to feel the support, says Thomas Møbjerg.

You might want to [read the whole article in Danish](#)

Marina Ovsyannikova's message, translated into English - YouTube

On Monday night, like all other evenings, news was broadcast on the state-controlled

Russian television station Chanel 1.



But this Monday night was not at all like most others on the Russian TV channel.

Suddenly, a woman interrupted the newscast by standing behind the news anchor with a sign that read, among other things, "no war," "Russians against war," and "don't believe the propaganda." They're lying to you."

The woman could also be heard shouting: "Stop the war. No to war" before the channel switched to a new feature.



World Leaders Summit Opening Ceremony – Elizabeth Wathuti's Full Speech – YouTube

Background

Elizabeth Wathuti – [YouTube introduction](#) to the video “A passionate Commitment to environmental conservation” gives a background to understand her present work:

“If there is one thing that I have always wanted to change for the world it is the mindset of the people towards environmental conservation. I want to inspire people through my work.

I want to raise a generation of young, passionate environmentalists, who will fight fearlessly to protect natural resources.

I want to change the story and make people understand that we are not doing this for us, but we are doing it for the future generations from whom we have borrowed this planet. I know that I have what it takes to be a changemaker today and if I don't step up as a young person to address the challenges we are facing today, then nobody else will.

Growing up I thought I might have been too young to make a huge impact. But now I know that it is the little things we do that matter the most, and they eventually make a huge difference. Young champions of the Earth.” [Meet our winners \(unep.org\)](#)

Christmas tree turns symbol of hope at Brazil dump

Published by News.com.au – May 5, 2022 – Picture Joao Paulo Guimaraes/AFP

When a photojournalist took this image of a boy pulling a Christmas tree from a fetid mountain of trash, he didn't expect **what would happen next.**

Try to guess what happened before you download and read the text.



What actions do you prefer to take? How do you want to stand up for human rights?

When you have found out if you can use any of the actions suggested on the website Stand up for human rights at page 1, and shared and analysed the ten cases describing different types of resent actions, it is time for you to decide what actions you prefer to take? How do you want to stand up for human rights?

But please remember the work you have done so far and the products you have already created:

1. The pictures and descriptions of your school
2. The questionnaire: test your knowledge
3. The videos – what are human rights?
4. The podcast describing violations of human rights
5. The posters/mosaics of NGOs, their work, and their suggestions for what you can do
6. The cases you have worked with

The products might prove useful in the last part of your work

But before you start your work, please remember the introduction text to the questionnaire.



The headline was ***The Danes' knowledge of and support for human rights is in general declining.***

It referred to a survey from 2019. Unfortunately, the latest survey from 2021 shows that

Children still know far too little about their own rights – [UNICEF Denmark](#)

This is the conclusion of a new survey conducted by Kantar Gallup for the Danish Institute for Human Rights and UNICEF Denmark. Among other things, only about half of the children (45 percent) answer that they know something or a lot about their rights. In 2009 the corresponding share was 39 percent. Two in five children (42 percent) cannot remember a single human right.

"It is worrying that there has not been greater progress. There is clearly a need for an extra effort to inform children about their own and other people's rights," says Karen Hækkerup, Secretary General of UNICEF Denmark.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights agrees with the concern and points out that fewer children experience that they learn to respect each other's rights in school.

There has been a drop from 70 percent in the latest survey to 55 percent today.

"The school has a decisive task of equipping children to know their own rights and anyone else's. Children must be able to speak up, speak out and intervene when they experience, that rights are being violated. Unfortunately, our study once again suggests that ***the teaching of human rights in Danish primary schools is not good enough. There is therefore a big task in the schools and in the teacher - education programs in strengthening the teaching of human rights,***" says Louise Holck, Director of the Institute for Human Rights. You can download the report [children's knowledge of Human Rights and the Convention of the Rights of the Child 2021](#)

As it seems clear that

- at least children in Denmark, and maybe the other Nordic countries, know far too little about their rights
- fewer children experience that they learn to respect each other's rights in school
- that the teaching of human rights in Danish schools is not good enough

one idea for you might be to take action and stand up for human rights by trying to address these problems.

You could for instance

- Invite to debate with your teachers, the students' council, and the parents' representatives and discuss if you should and how you can improve the human rights teaching at your school and make sure that the daily, social conventions and interactions are characterized by the practice of human rights values.
- Make an exhibition at your school, in the local library in the city-hall or.... Maybe you can use the products you have already made as part of the exhibition?
- Offer to teach some of the younger students at your school - or maybe at a neighbour school about human rights.
- Write a song about human rights.
- Contact the local newspapers/television/radio. Maybe they will help presenting your work to a broader audience.
- Make a stage play and invite students/pupils and parent to watch it.
- Use the social medias to present your message.
- Invite representatives from NGOs to a debate about how they stand up for human rights and what you can do.
- Present your work on the 10th of December – Human Rights Day.

Feel free to continue the list.....

However, if the situation in other Nordic countries is much better than in Denmark, as far as human rights is concerned, it would



be very valuable if you can illustrate, how you teach and practice human rights in your schools.

Form and Content

You must decide the form and content/what elements you want to have in your action. You might begin with a brainstorm in plenum or in groups.

Before the Nordic Camp in Copenhagen, you make an outline describing your plans and how you will implement them as detailed as possible.

It might be useful to use some of the W words: Why, When, Where, Who, What, how?

The time to take action might include the World Human Rights Day, December 10