

Oracy Tasks “The Kids are Alright” – Be the voice of your generation!



During this week in 1429 Joan of Arc led the French Army into battle. She was 17 years old! Joan had come from a simple farming community but felt compelled to protect France and its king when she had divine visions that told her of the danger ahead. Joan was killed and martyred at age 19 but went on to become a saint and a great symbol of what a single young person can achieve.

Who says young people can't make a difference?!

For more inspiration see last year's [YMCA#175 campaign video here](#)

The Greta Effect - One of the most prominent young people in recent years to make a difference has been climate activist **Greta Thunberg** who we introduced in our session **'The Environment'**

In August 2018, **at age 15**, she started spending her school days **all alone** outside the Swedish parliament to call for stronger action on climate change by holding up a sign reading *Skolstrejk för klimatet* (School strike for climate). Soon, other students began to join in & they organised a school climate strike movement under the name [Fridays for Future](#).



Interesting Fact By 2019, there were multiple coordinated multi-city protests involving over a million students each. She attended the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. Her speech there, in which she exclaimed "how dare you", was widely taken up by the press and incorporated into music.

← See her famous speech here

What about Other Young People? Plenty of young people are raising the call to action!

Task 1 this week is to **explore** all these young people below and find your inspiration and voice... **!**

Young people against racial stereotyping and discrimination



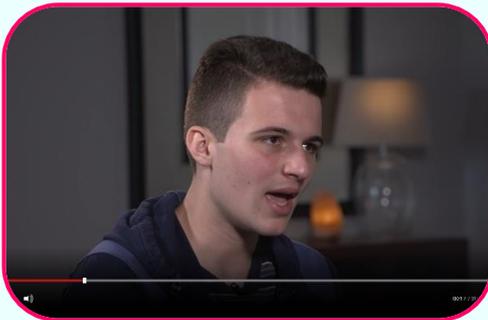
In 2016 a very courageous girl came to the microphone – **nine year old Zianna Oliphant** had not planned to speak on behalf of her whole city but when she did, she got the world's attention. It had been only a week since the fatal police shooting of a black man in North Carolina when Zianna began to speak before the City Council. "We are black people and we shouldn't have to feel like this". Her message made national and international news. See her emotional speech here.

In 2016 11-year-old **Marley Dias** from New Jersey was frustrated about only being given books to read with characters that did not reflect her

So she started a campaign to find [#1000BlackGirlsBooks](#). She exceeded her target of 1000 books and today continues to receive donations which she gives to schools in America and beyond in deprived areas. Watch her donating books to children in Jamaica.



Young people against violence



Cameron Kasky – survivor of Parkland Florida school shooting at 17 began the **#NeverAgain** campaign to curb gun violence and lobby for further gun control. He is also notable for helping to organize the **March for Our Lives** nationwide student protest in March 2018 which featured another notable young person **Naomi Wadler** speak out as a result of this shooting. As a result of Cameron and other young people’s campaign the minimum age to acquire a firearm in Florida was raised to 21.

In 2018 **Global K-pop boy band BTS** became the first artists in Korea to start a social fund for global campaigns to numerous social programs to prevent violence against children. They teamed up with UNICEF to support **#endviolence** campaign through their message to young people **#BTSLoveMyself** Watch them speak at the UN about their campaign here.



Interesting Fact: *BTS has a lot of meanings - the original one being "Bangtan Sonyeondan" which means "Bulletproof Boy Scouts" in Korean. It signifies deflecting stereotypes, criticisms, and expectations like bullets. The acronym now also stands for "Beyond the Scene."*

Task 2: 'Love Myself' – *BTS felt that an important element of protecting young people was to promote a positive self-image. What would be your 'love myself' campaign? Can you write a short speech about what's unique, special or good about you?*

What about this country? Are young people stepping up to lead? Oh yes!



Young people fighting for gender equality:



When she was 17, Amika George started **#freeperiods** campaign when she learned that 1 in 10 girls can't afford menstrual products in the UK. 49% of girls aged 14 to 21 in Britain have missed an entire day of school due to their period. What started as a petition with **just 10 signatures** has **exploded into an online movement with almost 300,000 supporters**. In response to her campaign, the UK government pledged on March 9, 2019, to provide free menstrual products to all secondary schools and colleges across England. Amika has now received global recognition for her campaigning work and was recently **recognised by TIME magazine as one of the 25 most influential teenagers in the world.**



Ellen Jones is a 21 yr. old British activist on LGBT, Feminism and Mental Health issues for young people. At 14 she came out as lesbian & endured isolation, cyberbullying and death threats but in response to this she had to speak up and use social media for positive change and began making YouTube videos. In 2017 aged barely 18 she was named Stonewall Young Campaigner of the year and in 2018 she **won** the first-ever **MTV EMA's Generation Change** Award for her activism. See her talk about gaining the MTV award here.



Task 3 – *Amika started with a petition of 10 signatures but ended up with 300,000. What issue do you care about, how would you persuade people to sign for your campaign? If you had 2 mins to persuade your class to sign what would you say? If you like record your speech and with permission share with your teacher and class!*