



# **GLOBAL EQUALITY AND MUSIC EXTRA MATERIAL**

*Last updated: May 2023*

# GLOBAL EQUALITY

## 3 Songs for equality:

### 1. A change is gonna come:

The world has many protest songs which have been used repeatedly in many different contexts to call for change. The universal message behind these campaigns is people demanding equality. One such song is 'A change is gonna come' first recorded by Sam Cooke in 1964 during the civil rights movements in the US. Since then it has been used as the anthem for change in many contexts and recorded by many musicians. The message of the song is one of hope. [This music](#) video references many campaigns for equality from the last 60 years.

#### Suggested Activity:

- Compare the song to other protest songs you know.
- Watch the video and see how many people and campaigns for equality you can identify.

### 2. We are the world / Africa for Norway

We are the world is a song by Michael Jackson and Lionel Ritchie first released as a charity single in 1985. <https://youtu.be/Wajja2eSMys> In this performance the Chinese concert pianist Lang Lang performs the song with a young choir from New York at a Global Citizen live event in 2021. Lang Lang is [a UNICEF Goodwill ambassador](#) who uses his fame to promote global issues. 'Global Citizen' is an action platform dedicated to achieving Global Goal 1 - end extreme poverty with the mission statement: '*this is our generation's moment. It's in our hands*'. <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/about/who-we-are/>

'Africa for Norway' is a spoof charity single which features South Africans singing about sending radiators to Norway. <https://youtu.be/oJLqyuxm96k> It was produced to challenge the stereotypical image of Africa as a continent needing rescue from developed nations. Charity singles can reinforce stereotypes of the global south.

#### Suggested Activity:

- Investigate other UNICEF Goodwill ambassadors and the work they do
- Watch other concerts from <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/festival/> and discuss the impact of events such as these
- Compare both songs using worksheet 2
- Hold a class debate about the merits of charity singles

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## 1. Tracy Chapman - USA

Tracy Chapman is an award winning American singer songwriter. She is politically and socially active and many of her songs reflect her interest in human rights. 'Fast car' is one of her best known songs – it was released in 1988. It tells the story of a poor working woman trying to escape the cycle of poverty. It has been included in Rolling Stone's list of the 500 greatest songs of all time. [https://youtu.be/Vx\\_xTT1M-d8](https://youtu.be/Vx_xTT1M-d8) (lyrics on screen)

**FAST CAR**

Words and Music by  
TRACY CHAPMAN

Moderately

Play 4 times

## 2. Bobi Wine - Uganda

Bobi Wine is the stage name of a musician turned politician in Uganda aka Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu. He began his career in the early 2000s and has had huge success in East Africa. His music is described as reggae, dancehall and afrobeat with a socially conscious message. He is also an actor and had his own reality TV show The Ghetto President in 2014.

In 2017, the reggae star turned his hand to politics as he saw it as the logical next step.

"You know, all through my musical career, I've been singing about the challenges that... people go through, So it's as if I've been campaigning, all my musical career."

He was elected to Parliament and set up a new political party known as the National Unity Party with the catchy slogan '*people power, our power*'. In 2021 he ran for President and while he appealed to younger and poorer voters through social media he received just 35% of the vote. During the election the campaign there were many violent clashes with many killed and detained. Wine himself was placed under house arrest after the election but was released

'We shall wear the victor's crown' was his campaign anthem  
<https://youtu.be/jJcqew3dQ9g>

### Suggested Activity:

- Analyse any of these featured songs using Worksheet 1
- Investigate and compare poverty and social inequality in Kenya, Uganda or the USA today

### Censorship:

#### Afghan musicians silently await their fate as Taliban's ban looms

Amid upheaval across the country, it remains unclear whether a new government will forbid music as it did 25 years ago

#### Mali music ban by Islamists 'crushing culture to impose rule'

Rebels' clampdown on live performances, from Amadou and Mariam to Tinariwen, is driving music underground

#### 'Rock and Roll Is at Its Most Beautiful Stage When It's Free'

In Myanmar, a military coup ripped away rock musicians' glimpse of creative freedom. Faced with a return to repression and censorship, they are finding ways to fight back

Malala Yousafzai the Pakistani activist has spoken often of the power of our voice: '*We realise the power of our voice when we are silenced*.' Music has always been a target for censorship as musicians are targeted out of fear of their power over listeners.

In 1962, western music was banned in Myanmar because the government believed that it promoted the rejection of discipline and encourage cultural freedom.

In Afghanistan during the Taliban government of 1996-2001 all music was banned except the playing of the frame drum 'the Daireh' and chants glorifying the Taliban.

In Mali, areas controlled by Islamic rebel groups have banned all music including the music of musicians such as Toumani Diabate who has had

success bringing African musical styles to the West:

<https://youtu.be/PXKAWgRHerI>

**Suggested Activity:**

- Investigate the story behind one of the headlines above and create a musical response
- 'Words have power' activity on the impact of slogans: P 17 '[Peace and Justice: It's up to Youth](#)'