

Web of Rights

A spiderweb activity linking global justice issues to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).



In this activity, learners connect universal human rights (from the UDHR) with chosen global justice issues.

You will need:

- A ball of string or wool.
- A printout of the summary (taken from the Council of Europe Youth Portal) of the 30 articles from the UDHR in Fig 2 at the end of this document. Cut out selected articles that connect with the global justice issue you choose to explore from Fig 1 below.
- A global justice issue, which you will choose before the activity, from this selection:

Fig 1: Global justice issues to choose from.

Time: 15-20 minutes (or longer, depending on class size and how many global justice issues are chosen)



Activity

1. Ask learners to stand in a circle.
2. Give each learner one of the articles (cut out previously). Keep one article yourself, so that you can start the game.
3. Stand in the circle, holding the ball of wool yourself.
4. Name your chosen global justice issue from Fig 1 above. Display the chosen global justice issue on the board to remind learners throughout the activity.
5. Start the game yourself, by reading out your article and explaining its connection to the chosen global justice issue. E.g. if you chose the global justice issue of Peace and Justice, and you have Article 21 (the Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections), you could read out this article and say, 'The right of every citizen to vote is crucial to ensure peace and justice in society.'
6. **Either:**
You hold one end of the wool and throw the ball to a learner. That learner reads out their article and explains its link to Peace and Justice e.g. if they have Article 1 (the Right to Equality) the learner could say, 'People must be valued equally and treated fairly in order to live in peace together.'
Or (with less confident groups):
A learner raises their hand when they think of a link between their article and the global justice issue of Peace and Justice. You then keep the loose end of the wool/string and throw the rest of the ball to that learner.
7. More learners raise their hands in turn, and the ball of wool is thrown, with each learner holding on to their thread and throwing the rest of the ball. In this way, a 'spiderweb' is formed between the group, and the connections between human rights and global justice issues become clear.
8. At the end of the activity, one learner could drop their section of wool and the others all pull, causing the web to collapse/tangle. You can ask learners what the activity shows:
Answers may include:
 - Human rights and global justice issues are both inter-connected (ie human rights both cause, and result from, global justice) and intra-connected (ie one human right is connected to another right, and one global justice issue is connected to another global justice issue).
 - Removing one right impacts on others, i.e. 'unbalances' the web. Global justice requires all rights to be upheld.
Additional discussion questions:
 - Do you agree that rights can be universal, or do they vary between cultures?
 - What about 'justice'. Is that subjective/dependent on culture as well?
9. When that global justice issue is exhausted, another issue can be chosen from Fig. 1 and another spiderweb formed, linking learners' articles to the new issue.

Note: This activity can also be used to explore links between individual Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and between SDGs and global justice issues. See the [WWGS Activities Resource Connections Web](#) for more details.

Fig 2: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (summary)

from the [Council of Europe Youth Portal](#)

Article 1 Right to Equality	Article 16 Right to Marriage and Family
Article 2 Freedom from Discrimination	Article 17 Right to Own Property
Article 3 Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security	Article 18 Freedom of Belief and Religion
Article 4 Freedom from Slaver	Article 19 Freedom of Opinion and Information
Article 5 Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment	Article 20 Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
Article 5 Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment	Article 21 Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
Article 6 Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law	Article 22 Right to Social Security
Article 7 Right to Equality before the Law	Article 23 Right to Desirable Work and to join Trade Unions
Article 8 Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal	Article 24 Right to Rest and Leisure
Article 9 Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile	Article 25 Right to Adequate Living Standard
Article 10 Right to Fair Public Hearing	Article 26 Right to Education
Article 11 Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty	Article 27 Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community
Article 12 Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence	Article 28 Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document
Article 13 Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country	Article 29 Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development
Article 14 Right to Asylum in Other Countries from Persecution	Article 30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights
Article 15 Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change it	