“Walk a Mile in their shoes”
Human Rights Assignment

How could they do it, how could they?
I don’t know, but they did it. They’ve done it before and they did it tonight and they’ll do it again and when they do it – seems that only children weep.

Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

United Nations, *Declaration of Human Rights*
VELS Level 6.

English and Humanities

Interdisciplinary

Personal, Physical and Social strands of the VELS

the Domain of

- **Communication** the students present, listen and respond to each other’s speeches
- **ICT** they create a Powerpoint presentation with focus on which UN Human Rights and the violations occurring in their area of research
- **Thinking** they make ‘informed decisions based on their analysis of various perspectives and, sometimes contradictory information.
- **Personal Learning** they construct learning goals and set out the courses of action to understanding the area they have selected for their area of Human Rights investigation
- **Civics and Citizenship** students investigate the nature and history of the concept of Human Rights. They become aware of national and international legislation designed to protect those rights. They explore Human Rights issues at the national and international level, including investigation of the Human Rights of groups in Australia
The Task Sheet

"Walk a Mile in their shoes"
Human Rights Presentation

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

Task One: In pairs, choose a Human Rights issue that is of interest to you and prepare a Powerpoint presentation that would be most be effective in the general community.

Your group presentation MUST:
- Explain the issue, its history and where it is occurring.
- Refer to the UN Declaration of Human Rights.
- Give the victims a "voice", providing accounts of their experiences and their views.
- Provide images and statistics that reflect the gravity.
- Clearly identify and examine campaigns being waged to introduce positive change and the key figures or organizations involved. (UN, Amnesty International, Greenpeace etc)
- Provide a bibliography of the resources used. (You do not need to list these in your speech)
- Link at least one quote from To Kill A Mockingbird that relates to your issue.

Task Two: Prepare a summary of at least 3 articles or studies that you have read as part of your research.

The summary should outline:
- Title
- Author
- Source and date of the article
- A 3-4 sentence summary of the main information.
- One key quote from each piece.

Task Three: "React" is a monthly magazine aimed at and written by teenagers. It provides stories on real issues and seeks to promote discussion and thinking about local and global issues. They are publishing a "Human Rights" edition and would like you to assist.

- Prepare a 500-600 word opinion article. Your piece should draw from the information you have researched, but be written in a manner that teenagers would understand. Ensure your layout is appropriate for both the magazine and its audience. Think about adding some features that would enhance the appeal of your piece.
- Design a front cover for this edition that refers to your issue and other Human Rights issues of interest.

Task Four:
Prepare a 3 min speech that addresses the following topic:

"The importance of addressing Human Rights in the 21st century."
Sample Work
(la dee dah)
Individual Powerpoint Presentation
Basic Content is prescribed
Civilians Rights in Iraq

By Imogen Rollnik
Background Information

- Before the war started, Amnesty International warned about more suffering.
- Hundreds of civilians were killed during the war.
- US government gained control of Baghdad.
What is happening now?

• Killing of civilians by coalition forces or armed individuals.
• People are missing from their families.
• Coalition forces vs. Iraqi officials.
• House demolitions and searches.
• Victims of lawlessness.
• Violence against women.
UN Declaration

• **Article 3:**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
Victim’s voice
Campaigns

- Human Rights Watch
- Amnesty International
- Global Exchange
To Kill A Mockingbird

- “If there’s just one kind of folks, why can’t they get along with each other? If they’re all alike, why do they go out of their way to despise each other?”
Bibliography

http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGMDE140062004
http://www.worldlymind.org/birth.html
http://www.cesr.org/iraq/
http://www.serendipity.li/hr.html#Iraq
http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/iraq1003/12.htm
"REACT" Magazine Covers
Sex Slavery
A Life As a Sex Slave Is a Living Hell

Women and Children Trafficking

Imagine being one of those women or children who don't have a home or a place to sleep. Imagine being constantly tortured and attacked by men in uniforms.

Imagine having the most brutal tortures performed on you for no reason.

Camel Racing
One of those killer hobbies

This is torture...

React
REACT
MAGAZINE

Arranged
Marriages
Daughters betrayed by
their own parents-VQ

Child
Labour

Free the
Refugees

HUMAN RIGHTS EDITION
Refugees in Sudan: “The world’s worst humanitarian crisis”

Al-Qaeda suspects ‘Disappeared’

The War Through My Eyes: Children’s drawings of Chechnya

Campaign Against Human Trafficking

Our chocolate, shoes & makeup are being made by CHILD SLAVES

Homosexuals: Do they deserve the right to marriage?

Racism

Are you racist?

Honour killings in Muslim families threaten women

Rwanda: Rape survivors find no justice
POVERTY
"many die because they are just too poor to live"
Lenny Henry. How real is it in our world? Page 23

Sweat shops in China: how can you help? Page 32

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: Does it still exist in our world today? Page 30

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
with Amanda Vanstone

Real Life Stories:
To be born a Girl
Almost a Miracle
Page 14

PRISONS: The shocking horrors in prisons in other countries and pictures
Page 33

Slave Labour: how fair is it in our society?
Page 3

UNITED NATIONS step in to help others too
Page 36
REACT
THE FORGOTTEN ONES

EDUCATION - HEALTH
HAZARD

baby girls killed in China (pg 24)

backyard abortions are the wrong way to go about it (pg 28)

SEXUALITY STILL HAPPENS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD
(pg 36)

10 ways you can help change the world
(pg 35)
“REACT” Magazine Article
Target audience : 14-16 Year olds
THE FORGOTTEN ONES

Article by Linda Li

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

So why hasn’t the arbitrary imprisonment of refugees ceased? Because the Australian government is deliberately trying to prevent the public from seeing refugees as human beings.

The Howard government has executed a multifaceted strategy. One element of this strategy is to hold most of the asylum seekers in the most remote and isolatable parts of Australia. The conditions of the refugees are dire, and many are being imprisoned, denied bail, and placed in remote detention centres.

The second element was to ban the press from reporting centres on grounds of “privacy.” The government argued that it was protecting the refugees’ privacy, but at the same time ignoring their right to liberty. At one point, the government even demanded a media ban on all reports of conditions in the detention centres.

The third element was to vilify asylum seekers and label them as “illegals,” “queue jumpers,” and “welfare scroungers.” People who come here lawfully are not “illegals.” They are asylum seekers, and, according to a right’s conference on international conventions to seek asylum in any country they can reach. They certainly offend by arriving without permission, but without an invitation, seeking our protection makes asylum seekers few and far between.

Imagine the public’s reaction if the victim of this law was a member of any other immigrant group – had people, or people with blue eyes.

The Howard government has warmed its hands on the flames of ignorance, leading to a widespread misunderstanding of the issue. We must educate ourselves and demand better treatment for refugees.

The Forgotten Ones – referring to asylum seekers held in detention centres – is an apt description of their plight.

Article by Linda Li
Why Sudan Sucks

Sudan is in the remote desert region of Africa. The causes of the conflict are complex and historical, but there is a lack of social, cultural and religious differences along with the poverty of resources and quality of life. A situation resulted when the government and rebels fought in the region to suppress the Christian Sudanese who were fighting against many years of social discrimination and violence. Eighteen months later, there is a disaster in the region.

The Janjaweed, a group of local extremists, comes to villages, kill all the men, rape the women and children and burn their homes. Girls as young as eight are being raped in Darfur, Sudan, and sold as sex slaves. The region was once peaceful, but now it is a war zone. Children are being tortured and killed. The international community is doing very little to stop it. Despite promises of peace and safety, the government continues to turn a blind eye on what is happening. In fact, the government is still fighting with the rebels.

In Darfur and Chad, children are starving. Sometimes as many as 60 families share a single latrine. Organizations like Save the Children, UNICEF and the Red Cross are struggling to provide food and water. The situation is dire, but the government is not doing enough to help.

What can you do?
- Donate money to humanitarian organizations to provide much-needed supplies and improve living conditions for families in Sudan. To give to Oxfam, Community Aid Abroad's Sudan Crisis Appeal call 1800 034 034 or donate online at www.oxfam.org.au.
- You can also write a letter or petition to the Australian or Sudan government expressing your opinion. Visit the Amnesty International website if you are interested.

Written by Samantha Rodger

[Map of Sudan and Chad with highlighted areas and cities]

[Map with symbols indicating regions and cities in Sudan and Chad]

[Map with symbols indicating regions and cities in Sudan and Chad]
You've seen the blockbuster films showing murderers and rapists being sentenced to death for their malicious crimes. But imagine this being warranted by foreign police for a crime that was hardly worth serving jail time for.

This injustice happens every day.

**Where**

Today, most countries worldwide have abolished the death penalty as a means of punishment. Luckily, Australia is one of those countries. But there are still many countries who choose to execute killers, drug traffickers and even terrorists.

These countries include the USA, China, India, West and Middle Eastern and African countries, and Indonesia. This article will focus on Indonesia’s treatment of capital punishment victims.

**What**

Unlike America, where some may be very sensitive to the death penalty, Indonesia’s laws do not require a “bloody crime, or even murder. In many cases the “offender” is executed without sufficient evidence, and sometimes just randomly. Statistics show that over 90% of all worldwide executions are carried out in just four countries – China, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the USA. Indonesia’s death penalty is most commonly applied for murder and drug distribution, but the execution of 13 year old children on death row.

**How**

Indonesia’s method of execution is by a firing squad of five gunners, each with a rifle aimed at the victim’s heart. Firing directly at the heart means an quick and relatively painless death. But Europe’s reports have shown that an execution, Indonesian prisoners have been deliberately shot at the heart and then, because of the use of a different type of weapon, not actually killed. This is not just cruel, it is considered to be a form of torture.

**Why**

The Indonesian government makes frequent and strong pronouncements about its inability to stop executions, particularly for drug trafficking. Indonesia refuses to suspend the death penalty, claiming it does not offend international human rights laws, especially drug-related crimes like smuggling and possession. However, there is no evidence that the death penalty reduces crime rates.

The Indonesian Human Rights Commission (IHRRC) said it was concerned with the Indonesian judicial system, regarding corruption. It also said that the administration of the death penalty by the current judiciary is “extremely dangerous.” Following a visit to Indonesia in July 2005, the UN Special Rapporteur also had the same concerns.

**Who**

Each man has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**React**

Each man has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Declaration of Human Rights**

Although over the last 50 years, abolitionists have dramatically increased, there are still many countries that have kept the death penalty. The UN is currently conducting investigations to Indonesia in relation with the government and the UN in the situation. Many human rights organizations, namely Amnesty International have campaigned since 1981 to help a worldwide abolition of execution. There is also World Day Against the Death Penalty on October 10th. We can all do about the death penalty in Indonesia, but by raising awareness in the community and participating in World Day Against the Death Penalty, you can contribute to banning this brutal punishment.
CHILD SOLDIERS

"Lack of experience means that children are killed in higher percentages..."

Children have been used in military conflicts across the globe for many years, but it is only now that more people have become aware of the increasing problem at hand.

In current times it is present such as in the USA and Australia, Japan has an armed force of only and volunteers. In great civil war and Latin America. China, Japan, and the USA have a strong military, but the lack of the use of children in war and the lack of the use of children in this manner.

Children are more than ever being used in the Middle East, in Europe, and in Africa. The number of children killed in these conflicts is increasing. It is difficult to determine the exact number of children killed in these conflicts.

The use of child soldiers has been increasing in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. These countries have a large amount of child soldiers, and this is a growing problem. In Colombia, the use of child soldiers has been increasing in recent years. The use of child soldiers has been increasing in Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru. The use of child soldiers has been increasing in these countries, and this is a growing problem.

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