



Universal Children's Day assembly sheet

Universal Children's Day takes place annually on 20 November. Arranging an assembly focused on Universal Children's Day will help get your pupils thinking about children and young people whose lives are very different to their own.

Aim

- To celebrate Universal Children's Day on 20 November

Outcomes

Your pupils will:

- Understand the meaning of Universal Children's Day
- Gain an appreciation of how important 'rights' are
- Understand that there are children around the world whose rights are being denied
- Understand that if children's rights are denied then they will not have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in life
- Be inspired to 'unleash their potential' to support the work of Hope and Homes for Children

You will need

- Fathi's story – www.hopeandhomes.org/unleash/inspiration/support
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/C8CDC017719763AE4393C90EEC4E6602.pdf

Introduction

What is Universal Children's Day?

Universal Children's Day was established on 20 November 1959 by the United Nations to encourage people throughout the world to promote the welfare of children.

This day also saw the creation of the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child'. These rights are for all the world's children and young people (up to 18 years old).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was created to ensure that young people are protected and have their basic needs met. These needs are classed as rights and include education, health, recreation and protection from violence, abuse and neglect.

Universal Children's Day is important because not all children in the world have rights. The day allows children to understand what rights are, and to raise awareness of children and young people around the world whose rights are being denied.

Across the world 192 countries have signed up to the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child and are committed to securing the rights of children in their country.

Discussion one

Encourage your pupils to discuss what they think rights are. Ask them to suggest what rights are included in the Convention. Think about why a child's rights might be denied.

You can use the first part of Fathi's Story as a case study of a child whose rights are being denied. Ask your pupils to identify what rights he does not have and perhaps discuss why.

(Please see articles 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Prompts for discussion

- More than 120 million children are missing out on primary education (articles 28, 29 and 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- More than 270 million children do not have access to healthcare (articles 28, 29 and 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- More than 140 million children are orphaned
- Each year more than 10 million children become refugees due to conflict
- More than 400 million children do not have access to clean water

Conclusion

Use the second half of Fathi's story to show how organisations like Hope and Homes for Children are working to transform children's lives by restoring their rights.

Highlight that by taking part in Unleash Your Potential your pupils themselves are helping to give rights back to children and young people across Central and Eastern Europe and Africa who do not have them.