

How Can You Make a Difference?

You will have seen a range of ways in which global issues can be improved. But how can you help make a difference? This section outlines a number of things you can think about doing.

TAGS

Making a difference

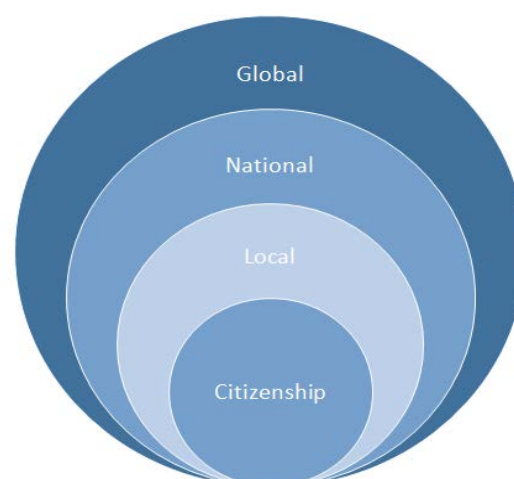
We all have influence on what our world looks like and we can help shape the future. It might seem that we can only have an impact on our own lives or on those that surround us, but the truth is that our lives are interconnected - even to people who live in the most remote places in the world.

There are lots of ways *you* can contribute to making the world a better place to live.

Where to focus your actions

The actions that you can take can be at different levels. For example, actions could be taken on a:

- **Local level:** e.g. when you engage friends from your school to organise a cake sale and raise money for an organisation that fights for access to free, quality education.
- **National level:** e.g. when you sign a petition to your prime minister so that he/she takes steps to tackle a specific issue you consider important.
- **International level:** e.g. when you join an international campaign that targets a global business to change its practices which keep people poor or disadvantaged.



Who to target

Your actions can also target different *people*. They can be:

- **You** – you can change your own behaviour, for example, recycling more to reduce climate change.
- **The public** – you can help other people to understand issues, and then either change their own behaviour, or influence politicians / businesses to do so.
- **Politicians** – these people have the power to change laws and funding, so they can make a huge difference (for example, by increasing aid for poorer countries).
- **Businesses** – globally large businesses employ billions of people and their policies and behaviour influences a huge number of global issues.

Influencing

These last two sets of people (politicians and businesses) are very important, as they have *more power* to change laws, policies and funding – all of which can make a huge difference. It is important therefore, to know how to *influence* them. And one way to influence them is to influence the *public*, as they care about what the public think.

Throughout the Schools for Future Youth website, we focus on actions that *raise awareness* and have the aim of *influencing others* so that they *change attitudes, conducts or policies* and *do the right thing*.

Making a difference

But how can your local, national or global actions, targeting yourself, the public, politicians or businesses, make a difference to issues which seem so far away from your life? Take a look at the [‘Being part of the solution’](#) PowerPoint to find out more.

Get inspired to act!

Here are some videos of other people who have taken action at local, national and global levels to make a difference.



Oxfam: [Climate change wave of action](#) (1'30'').



Oxfam: [Inequality and campaigning to reduce it across the world](#) (2'12'').



Oxfam: [Refugees and Syria](#) (2'34'').



Oxfam: [Climate change and the issue of Coal](#) (1'20'').

Think about these questions when watching the films:

- Who was their action targeting?
- What 'level' was it targeting?
- How did they carry out their action to make sure it had impact?
- What sort of success do you think it had?