



# Tool Kit for Young Activists

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It is important to take action and to realize that we can make a difference, and this will encourage others to take action and then we realize we are not alone and our cumulative actions truly make an even greater difference. This is how we spread the Light. And this, of course, makes us all even more hopeful.”- Jane Goodall

# WHAT IS AN ACTIVIST?



Activists are people who see injustice, inequality, or inequity and act to do something about it.

Activists work to bring about political or social change.

Activists do their best work in groups.

Numbers help them get attention.

All people care about others in their lives and community and want the best for them. Activists, too. They may care about many causes but to effectively organize, they focus their energy and rally with others on one issue at a time. Specificity IS authenticity!

**ACTIVISTS** are noticers, caretakers, and problem solvers.  
They want to make the world fair.



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## Find Your Cause..and your people.

Is there something you feel strongly about?  
Is there something you want to fix? Or revise?  
Ask around and find allies  
that agree with you.



# STEP TWO: MAKE A STRATEGY

**“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” – Elie Wiesel**

**Once you find a cause,  
tap into your passions,  
do your research, and GET SMART!  
Your actions and goals should be  
SPECIFIC  
MEASURABLE  
ATTAINABLE  
REASONABLE  
and TIMELY**



**Progress comes in small bites,  
not big gulps.**

**Take Action:**

**What small bite can you take:  
today  
this week  
this month  
this year**

**Keep it positive!**

**When you are optimistic, others will be, too.**

# STEP THREE: MAKE YOUR TEAM

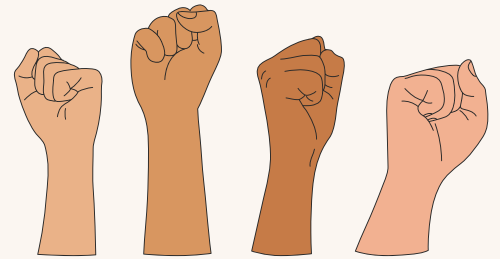
As women, we know that we must always find ways to change the process because the present institutions want to hold on to power and keep the status quo. -Bella Abzug

## WORK TOGETHER WITH THE TOOLS YOU HAVE?



**Brand it!**  
**T shirts and Buttons**  
**Flyers**  
**Slogans**

**Social media**  
**Protest**  
**Rally**  
**Meeting/Clubs**  
**Petition**



# STEP FOUR: DO NOT GIVE UP!

You're going to encounter people who will not be convinced by you or your cause. They may disagree. Vehemently. It's a reality and it will feel frustrating, but brush it off. All you need to do is try your best and then move on to the next. Far more people will want to join you than fight you.

Sometimes things can feel hopeless but when we take action, we are actively doing something to make change. And it feels good.

Taking action on the things we believe in is the best way to keep hope alive for the future. Not just your hopes, but all of our hopes.



**“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” —James Baldwin**

**KNOW THE DIFFERENCE between CHARITY and SOCIETAL CHANGE.**

**Charity: addresses immediate needs**

**Societal change: empowers and enables people to pursue what they want.**

# **STRATEGIZE and DO SOMETHING:**

**What are your demands?**

**Who are your targets?**

**What resources can you take advantage of?**

**Who is going to support your ideas? Are there other groups discussing your ideas? Can you merge?**

**What tactics can you successfully use?**

**Example: Across the country, books are being banned. Obviously, not banning books is the target. But what can you demand? Do you know who the stake holders are?**

**How can you stand up for books and advocate for book access?**

**What can you say to address the fears of people who are worried about the content of these books?**

# GET INSPIRED!

- ✓ Read books about people who have worked hard for a variety of causes.
- ✓ Invite friends to be curious.
- ✓ Ask questions. Get to know the people in your community.
- ✓ No judgment. If someone disagrees, present them with facts and let them find their own answers. LISTEN. Compromise is a great step forward.
- ✓ Being an activist can feel scary, so brainstorm ways for everyone to get involved.
- ✓ If you see something happening in your community, sign up to help...as a family.
- ✓ No prizes necessary! Encourage friends to take action for the greater good. Not for credit.
- ✓ Be a role model by helping others.

**That is how we ALL win!**