

# CHV20 Unit 3: Global Citizenship

## Activity 4: Global Organizations

---

### Overview

This activity will introduce students to global organizations, specifically non-governmental organizations that are addressing the global concerns examined in lesson four.

### Lesson

#### *How Can You Stand Up For Human Rights?*

Everyone has had a time in his/her life when he/she wished things had turned out differently. Believe it or not, this is a vital part of active citizenship. Active citizens believe that they can create change in many different ways before the problem becomes increasingly problematic.

Throughout history these active citizens have attempted to alter events that were affecting their human rights. But what can we do as citizens to change decisions from affecting us?

Human rights are essential to our growth as individuals and our growth as a community. We need to respect the dignity of every human being and find a way to promote the common good throughout the world.

1. **Keep informed about global concerns.** Watch the news, read the newspaper, explore the Internet. In this information age, we have access to an abundance of information.
2. **Educate yourself about global issues.** If you are interesting in learning more about a topic, take some time to look into it.
3. **Make others aware of human rights violations.** Promote awareness in your school or join an activist group.
4. **Use the methods of non-violent action.** You will find a list of these below.
5. **Use your rights to foster the rights of others.**



### ***Methods of Non-Violent Action***

1. Write a letter
2. Create a petition
3. Join a local activist group
4. Create a song, art, children's book, computer game, a symbol with a message
5. Get involved
6. Lobby a committee or group
7. Organize an awareness assembly
8. Organize a protest
9. Join an NGO
10. Found an NGO

### ***Non-Governmental Organizations***

There are many ways in which individuals or groups can act to support organizations and projects beyond the borders of their own countries. Some of these organizations and projects are undertaken directly by the government. Others are **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**. Most NGOs depend on a small amount of government assistance or none at all. Instead, they receive contributions from private citizens and groups. NGOs often focus on one-on-one contact with the local people that they are helping. Many NGOs prefer to be completely independent from government policies and priorities.

## **Assignment**

Select an NGO that you would like to research. Find and provide the following information, along with any other relevant facts that are specific to the organization:

- The name and origins of the organization
- The primary aims and goals of the specific NGO
- Major events in its history
- Roles played by Canadians (if applicable)
- Its successes and failures
- Regional/national/international contact information

The following is a list of some suitable NGOs that may be researched:

- The United Nations
- Amnesty International
- Doctors Without Borders
- Sierra Club
- International Olympic Committee
- Greenpeace
- Goodwill Industries
- Oxfam
- Red Cross
- Canadians Against Violence