

Children's Rights Alliance
for England

Pledge month!

November 2009

Information and activity pack

**Get
Ready
for
Change!**

Get ready for change!

Pledge month November 2009

A children's rights pledge is a public promise by a decision-maker to take action to improve children's rights in the local area.

During **pledge month**, *Get ready for change!* campaigners will be encouraging their local decision-makers to make a children's rights pledge. It's even more important this year because we are celebrating 20 years of children's rights!

This pack contains all the information you need to help you with **pledge month**. We can also send you the following if you e-mail us:

- Copies of the pledge form
- A 'how to make a pledge' guide
- A 'how to identify a decision-maker' guide
- A draft press release
- A draft letter to your MP
- ...and lots more!

You can also find out more information about pledges and children's rights in the *Get ready for change!* campaign pack.

Check out:

- Page 20 - Talking to decision-makers
- Page 21 - An example letter to your local decision-maker
- Pages 22 to 24 - Investigating a children's rights issue (this is helpful if you aren't sure about the kind of things that affect children and young people where you live)
- You could also use run an activity about children's rights in your school using the activities insert at the back.

If you would like a copy of the campaign pack just get in touch!

We are really keen to have as many pledges made on the website as possible. Decision-makers have the power to make change happen - sometimes we just need to make them aware of the things that need to be changed!

We will also be sending certificates for young people who get their decision-makers to make a pledge!

If you would like to get involved in **pledge month**, contact **Krishna** on 020 7278 8222 ext. 26 or at kmaroo@crae.org.uk



Inspiration...

Ok, so asking a decision-maker to make a children's rights pledge might sound scary, but have a look here and see how easy it can be!



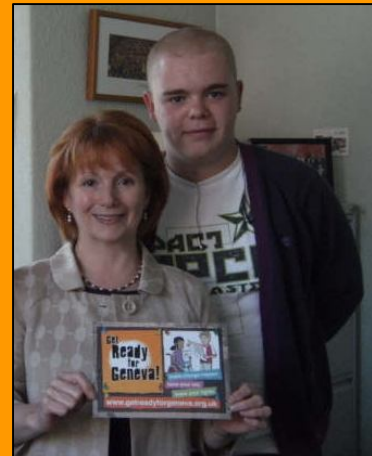
In August, 2007 Jacob asked Julia Goldsworthy MP to make a children's rights pledge after she talked to children in Cornwall about issues that affect them.

You can read her pledge here:
<http://tiny.cc/8URH6>

John, a champion from the North West, set up a meeting with his local MP, Hazel Blears. Have a look at what John got up to by clicking on the link below:

<http://tiny.cc/xg91z>

At the end of the meeting, John asked his local MP to pledge to come to a training day about children's rights – and she agreed!



YOU!

Pledge Month is the perfect opportunity for YOU to talk to a decision-maker and ask them to make a **children's rights pledge**.

Check out some more children's rights pledges on the Get ready for change! website:

http://www.getreadyforchange.org.uk/champions/pledge_archives

Public pledge

MPs aren't the only people who can improve the lives of children and young people in England. Local decision-makers have the power too!

What is a public pledge?

A public pledge is written promise made by an adult decision-maker that will improve the lives of children and young people in their area, and make sure their human rights are respected.

As a Get ready for change! campaigner, we want you to encourage at least one important decision-maker to make a promise for children!

Where can a pledge be made?

<http://tiny.cc/TIXrO>

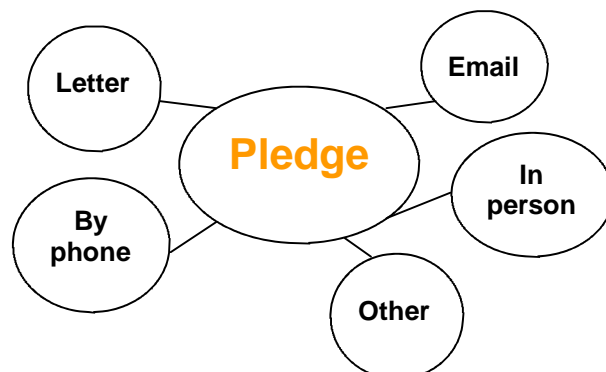
Some pledges have already been made, have a look for some ideas!

<http://tiny.cc/GvSZg>

Who can make a public pledge?

Any adult decision-maker who can help improve the lives of children and young people in your area!

Ways of asking your decision-maker to make a pledge:



See page 20 - 21 of *Get ready for change* for more information!

Remember to:

- Explain what the *Get ready for change!* project is about
- Explain what kind of pledge you would like them to make
- Try and get them to make a pledge straight away!
- Remind them to make their pledge online if they have said they will!

This is what the pledge form looks like!

Children's rights pledge form

Your information
All fields are required

Name
Your name

Job title
Your job title

Organisation
Your organisation

Address

Email
Your email

Your pledge details
Your pledge

How many children and young people will this benefit?
Number of children this will benefit here

By when do you hope to have achieved this pledge?
Completion date here

Which children's rights champion persuaded you to make this pledge?
Champion name here

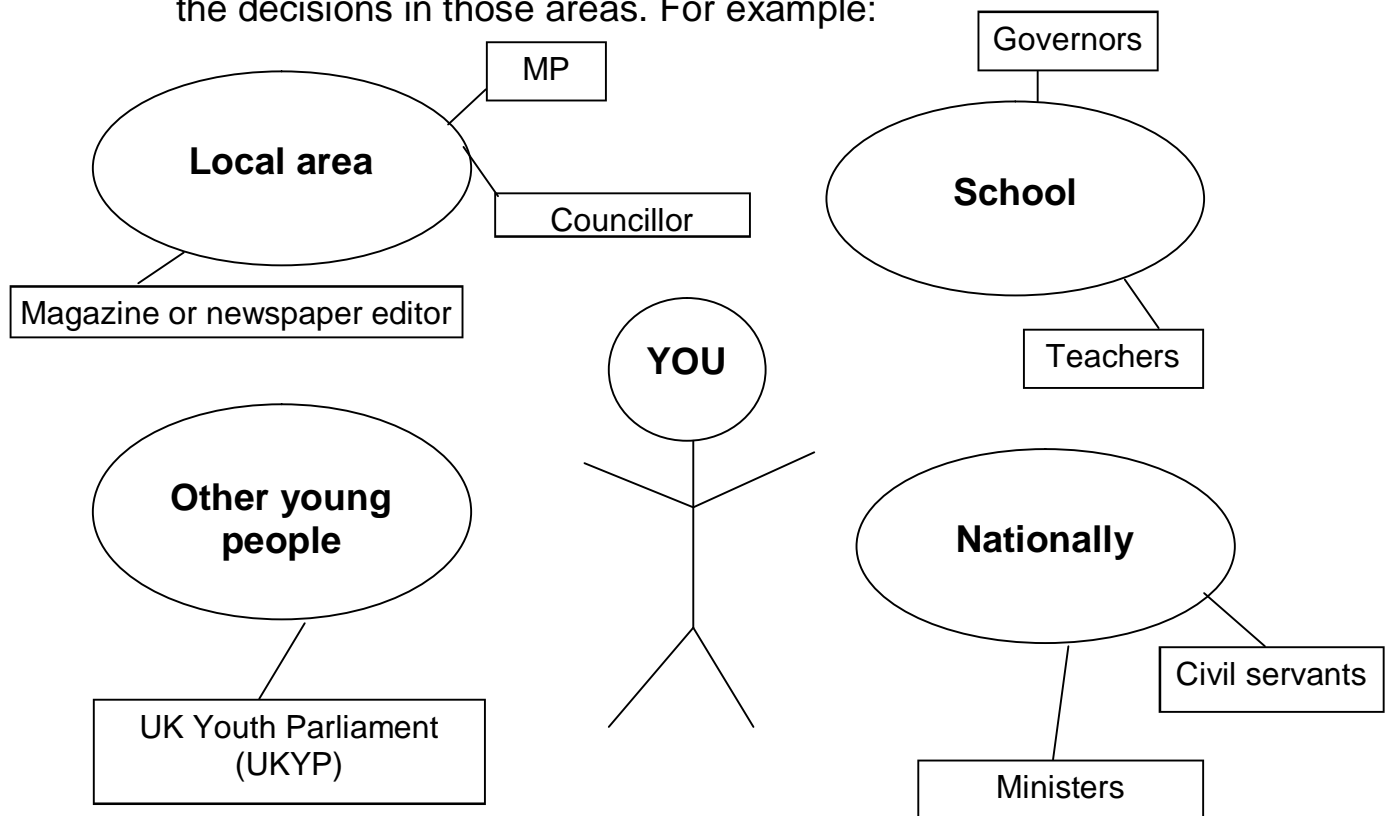
Submit

Decision-makers

Who makes the decisions where you live?

This will help you work out who makes the decisions that affect you in your local area.

- Draw a picture of yourself in the middle of a piece of paper
- Draw 4 circles around it, and label them like the ones below
- Write down the names or job titles of as many people who make the decisions in those areas. For example:



Extra bits...

Why not think of the different ways you can communicate with your decision-makers?

- **Make a list of different ways of communicating with people and match these up with the different people in your network**

Would you communicate with your parent or carer in the same way that you would communicate with your MP?

Now you have worked out who your decision-makers are, contact them! Encourage them to make their pledge on the *Get ready for change!* site.

Remember:

Everyone makes decisions ALL the time – what are the most important ones for children and young people?

Take action...

Pledge tick list

I have picked an issue that is important to me and other young people in my area

I have identified a decision-maker to contact to talk about this issue

I have contacted my decision-maker to set up a meeting

I have talked to my decision-maker about issues that affect local young people

I have asked my decision-maker to make a children's rights pledge

I have encouraged my decision-maker to make a pledge and it's now online!!

I have told CRAE what my pledge experience was like by phone, e-mail or through my blog

Thank you...

...for taking part in **pledge month!**