

SOLIDARITY

How can we support each other?

We need each other every day and especially in a time of crisis, like the present health emergency. To sustain democracy in a crisis, citizens need to take responsibility and show solidarity. This lesson looks at how learners can contribute to the process of social unity despite social distancing.

Learners will be able to:

- ▶ Reflect on the current situation from the perspective of people who are in need;
- ▶ Analyse different forms of bringing help;
- ▶ Identify ways in which they can support their families and communities;
- ▶ Develop their empathy and civic-mindedness.

STIMULUS

Video 1: <https://youtu.be/okpuFgbjzUQ>

Video 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuFYIUjFoD4>

You may wish to find similar videos from your country.

DISCUSSION

After Video 1:

- ▶ What kinds of people do you think need extra support in the coronavirus emergency? Make a list of the ones most in need and say what their needs are.
- ▶ What can other people do to give them the support they need? Think of some practical ways.
- ▶ How can the internet help? How many different ways can you think of?
- ▶ Might people be putting their own health at risk by helping others at this time? How could they avoid this?
- ▶ Have you heard about any support groups in your own community? What do they do? How do they protect themselves from the virus? Have you or your family members been involved?

After Video 2:

- ▶ What kind of things can young people of your age do – on-line and off-line?
- ▶ Would there be any risk involved in this? How would you make sure you yourself kept safe?
- ▶ How would you make sure you don't put others' lives at risk?

Simplify the questions for young learners.

Not enough time? Skip some of the questions. More time? Have learners discuss in small groups (e.g. in discussion threads), then have them present their opinions to the whole group (e.g. using mind-maps).

CONCLUSION

Summarise ideas of how the learners can help their community or family.

A brief input from the teacher. Let's pull together in different possible ways to support each other the best way we can. We can show each other that we are together – no matter where. Young people, as the first truly digital generation has a huge role to play here. What new apps/platforms/ways of communication can be used by your families and communities to sustain social unity and bring help those in need?

People must think of their own safety and the safety of others while offering forms of support that involve face-to-face contact with others.

Check for any current safety restrictions for your learners, and make sure their ideas and actions are in line with the regulations.

Underline the importance of safety. Reckless actions can put many lives at risk.

ASSIGNMENT

Learners choose one of the ways in which people of their age can use the internet to help people in need at this time. They think of a way that does not involve leaving home. They write it up, presenting it in an appealing way, describing what it involves and why they would recommend it to others in their class to try.

Better carried out in small groups but could also be done individually. If using small groups, select members to give learners a chance of working with different classmates.

FOLLOW-UP

Learners consider the ideas other class members have chosen and how practical they are. They think about their advantages and disadvantages. Encourage them to try out one of these ideas themselves, either on their own or with friends.

Learners consider whether, when the coronavirus emergency is over, we can all go back just to looking after ourselves? Or will there always be people who need this kind of support from young people.