

A Human Rights Calendar

Every day of the year is a human rights day!



Complexity



8-13 years



60-90 minutes to
to start. Monthly
sessions after.



4-30 children



Human Rights

Type of activity

Drawing, painting, cutting, presenting information graphically

Overview

Making a group calendar to mark important human right dates

Objectives

- To raise awareness of the many aspects of human rights
- To raise awareness of divisions of time (e.g. months, weeks, days of the week) and the dates of special occasions
- To improve planning skills
- To develop creativity and imagination

Preparation

- Prepare a label or laminated sheet for each month. Stick these up, in order, around the room
- Prepare and copy a list of 'Special Days to Remember'. Make sure you know what each of these days is supposed to remember, so that you can explain, if necessary.

Materials

- 12 sheets of A4 paper with the months of the year, if possible laminated in plastic
- Copies of the handout 'Special Days to Remember'
- Pens, markers or coloured pencils for each group
- Sticky tape
- A few sheets of A4 paper for each of the Days to Remember
- Post-its or small coloured pieces of paper
- Optional: additional art supplies, a small calendar, a child-friendly copy of the CRC for each group

Instructions

1. Explain to the children that they are going to make a calendar that will tell them when special days are coming up, especially those that relate to human rights. Show them the 12 months written on the wall (or floor).
2. Discuss with the children what human rights are and explain, if they don't know already, that there are also children's rights. Ask the children for examples of children's rights and give examples of your own if necessary.
3. Ask the children if they know of any special days that can be linked to children's rights or human rights. Ask them to recall any holiday days or special days and see if they can relate them to children's rights or human rights (e.g. religious holidays can be linked to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Belief; national holidays to the right to a nationality; cultural holidays to the right to culture). List these examples on post-its or pieces of paper and stick them under the

- correct month. Encourage the children to be creative and think of some days that can be linked to human rights. Encourage them to guess. Then distribute the list of 'Special Days to Remember'.
4. Ask if the children are aware of any of these days, and why are they important. For those they do not know, explain their significance briefly. Ask children to suggest ways to celebrate some of these holidays to show their importance to human rights.
 5. Divide children into four or more groups and assign each group a few *special days* to work on. Give the groups A4 paper, colouring materials, coloured paper and other resources to complete the calendar.
 6. When the pages are complete, ask the children to put their drawings under the correct month on the wall, so everyone can see them. Explain that a few very important holidays have been left out!
 7. Ask the children if birthdays count as an important date, and why birthdays are related to human rights. Explain that everyone has a right to life and to a name. Give everyone a post it and ask them to write the date of their birthday with their name. One by one, ask them to stick their post-it onto the big calendar, and say, "My birthday is an important day!"

Debriefing and Evaluation

1. Discuss the activity by using questions such as these:
 - Did you enjoy this activity?
 - What did you learn about the calendar? About human rights?
 - Do you think it is important to mark these days? Why?
 - Which of these special days do you look forward to? Why?
2. Point out that although we celebrate these special days, we enjoy human rights every day. Ask questions such as these:
 - What are some of the human rights you enjoy every day? Which human right(s) are you enjoying at this moment?
 - Does every child have these rights? Does every child have the opportunity to enjoy them?
 - What can we do to make sure that every child's rights are protected?

Suggestions for follow-up

At the beginning of every month, remind the children of the events coming up in that month. Explain the significance of the days, drawing a connection to human rights. Plan together how to celebrate each one.

In the week of a special human rights day, choose an activity from *Compasito* that addresses issues related to that particular holiday. Use the activity summary to help with this selection.

Ask children to research specific days in order to become experts on why the day is important.

Ideas for action

Ask the children to plan how to celebrate special days, including birthdays.

The children may want to organise a celebration of certain holidays in the whole community, for example, for Human Rights Day or Children's Rights Day.

Tips for the facilitator

Move among the groups while they work on the calendar to make sure that children understand the meaning of each holiday they are working on.

If you include national or local cultural and religious holidays, be sure to include all those celebrated by the families and communities of children in the group. When in doubt, ask the children to bring a list from home.

To be sure that each child's birthday is celebrated equally, develop a group ritual with the same privileges, recognition or treats for every birthday child. Depending on the local culture, you may want to use a child's name day rather than their birthday.

Look for ways to make the calendar lively and decorative. Encourage use of appropriate symbols for each holiday and names in other languages.

Adaptations

For older children: give them copies of the child-friendly version of the CRC and / or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and ask them to try to connect the holidays on their pages with specific rights (or articles). Do not reproduce the whole list of special days, but select days of relevance to your group, even if the children are not yet familiar with that holiday. The three days marked with a star have particular significance for children or for human rights.

Instead of giving each child a day to work on, ask them to create a group drawing for different days.

Adapted from Compass: A Manual on Human rights education with Young People (Council of Europe, 2002), p. 263.



Handout

Suggested days to remember

January 1	World Peace Day
January 24	International Day of Education
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
February 21	International Mother Language Day
March 3	World Wildlife Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21	World Forest Day
March 22	World Water Day
March 27	World Theatre Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 8	International Roma Day
April 22	Earth Day
May 1	International Workers' Day
May 9	Europe Day
May 15	International Day of Families
June 1	World Children's Day*
June 5	World Environment Day
June 20	World Refugee Day
June 21	World Peace and Prayer Day
August 7	Education Day
August 12	International Youth Day
September 15	International Day of Democracy
October 1	International Music Day
October 5	World Teachers' Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 24	United Nations Day
November 9	International Day against Fascism and Antisemitism
November 16	International Day for Tolerance
November 20	World Children's Day*
November 25	International Day for Elimination of Violence against women
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 3	International Day of Disabled Persons
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 18	International Migrants' Day

*Children are celebrated on June 1, International Children's Day, and on November 20, Universal Children's Day, the day observed by the UN and UNESCO. In addition, many countries observe their own Children's Day.