

# Web Resources for Teaching about Human Rights

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The study of human rights is inseparable from social studies. Beyond the basic political, economic, and social freedoms and rights spelled out in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, hundreds of specialized topics have developed that demonstrate the complex nature of human rights in the twenty-first-century world—environmental exploitation of indigenous peoples in Brazil, child soldiers in Sierra Leone, the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa, human trafficking in the United States, and more. Below is a small sampler of websites that represent a few of the amazing resources available.

The first section includes websites that are *global in scope*. These major sites address all world regions and many types of human rights issues. In the second section, are sites selected to demonstrate *multiple perspectives* on how people across the world are working to support and extend human rights in places where poverty, conflict, or repressive regimes oppress people of all ages. Some of these sites focus on: a population (children, foreign workers), an issue (religious persecution), one nation/region's issues, or a combination of these (women's rights in Afghanistan). As we are educators from Cameroon, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, and the United States, we hope that our knowledge and diverse experiences have identified sites that will contribute to your students' global understanding.

Many sites noted below have RSS (Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary) feeds that are designated with the symbol . We find that we (and our students) are more likely to engage with a topic if we have an RSS feed on our computers, phones, or other devices.

The Internet offers a wealth of information about the pervasive issues permeating the world's nations and cultures and provides firsthand knowledge about the human condition for individual research projects.

## Comprehensive Websites: Global Resources

**Amnesty International** has case studies, breaking news, and research such as **The 2012 State of the World's Human Rights** and its site is searchable by country (including the United States) and issues at [www.amnesty.org/](http://www.amnesty.org/) 

**Citizens for Global Solutions** has links to numerous documents related to human rights and case studies of abuses of human rights (<http://globalsolutions.org/human-rights>). See multimedia section for videos and projects ([www.multimedia.globalsolutions.org/](http://www.multimedia.globalsolutions.org/)) 

**Human Rights Watch** provides searchable access to human rights stories in the media across the planet ([www.hrw.org/](http://www.hrw.org/)) 

**The University of Minnesota's Center for Human Rights** (<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/center/default.html>) includes a major online library, data on 30+ issues, and links to human rights centers around the world. K-12 materials are available at [www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/](http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/) and <http://hrusa.org/thisismyhome/project/resourceslist.shtml>. Students can take a quiz to examine their school's "Human Rights Temperature" at [www.hrusa.org/hrmaterials/temperature/default.shtml](http://www.hrusa.org/hrmaterials/temperature/default.shtml)

**The United Nations** provides the most comprehensive international sites on human rights through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Cyberschoolbus, and other UN organizations. See international documents, events, and fact sheets by nation ([www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx)). The UN's Cyberschoolbus has materials for younger students at [www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/)  with links to activities ([www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/index.asp](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/index.asp)) such as a webquest on child soldiers ([www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/childsoldiers/webquest/](http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/childsoldiers/webquest/)).

The United Nations Population Fund promotes human rights through a culturally sensitive lens with data on women, children, indigenous peoples, cultural sensitivity, health, and more ([www.unfpa.org/public/](http://www.unfpa.org/public/)).

## Websites from Multiple Perspectives

**Asian Human Rights Commission.** See ongoing campaigns, publications and links to resources at [www.ahrchk.net/index.php](http://www.ahrchk.net/index.php). Links to a human rights correspondence school with lessons and multimedia are at [www.hrschool.org/](http://www.hrschool.org/).

**Asian Pacific Forum** highlights connections between human rights and topics such as sexual orientation and gender identity, women's rights, human trafficking, reproductive rights, business and human rights, and migration and migrant workers. The main site is at [www.asiapacificforum.net/](http://www.asiapacificforum.net/).

**Assistance Association for Political Prisoners** is a pro-democracy site on human rights in Burma with photos, stories and campaigns ([www.aappb.org/](http://www.aappb.org/)).

**Baobab for Women's Human Rights** includes news, programs and activities to improve the legal and human rights of women in Nigeria. Includes work by specialists on Muslim laws ([www.baobabwomen.org/history.htm](http://www.baobabwomen.org/history.htm)).

**Breaking the Silence** is a collection of testimonies of Israeli soldiers who served in the Occupied Territories during the Second Intifadah ([www.shovrimstika.org/index\\_e.asp](http://www.shovrimstika.org/index_e.asp)).

**Children's World**, aimed at kids, provides networking of children across the world, their experiences and stories, and stories of people who have improved the lives of children. The site includes activities for students and teachers ([www.childrensworld.org/page.html](http://www.childrensworld.org/page.html)). 

**Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)** provides information about children's rights including lesson plans and games for children related to discrimination and citizenship ([www.crin.org/index.asp](http://www.crin.org/index.asp)).

Child Soldiers Relief includes stories, a list of countries with child soldiers, laws

and treaties, lesson plans, maps and statistics on child soldiers, rehabilitation centers, videos and links to data in many countries ([www.childsoldierrelief.org/](http://www.childsoldierrelief.org/)) 

**Citizens Alliance for North Korean Human Rights** monitors human rights in North Korea ([www.nkhumanrights.or.kr/](http://www.nkhumanrights.or.kr/)).

**Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers** addresses global problems of children becoming inducted into war and civil strife at [www.child-soldiers.org](http://www.child-soldiers.org).

**Free Burma Coalition** is a Burmese-led initiative to support Burmese people's struggle for democracy and human rights through boycotts, pro-sanctions advocacy and Burma awareness promotion ([www.freeburmacoalition.org/](http://www.freeburmacoalition.org/)).

**Free the Children** was developed by Canadian child's rights activist Craig Kielburger because he was deeply moved by the death of Iqbal Masih, a bonded Pakistani child who was killed in 1995 for organizing against child labor. Set up for use by students, the interactive site includes videos, data, pictures, and blogs ([www.freethechildren.com/](http://www.freethechildren.com/)).

**Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA** works for the rights of abused women. The site provides news clips, fact sheets, timelines and other resources ([www.ghrc-usa.org/](http://www.ghrc-usa.org/)).

**Human Rights Network** was initiated by the China Society for Human Rights Studies and is the most comprehensive human rights website in China. It includes news, laws, stories, and analysis of human rights issues ([www.chinahumanrights.org/](http://www.chinahumanrights.org/)).

**India Together** addresses human rights, children, women, poverty, health followed by online discussions, mostly by Indians, on each topic ([www.india-together.org/humanrights/](http://www.india-together.org/humanrights/)). 

**International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (LGBT rights)** discusses rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons around the world from their points of view; is searchable by country or issue ([www.iglhrc.org/cgi-bin/iowa/home/index.html](http://www.iglhrc.org/cgi-bin/iowa/home/index.html)).

**Invisible Children** is a project undertaken by some American students to make visible the lives of children who are suffering in Northern Uganda through videos, projects, exchanges and more ([www.invisiblechildren.com/home.php](http://www.invisiblechildren.com/home.php)).

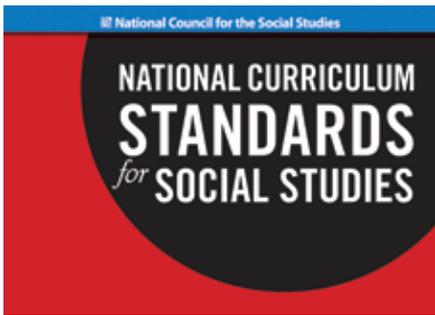
**Khodorkovsky & Lebedev Communication Center** tells the story of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev, currently serving prison terms in the Russian Federation, who are among the few who accumulated wealth and power in post-Soviet Russia. Their story illustrates the paradoxes of nascent capitalism and democracy in post-communist Russia ([www.khodorkovskycenter.com/](http://www.khodorkovskycenter.com/)). 

**Know Child Labor** was developed to protect children from economic exploitation. There are narratives in the real-life collection, information about child labor, and downloadable lesson plans ([www.knowchildlabor.org/](http://www.knowchildlabor.org/)).

**LibertadLatina.org** focuses on issues of women and children in the Americas from sexual harassment to modern slavery ([www.libertadlatina.org/Index.htm](http://www.libertadlatina.org/Index.htm)).

**Open Democracy: "Free Thinking for the World"** addresses democracy, human rights, and marginalized communities with sections on gender issues, terrorism, Russia, Gaza, India, and the UK ([www.opendemocracy.net/](http://www.opendemocracy.net/)). See podcasts at [www.opendemocracy.net/columns/podcast.jsp](http://www.opendemocracy.net/columns/podcast.jsp). 

**Palestinian Centre for Human Rights** provides images and photo-essays, documents, statistics and fact sheets on violations of Palestinian human rights ([www.pchrgaza.org/](http://www.pchrgaza.org/)).



A *must* for curriculum developers, social studies departments, teachers, and teacher education programs. Like the original standards, published in 1994, the book is based on the ten themes of social studies. It includes a revised section on essential social studies skills and strategies. It offers a sharper focus than the original standards on:

- **Purposes**
- **Questions for Exploration**
- **Knowledge: what learners need to understand**
- **Processes: what learners will be capable of doing**
- **Products: how learners demonstrate understanding**

Curriculum standards provide a framework for implementing content standards, and identify the student learning outcomes teachers should seek when they teach specific social studies disciplines. The standards emphasize the overarching purposes of social studies programs in schools: to promote the knowledge and skills that young people need in order to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse democratic society in an interdependent world.

To order the standards by telephone, call 1-800-683-0812. Alternatively, orders and purchase orders can be faxed to 301-843-0159 or mailed to: NCSS Publications, P.O. Box 2067, Waldorf, MD 20602-2067 — or you can visit the NCSS Online Store at [www.socialstudies.org/publications](http://www.socialstudies.org/publications)



**Regular price: \$ 29.95\*\***  
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**Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)** has graphic data and images of the life of women in Afghanistan over many years ([www.rawa.org/index.php](http://www.rawa.org/index.php))

**Take 2 Videos** provides professionally-shot conflict-zone, footage in Sudan, behind-the-scenes footage in Cuba, and footage on critical environmental issues to high school students and supports them in creating documentaries and public service announcements that demonstrate understanding and empathy with their subjects ([www.take2videos.org/](http://www.take2videos.org/)).

**The Asia-Japan Women’s Resource Center** deals with women’s rights in Asia ([www.ajwrc.org/eng](http://www.ajwrc.org/eng)). See section “Voices from Japan” with sections on foreign workers, forced labor, and human trafficking ([www.ajwrc.org/eng/modules/myalbum/viewcat.php?cid=1](http://www.ajwrc.org/eng/modules/myalbum/viewcat.php?cid=1)).

**The B’TSELEM: Israeli Information Center on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories** provides maps, videos, publications and news stories on human rights in the territories occupied by Israel ([www.btselem.org/English/index.asp](http://www.btselem.org/English/index.asp)).

**The Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights Council** (under the president of the Russian Federation) is an example of the “official” efforts by the Russian government to increase cooperation between the institutions of civil society and the government (<http://eng.state.kremlin.ru/council/18/news>).

**The Disappeared** discusses people who have disappeared through imprisonment or death in 18 countries ([www.desaparecidos.org/eng.html](http://www.desaparecidos.org/eng.html)).

**The Grameen Bank** has empowered women living in poverty across many world regions through microfinance. This site’s stories and statistics can help to demonstrate how overcoming poverty increases people’s human rights ([www.grameen-info.org/](http://www.grameen-info.org/)).

[www.grameen-info.org/](http://www.grameen-info.org/)).

**The Green Belt Movement** describes the problems of deforestation as related to poverty and women’s rights in Kenya through the inspiring story of Wangari Maathai, the Nobel prizewinner ([www.greenbeltmovement.org/](http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/)).

**The National Human Rights Commission of India** provides insights into cases and news related to a variety of human rights issues ([www.nhrc.nic.in/](http://www.nhrc.nic.in/)).

**The Slavic Center for Law and Justice** has documents and cases related to freedom of religion in Russia ([www.sclj.org](http://www.sclj.org)).

**The South African Human Rights Commission** is the national institution established to promote respect for, observance of and the protection of human rights without fear or favor ([www.southafrica.info/about/democracy/sahrc.htm#UE5pEFGgH-8](http://www.southafrica.info/about/democracy/sahrc.htm#UE5pEFGgH-8)). 🌐

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