

# Seniors

# PETITION FOR CHANGE



GET INVOLVED



45 MINUTES



READY TO GO

## AIM

Petitions are a great way for citizens to raise awareness of important issues and directly bring that to the attention of decision makers. Consider what cause you could create a petition on and bring about change. Link to UK Parliament Week (14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022).

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Access to a Computer

# GET INVOLVED: PETITION FOR CHANGE

THEME: SHAPING OUR WORLD



## LEADER PREPARATION

This activity requires very little preparation. It would be useful for young people to have access to a computer / smartphones with internet access.



## GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

- 1 As a group have a quick think about ways we can bring about political change in the UK. Answers might include voting, protesting, contacting MPs, signing petitions etc.
- 2 This activity focus on one of those methods – petitions. As a group come up with a definition for what a petition is. Afterwards share the information in the ‘Did You Know?’ box.
- 3 Petitions are often created and sent to Parliament, for the government to see and consider. However, petitions can also be more local, with some people creating petitions for local councils, organisations or charities. Check out <https://petition.parliament.uk> to see some of the current petitions being signed across the UK.
- 4 As a group, consider creating a petition for a cause and then promoting it locally/nationally to try and get as many signatures as possible. What change could you bring about? Things to consider and discuss as a group include:
  - What cause / issue will you champion and who will you send the petition to?
  - How will you collect signatures (paper, electronic etc)?
  - What is your target number of signatures?
  - How will you promote the petition and encourage people to sign it?
  - How long will you leave the petition open for?
- 5 Finally, once you have created the petition and collected as many signatures as you can, make sure you send it to whichever decision maker is appropriate (i.e. government minister, MP, Councillor, CEO etc). It would be a good idea to send a letter with the petition also, explaining why the cause is important to you and what change you’d like to see.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- A petition is a **formal written request**, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause.
- **Any British citizen and UK resident** can create a petition and send it to the government.
- At **10,000 signatures** your petition **gets a response** from the government.
- At **100,000 signatures** your petition will be considered for a **debate in parliament**.
- The UK’s largest ever petition got **6.1 million signatures** and was related to Brexit.



### KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

If young people are looking to physically collect signatures in the community then this must be done in a safe way. Leaders should risk assess this beforehand.