

COMMUNITIES CREATE CHANGE

Ideas for Conversation and Action

Want to do something about the injustices you see in the world or to positively impact your community? Below are some ideas to get you started. You can create change!

Start with a small group of neighbors, residents in an apartment building or members of a house of worship. Get together and consider the following: (1) what are your goals? (2) what skills and expertise do your members have? (3) what are you most interested in doing and what issue is important to you? and (4) how can you involve others?

▶ GET TOGETHER AND TALK



Getting together and talking with others is a helpful way to feel supported. It can also provide clarity about a direction for your group. Make it a potluck or meet at a local coffee shop. Start the conversation by discussing an article you read or a news story that concerns or interests you. You can make this a regular thing, meeting weekly or monthly.

▶ RAISE FUNDS



Organize a fundraiser and contribute the money to an organization you care about. It can be a yard/stoop sale, bake sale, car wash, volleyball tournament, book sale, dinner, dance-a-thon, etc. Donate the funds to a local or national organization that works on issues that you care about such as ADL (www.adl.org/donate).

▶ CREATE SOMETHING PUBLIC



Join with others to create something that represents the unique diversity of your community, conveys a message or welcomes a group of people. Some examples include: a mural, a piece of art, posters for store windows, performance art or digital art. Display it somewhere in your community so that everyone can see it.

▶ CREATE INTERFAITH EXCHANGES



Connect with members of different faith traditions in order to build awareness, understanding and respect. Set up interfaith dialogue groups with a neighboring house of worship, establish an interfaith alliance with shared social action goals for your community or invite each other to learn about and experience different holidays and festivals.

Contact your local ADL Office to share what you are doing to make a difference in your community, or to ask for guidance.

www.adl.org/regions

▶ PLAN AN EDUCATION FORUM



Hold an education forum on what's happening locally, nationally or focus on a specific topic or issue. This can take the form of a school assembly, community forum or teach-in. Bring in a speaker, watch a video and facilitate a discussion or include ways to share the information through writing, art, theater, etc.

▶ PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVISM



Whether it's a rally, letter writing campaign or joining other groups to stand up for equality and inclusion of all Americans, you can get involved in local or national activism which provides an opportunity to express yourself and connect with others. To learn how you can make a difference on issues that matter, get others involved and turn action into impact, sign up for ADL Action Alerts at www.adl.org/action-center.

▶ EXPLORE CULTURES IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Create a list of cultural sites, monuments, museums, restaurants and other establishments that represent the different cultural groups in your community. Team up with neighbors from diverse backgrounds to visit as many sites as possible together. Explore the unique contributions that immigrants have made to our country and to your own community. As a team, share a meal after each visit to discuss what you have learned and what you will do next.

▶ ENGAGE THE MEDIA



Get to know your local media and talk with them about the issues you care about, both locally and nationally. When you have an event, inform them so they can write about it. Create your own social media campaign, a blog with various contributors or start a letter writing campaign.

▶ START AN ACTION LISTSERV



Create a Listserv of local people interested in advocacy. You can focus on local issues or broaden your scope to a national level. Send your participants articles on topics of interest, letter writing campaigns, lobbying activities taking place in your community or petitions you create or ones sponsored globally. To grow the list, start with your small group and ask each person to add 5–10 people.

ADDITIONAL ADL RESOURCES

10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism, www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in.html

Advocacy Center, www.adl.org/action-center

Education Outreach, www.adl.org/education

Civil Rights, www.adl.org/civil-rights

Table Talk, www.adl.org/table-talk



Contact your local ADL Office:
www.adl.org/regions