

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR TEENS: A GUIDE

Are you a teen wishing to engage with your society and begin your journey as a change maker? We've got your back!



## BE AWARE

The easiest way that teenagers can engage with their surroundings and begin their journey as change makers is to be aware. This can be done by following credible news and media sites such as *Al Jazeera* on social media like *Instagram* or *Twitter* (beware of fake news and only follow credible sites!) or watching Youtube videos by creators like *The Vox* or *Soch by Mohak*, or by regularly reading the newspaper!



## SPREAD AWARENESS

Now that you yourself are aware, it is important that you spread this awareness. You can create petitions through *Change.org*; or share *Instagram* posts via your story, or forward news articles to your relatives, or suggest an idea for a *debate in your social science class*. Basically, you can spread awareness by simply bringing topical issues on the table and having a conversation regarding them! These conversations will give you an insight to the different perspectives that exist and harness your critical thinking skills.

## CREATE CHANGE!

Creating change is a gradual process which takes time, effort and commitment. It doesn't happen overnight. As a teenager, you can do your bit by *volunteering at local NGOs*, *fundraising* for a cause you are passionate about, or following the path of '*artivism*'-- that is advocating for social causes through media such as art, writing and music.



You could use social media to promote your art. You can also *participate in your school assemblies*, *write for your local newspaper*, or conduct small scaled projects such as *filming a short movie*, or orchestrating a *minor research project*!

## BUILD A TRIBE

Once you have ticked all the aforementioned boxes, you can gain leadership positions at other organisations and perhaps, even start your own! This way, you can build your own tightly knitted community and magnify your change making process into something greater!



## STAY CURIOUS

To make your change-making process a prolonged one, you must continue learning. Push yourself. Participate in programs. Do internships. Read books. You must deepen your knowledge about one or two issues that you are particularly fond of, while maintaining a vast general and overall knowledge about everything! .

