

# Making a stand

A collection of Year 7  
student speeches on  
what they would like  
to make a stand about.

2014/2015

# Introduction

One of XP's year 7 expeditions was 'Making a stand'. This expedition allowed students to explore their opinions on subjects which resulted in a written speech as their final product.

Each student chose their own topic that they felt passionate about and put their views into a speech. This speech was then presented in one of XP's Celebration of Learning evening's which allowed students to perform extracts from their speech in front of their family and those of other students.

This booklet is a collection of the speeches produced by our Year 7 students in 2014/2015.

# Zara Yamani

Once, I had a cat called Jaffa. He just turned up at our house one day, and since he was so nice and friendly, we let him live with us. Jaffa stayed for about six weeks, but then we found out he was microchipped and took him back home to his real owners. However, he kept coming back, and after he was involved in a car crash we decided he'd only be safe somewhere a long way away from both of us. So we gave Jaffa to an animal rescue centre. The rescue centre we gave him to is a lovely one, but unfortunately not all of them are like that. Believe it or not, many rescue centres actually sell the cats that they are entrusted with to animal testers! Once, a shelter took in a pregnant cat but the very next day they sold her to a university. She had eight kittens, but each one of them died after a chemical was injected into their brains. On another occasion, a tabby called Double Trouble had a steel post screwed to her skull to stop her moving her head. The University even cut into her skull and put a toxic substance into her ears to make her deaf. However, cats aren't the only animals abused this way. Mice, rats and apes are also commonly experimented on.

When I say animal testing, you probably think of white mice running through mazes for a piece of cheese. Well, let me introduce you to the horrifying reality. Right now, millions of animals are locked up in laboratories across the country. They are in pain, they are lonely, they are sad but all they can do is sit and wait for the next painful procedure that will be performed on them. Can this be right? Take rabbits, for instance. Experimenters exploit their mild tempered nature on a daily basis, from dripping washing up liquid into their eyes to mutilating their spines. Dogs are another one. They are commonly used in toxicology experiments, where they are force-fed poisonous substances. Once, some experimenters surgically altered dogs, and then forced them to run on a treadmill until they collapsed of a heart attack. However, it gets worse. In a violent experiment at an American University, puppies had their eyes cut out, and were killed afterwards. Even our ancestors, apes, are tortured this way. They are targeted because they share many characteristics with humans, although experimenters treat them as though they are disposable pieces of laboratory equipment. But for apes, much of the abuse is psychological. Babies born in labs are torn from their screaming mothers, and are separated from them permanently. However, apes captured in the wild don't have it any easier. Numerous investigations have found that in order to abduct primates from their homes in the wild, people shoot their mothers down from the trees, stun the animals with dart guns, and then capture the babies. The animals are then packed into tiny crates and taken to filthy holding centres, with only a long and terrifying journey ahead of them. Does any animal really deserve this? Do they deserve to be tortured into an early grave? This isn't fair. So why does it happen? Why do governments not do anything to stop it? Why do some people approve of animal testing? The answer is that however much I feel that animal testing is evil, it is useful. Without it, for instance, we wouldn't have a cure for HIV. Processed food wouldn't be safe for us to eat, since all ready meals are tested on animals before they reach the shops.

However, although sometimes animal testing can be justified, other times it isn't even effective. For instance, there is only a 37% chance of cancer testing in rats applying to humans. Plus, there are many alternatives that don't involve hurting animals, such as sophisticated tests involving human cells and tissue. Yet still animals have to suffer, and are tormented on a daily basis by heartless scientists, some of whom have children of their own, yet don't give a thought to the animal families they are destroying. We have human rights, so why not animal rights? We are not alone in this world. We need to learn to care for the animals we share this planet with. But if we can't care for them, we at least need to stop abusing them. If we can't accept them as a part of our lives, we need

to let them get on with theirs. If we can't stop testing on animals, we need to stop and think. Think about who just who we think we are, abusing innocent creatures that are, in many ways, just like us. They feel loneliness, pain, and sadness. They should get better. So I'm making a stand to give them the life they deserve. Animal testing needs to stop. Now. Thank you.

# Noah Wood

I have made this speech today to show you, the people of the world, how bad poverty is in many countries around the world. Poverty is all over the world in places such as; Africa where children do not have an education, or medicine to survive terrible diseases; in Syria where over 7 million children are in poverty this winter and have to survive the freezing cold. Also, in Southern Sudan hundreds of thousands of children have been driven out of their homes, schools and communities.

Around the world around 21,000 people a day die of hunger or hunger related causes. This happens in places like Africa, Syria and Asia because people don't have enough money.

In the UK one in six children are in poverty. In the UK in 2011-2012 2.3million children in poverty that was 17% of the amount of children. In Brazil there are from 200,000 to 8 million street children. Most of the children are aged from 5 to 18 years old. A small percentage of street children only make it to eighteen. One third of people in poverty live in India. In 2012 37% of people only made \$ 1.25 a day and in the UK the typical wage is 1,301 pounds a month. This happens because of the country's economy.

Half of the worlds population lives on \$2.50 a day. More than 1 and a half billion people live in extreme poverty and only get \$1.25 a day. There are more than 1 billion children that live in poverty. 870 million people do not have a enough food to eat worldwide. More than 1 billion people don't have access to clean running water. From 2011, 19 million children did not have vaccinations due to poverty. 1 in 4 people live without electricity.

We can stop poverty in the world by giving children the right to an education and a home if we do this people are going to more likely to get a better job because they have had a good education. We can help stop poverty by having good healthcare and building health care facilities in places like India and Africa. We can also make water facilities in places like Africa where people have do not have to travel 2 miles or more a day just to retrieve some water for their family. People who live in poverty should not have to rely on charities, the government should invest in the poor and people who might be well off and donate money to people who can't even afford food to feed their family or friends.

So now you have heard about the horrendous conditions that adults and children around the world face and live in. Think about those children and adults who die everyday of hunger and not being able to afford healthcare. So now you know what being in poverty is like. I am making a stand and I hope you will help the people of the world and help me stop poverty in the UK and elsewhere. Would you be able to live in these conditions with no food or correct housing? I wouldn't, would you?

# Alexandra Witton

The reason I am here, is to speak about Veterans; past, present and future. I am here to speak about them because they are not getting what they are promised. They are promised free health care yet they are not getting it. They are promised disabled benefits yet they are not getting it. They are promised housing benefits yet they are not getting it. I may not be a veteran and I may not know anyone who is but there is one thing I am really passionate about. They are the ones who risk, have risked or will risk their lives for us. We need to help them like they help us.

What is a veteran? A veteran is a person who is serving or has served our country for a long time such as 3 years or over. Veterans can have several different jobs in the forces such as an engineer, troop, nurse, pilot, bomb disposal expert and vehicle driver. Veterans risk their lives for us because they want to fight for our country.

What benefits do they get?

In the event of death, benefits may be payable to their spouse, civil partner, surviving adult dependant and eligible Children Payments and a Bereavement Grant of £37,000. Unfortunately, most veterans do not receive this payment. The disabled benefit grants for house adaptation and also grants a maximum sum of £30K but you must be at least virtually unable to walk but again, unfortunately most veterans do not receive this.

One of the reasons I am really passionate about veterans is because most of them have Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder (PTSD). This causes one veteran an hour to kill themselves. That is 8000 a year. An estimated 400,000 veterans suffer from Post-traumatic-stress-disorder yet 50% of those aren't even seeking help. 300,000 veterans sleep homeless on the streets just in America. If that is just in America imagine how many there are world wide.

The government made the decision to send the veterans to war. So ultimately it is their responsibility to ensure that they have the support needed to help the veterans that came back suffering from PTSD or other injuries. Unfortunately, veterans are relying more and more on charities for support such as Help For Heroes. Help for heroes is an UK Military Charity made to support veterans. Their goal is to 'support for our wounded'. Even Prince Harry addressed the issue of veterans in need:

“ So many of our servicemen and women have made the ultimate sacrifice; so many lives have been lost and so many changed forever by the wounds that they have suffered in the course of their duties. For these selfless people, it is after the guns have fallen silent, the din of battle quietened, that the real fight begins – a fight that may last”

As Prince Harry stated, “A fight that may last” However, I am going to change this but I know not one person can change such a big issue in society but by telling you, hopefully we can all make a stand and end this once and for all!

# Toby Williamson

Schools are infamous for teaching the 3 R's - reading, writing and arithmetic - but some people apparently were not taught the first two, as millions of UK citizens are functionally illiterate - up to 20% of Britain's population may struggle to read and write. This has a major impact on the economy, as well as businesses and the people themselves. This is just one reason we need to stop illiteracy.

Functionally illiterate means that you cannot read or write to a standard useful for everyday use. This means that while functionally illiterate people may be able to read a few basic words, they cannot partake in everyday activities, such as writing emails, signing cheques or reading the newspaper. Those who are illiterate are at a disadvantage in life, which is another reason why we need to stop illiteracy.

Illiteracy is a problem for many reasons. One is that it often leads to unemployment. Unemployment can lead to poverty. Poverty can lead to crime. Illiteracy also costs the economy billions of pounds every year in lost earnings and people who are unemployed because of their illiteracy claiming benefits. Do you think that this a good use of the country's money?

Even worse is the fact that illiteracy is a cycle. Illiterate parents struggle to help their children with homework and also to read to them. This means that their children may struggle to read and write, which can lead to functional illiteracy later in life. We need to end this!

However, the problem of illiteracy has not gone unnoticed. Organisations such as the World Literacy Foundation aim to bring education to everybody, no matter their background! Projects help by providing children who are less privileged than others with books, an education and a future! With enough effort, we can end illiteracy!

In the eyes of many people, illiteracy is not a major issue. Some believe that problems such as starvation and poverty are what we should be trying to end, and while they may be temporary solutions, achieving global literacy will end these problems as well as many others, because a literate world is a successful world! A literate world is a wealthy world! A literate world is one that will flourish!

# Abbie Williams

I want to take a moment of your time to share with you something that I really care about. My Great Nanna Winnie was diagnosed with dementia in 2013, she was 84 years old, I was 9. It has been hard but we have battled through it. My family has been through everything you could ever think of to help my Nanna but unfortunately her dementia is getting worse.

People who are affected by dementia should be taken care of because who knows how long they have left to live, they need love because they need to know who they can trust.

## **Dementia**

When people get dementia they can forget things (e.g. their family's names or where they are) They might not know what they are doing and might walk out of their house and wander around the streets. They might not see where they are going and they might fall over. Teenagers around the scene or whoever is there might laugh at the elderly with dementia when they fall over but they might not know what it feels like. This means they don't care about the elderly or people with problems like I do and it makes me feel sad. Is this fair for them to be treated like this? No, it's sad. Worldwide, 35.6 million people have dementia and there are 7.7 million new cases every year. Dementia is a chronic or persistent disorder of the mental processes caused by brain disease or injury and marked by memory disorders, personality changes, and impaired reasoning. Dementia can include increased forgetfulness, losing items regularly, poor short-term memory, confusion, mood swings, problems with communicating and poor concentration. Dementia is painful, but most of all Dementia is upsetting.

## **My opinion**

In my opinion it is horrible to laugh at the elderly because they might go up to people in the streets and invite them to their house and you never know they might take something valuable to them or something that costs a lot.

## **My Great Nanna**

My great Nanna has got dementia and every time I go round with my nanna we have to tell her who I am because she doesn't remember me. I don't go round as much as I should but it is upsetting. Even though she has dementia she might be able to remember memories from when she was a kid or happy memories that she loved.

Luckily, carers and people like me are there to help these innocent people, we need more carers please support a big part of my life. The carers are kind, sweet and helpful.

People like me love to care for the elderly and people with problems. THEY NEED LOVE AND CARE FOREVER. THEY ARE FOREVER IN MY HEART.

I am Abbie and this is my speech.



# Ben Whittaker

I'm making a stand against fox hunting. Fox hunting, is a terrible idea, why would people want to go and kill foxes? In the UK fox hunting has been around for 700 years. The average amount of people who go fox hunting is around 1 horse, 1 man and 10 dogs.

Can you imagine if you were a fox? Being chased down by dogs, you are running for your life, every breath in your body is full of fear, fear that this is your last day on earth. They are chasing you for pleasure, pleasure to kill you.

I am passionate about stopping this killing act. When I was 5, I witnessed a fox being killed by a group of dogs. Trust me if you were there, you would be saying a speech about fox hunting making a stand for foxes who cannot defend themselves. I'm so passionate about this I thought I should speak out loud. I don't know why you would want to kill foxes because if you get caught you could be put in prison, you could be fined up to £5000. Fox hunting in the UK is illegal because of simply how cruel it is. It has been illegal in the UK for approximately 10 years. This shows that the people who do kill foxes are cruel. Fox hunting is actually a sport across the country including hounds and people, it's also a traditional sport but I think it's just cruel and stupid because the poor foxes who have already been hunted and killed would be happy for someone to finally speak out for them. The foxes that have been killed are so unlucky because the poor creatures haven't done anything wrong, they haven't done anything to us, but then we go out and hunt them down to kill them. Do you think this is fair? If you do then where is your soul. I would hate to be a fox that is being chased by group of dogs and 1 or 2 men and horses. Foxes should be able to investigate the land but instead we go out to kill the foxes.

For:

The plus side is that the foxes are being used for medicine. The medicine that the foxes are used for is Parkinson's disease. But the people who are making it into medicine will soon run out because they will become extinct. Which is bad.

Against:

There are around 170 registered fox hunt packs in America as well as others that are run privately by farmers and landowners. The government also made it illegal because it is classed as animal abuse. In the UK there are around 123 fox hunting packs.

If you think this should stop then do the same as me and make a stand about fox hunting. If you think the people who do hunt for foxes are cruel then make a stand about fox hunting. If you think that you should try to make it stop then make a stand about fox hunting.

# Chloe Welch

Good afternoon. In this case dog neglect is where the owner of their dog either doesn't have enough time or can't afford to look after their animal and they leave it somewhere to either starve or the cold and damp where it eventually dies. Neglect is happening all around the world, as you're reading this sentence more than 20 dogs will be being neglected!

I am speaking on behalf of the dogs who have their barks taken from them, their life a misery. Imagine trying to make someone's day but getting it thrown right back into your face. Yes, I am talking about neglect, especially dog neglect. Hopefully, this speech will unravel why neglect is a horrible thing!

I feel so passionately about people neglecting their dogs because I have witnessed this happen before. My neighbour moved away but didn't tell us she'd left her dog behind a few weeks later we checked the house and found her dog starving and on the verge of dying. It took her quite a while to gain anyone's trust again. What would you do if you saw this happen? How would you feel? Would you try and stop it?

I don't see the good side of animal neglect, there is no point, there is no reasonable explanation and there is no good enough reason! Each year in the UK there are over 150,000 dogs a year that are getting neglected! All dogs try to do is be by your side, be a companion and be your best friend.

I can understand some of the reasons why people might neglect their dogs, if they move house but don't tell anyone and leave the dog in the cold and the damp by itself (or themselves) which means the dogs would die in a matter of days or weeks! Luckily, a lot of the time when this happens in the U.K. 97,000 of the dogs were seen and rescued by passing people, RSPCA, but most of the time neighbours, I would like to thank anyone that has seen this happen and saved a dog's life!

It's not just people that can't look after their dogs that neglect them; the owners could also get tired of their dogs and either abuse them or as evidence shows tie them up in the back yard and leave them there with no food or water. Just try to imagine what if somebody tied YOU in the yard? What if someone abused YOU for trying your best to make them happy?

Some people are so horrible that they use dogs for fighting and most of the time the dogs die, whereas on the other hand dogs can be used in the correct way to be a life long best friend, not just a christmas present! Dogs can save people's lives! For example guide dogs, they save thousands of lives a day and we don't appreciate it enough, also police dogs and the way they sniff out drugs to keep our country a safer place.

I'm especially angry at this subject because people buy their dog and swear they will look after them but after they find out how hard it is to look after a dog they leave them or abuse them and it's just not acceptable in any shape or form. Sometimes people can't afford to look after their dog and give them the things they need, but in this case if this happens they should give the dog to the RSPCA or a loving home where they will not be neglected!

I want to make it clear that I am making a stand against neglect! Have you ever neglected a dog? Have you ever witnessed this happen? Tell someone! Tell anyone!! Hope you now understand why neglect is a terrible thing all around the world! Thank you for listening to my speech.

# Olivia Watson

Hello ladies and gentlemen, I am making a stand against animal cruelty. Think about all those animals that are beaten and die from abuse, is there a real reason for it? Animals are starved because the owners can't be bothered to feed them or just don't want to. There are dogs that are forced to fight, animals that are killed to make clothes and other things, just the other day I found out that a phone case I had was alligator skin!

Animals are being murdered for clothes, food and medicine. If we have killed so many animals and if we don't do anything animals will be gone forever, we are losing animals everyday. In some places there are only one of an animals species left! It says on the news about how many animals are left in different countries for example, Snow Leopards. We need to act soon or we may have none left. Think about it, we are cruel to have people killing all these animals and for what?! I know someone that has a dog that in the past was treated badly. It was in the care of a seven year old girl and her parents, it was treated badly, the little girl would pick the dog up grab him by the front legs and spin around with him! The parents knew she did this and did nothing. This dog after it was rescued had a broken leg because of the many times it was spun around. This dog has been through a rough past but now is healthy, walked and fed regularly and treated properly, we need more people that treat animals kindly and rescue them. Animal abuse is a terrible thing, think about all those animals that are killed, stabbed, starved and forced to fight. They don't deserve it.

Think about all the fur coats, do you know how many animals died for that coat? 40 animals to make one fur coat for example mink. Just remember that all those fur coats had a body, face, heart and eyes and they died for your fur coat.

Think about all those wild animals for example: leopards, tigers, lions, that die for rugs.

Think about all those donkeys that have to walk across hot beaches without food and water.

Think about it, killing animals doesn't matter to people, but killing people is terrible!?

There's no difference animals are living creatures. If we don't stop animal cruelty we may lose them forever.

I am making a stand for all the animals that can't talk and make a stand. We are their voice, and I am speaking for them.

# Mary Waring

I am speaking on behalf of the dogs that have no voice, their cries that cannot be heard, and their barks that disappear into mid air. They get left behind as nothing, and in so much pain that they can't make a sound, and so scared they will freeze, afraid that one movement could make this worse. Animal abuse is a terrible thing, and we need to act fast if we are to change this.

What is animal abuse?

Animal abuse is where owners hurt their dogs for no reason. In many cases, they kill them. They just steal their life for no reason and it is wrong. Owners may kick, punch, cut and injure their dogs. The dogs go through so much pain and they don't understand why. In some cases, they do it in front of the dogs mother, holding her back so she must watch no matter how hard she tries. This need to be stopped.

Could you imagine being left outside, in the cold rain to die and bleed to death? To have to sleep in a cage outside in the winter? Well, I bet you can't because we have a voice, we can make a change and our screams are heard. However, dogs are ignored, and left alone and can't make a change, but we can. We need to speak for them.

Over 8.5 million dogs, on average, are abused a year and this is too many. Not long ago, I experienced an after effect of animal abuse and it really touched me. Because the dog was abused, his eyes popped and it upset me that people said he was the ugliest dog they'd ever seen, but in fact, he was the most beautiful.

Him and 9 other dogs were packed in a small room, fed with a few scraps every few days, all 10 dogs had to fight over these scraps and as a result, they were all so skinny that their ribcages stuck out of their bodies and their eyes popped out of their heads. Fortunately, these dogs were found and taken to the RSPCA where they were well looked after, fed and had cream on their eyes every day. The dogs didn't get a new owner for a while because of their, what they said, ugly looks. My nana then adopted one of the dogs called Ruskin and everyday applied the cream to his eyes and fed him and loved him. Ruskin was very happy now although he was still scarred. As a result of the abuse, Ruskin was afraid of all dogs and many people. A few years later Ruskin became blind in one of his eyes and had it removed and stitched. Now, he was afraid of going on walks and walked into objects. He wasn't as happy now and his other eye was close to blind. Unfortunately, soon after, my nana and the vets decided it was better if Ruskin was put down and I was really upset. Although his second half of his life was better, he would always have those terrible memories. I don't know what happened to the other dogs but I hope they had a good second half of their life as Ruskin did and I hope they are okay now.

That is only one of the trillions of dog stories around the globe. Dogs are left to bleed to death, freeze to death, starve to death, and some are just injured. People neglect their dogs and leave them somewhere to die. It is wrong and needs to be changed.

Many cases happen every day, and the RSPCA is contacted at least once every 30 seconds. I don't see any reasonable explanation for dog abuse, why would you abuse or neglect an innocent pup that just tries to make you happy?

A sweet animal that doesn't know what it did wrong?

Also though, I would like to thank the RSPCA for rescuing, rehoming and caring for the animals that have been found and saved. But unfortunately, many animals are dying

silently around the world every few minutes because of our awful actions and this needs to be changed, quickly.

There is only a few ways we can help this. One being that it doesn't happen in the first place, and another is that you need to report it. You would report it if you found a human being abused and it is exactly the same with dogs. We need heroes. Our world would not be our world without our dogs, and whilst some people are abusing their dog, there is a person in the world longing for one, lonely people sat alone, that need some company. We must put a stop to this horrible way. We need heroes.

# Georgia Waite

Animals all over the world are being mistreated right now in extreme physical conditions, and you have the right to do something about it, people have no right to train wild animals and put them in circuses and lock them up in cages and chain them up and whip them...

Circus animals have the right to be protected, the right to be treated fairly, the right to be in their natural environment.

Cruel acts like sinking bull hooks into elephants' skin, yanking hard, causing scars, bleeding and in the worse cases death. Trainers use whips, tight collars, muzzles, electric prods and other painful tools of the trade to force animals to perform. Animals are forced to do everything for example: eat, drink, sleep, defecate and urinate in the same cramped cages. Physical punishment has always been the standard training method to make circus animals perform. Imagine if you were there, would you do something about this to help these animals?

In more than 35 dangerous incidents since 2000, elephants have bolted from circuses, ran amok through streets, crashed into buildings, attacked members of the public, and killed and injured handlers.

On average circuses travel about 48 weeks per year, and circus animals spend an average of 26 hours in cages during the transport. Virtually 96% of a circus animals life is spent in chains or cages.

Trainers drug some animals to make them "manageable" and surgically remove the teeth and claws of others, they think animals won't hurt them but they are wrong they are wild animals and they are not meant to perform and do tricks, they are not meant to jump through fire hoops, stand on their heads or ride bicycles, people have a choice to go in the circus, animals don't and therefore we need to do something about it fast.

Most animals from the circus are bred in captivity and have spent all their life in the circus, getting mistreated wherever they stand or go, even when they mess something up in training, trainers hit them just because they did something wrong, just think if that were your child would you hit them? Would you whip them for no reason?

Trainers strike and whip the tigers during rehearsals just because they did something wrong. Tigers naturally fear fire but they are still forced to jump through fire hoops in some circuses. Thousands of tigers try to bite their trainers, but the tiger fails and gets whipped as well as using other awful weapons to make them perform and do tricks. Some trainers poach and take wild animals from the jungle and force them to perform, just because the people at the circus want to look good in front of a crowd.

Some children dream of running away to the circus, but life at the circus is not as it seems when there are animals involved... if you ever join the circus, don't join one with animals. You don't know what really is behind the act.

This is my passion, I hope that you have gained a different view to the way circus animals are abused. I appreciate your time given by listening to my views.

# Ethan Turton-Mason

Dog cruelty is not fun. What have they done to hurt you? (NOTHING?) I feel so ashamed of every person who has laid hands on an innocent dog in the wrong manner. Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a dog's basic needs and could lead to them being left hungry or dirty, without adequate shelter, supervision, medical or health care.

Physical abuse - may include hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, pinching or scratching. This is not what should be expected from their owner. Dogs are for life not for abusing, eating, attacking or fighting.

Think if you were a dog how would you want to be treated, oh wait you would not have a choice because you are not important to your owner because you are a dog.

Chinese activists recently stood up to dog meat traders and rescued 900 dogs bound for slaughter for human consumption. Many of the dogs were clearly stolen family pets, even wearing tags and collars: Huskies, German Shepherds, Poodles and the like, many extremely ill and dying from the slaveship-like conditions of the truck and cages. One woman found her lost Golden Retriever on the truck, but was told she could not take him home unless she paid off the trader. The activists were beaten and after a 50 hour standoff finally rescued all of the dogs. However, by that time some dogs had died and the activists were forced to bury them at the scene. In a raid on their homes, a huge haul of dog fighting equipment including a treadmill (used to train dogs for fighting), graphic footage of a dog fight and a well used 'break stick' (used to separate dogs) were found. In total six dogs were seized. This is just one example of some of the horrific cases I researched.

Each year 10,000 dogs die in illegal dog fighting a year which is a lot. One day I hope that all dogs will have a loving home, food, life and owner who actually loves them.

Teach your friends and family and other people how to treat animals and to respect them as creatures like ourselves.

# Berke Toprak

Animals are getting hurt even sea creatures! Sharks are one of the top sea creatures that are getting killed. Sometimes people use sharks for food. We have gotta show animals plus sea creatures respect.

There are lots of examples of how to show animals respect & kindness.

Some people like sea creatures some don't! Why is there hate to sharks? Why capture them? They'll be extinct because of mankind. Some of us will be sad.



# Cole Thompson-Dunn

Hello, I am Cole Thompson Dunn and I'm talking about the World Cup in Brazil. In my opinion they should have spent the money on the population and not on a stadium. In Brazil they lost billions of dollars because of building 12 stadiums.

People argue about how this is a good thing, Brazil built the stadiums for the World Cup but because of the stadiums the whole country is having problems. Some people said the stadiums could produce profit and the amount of profit they got was \$100 million. However, the World Cup altogether cost \$15 billion.

And there is trouble with the population. People can't afford a house, food and water. There are people dying because of the stadium building. They are dying to everything if the people have no food there dead if they have no water there dead if they get ill there dead and no shelter they will freeze through the night.

The people of Brazil are dying through all causes they have been spreading their compassion for the world cup on the walls of buildings I have seen a picture on the wall of a boy starving, crying and all he had to eat was a football a FOOTBALL!!!

So I ask Brazil, will you ever stop with this cruelty and help your country and not care about a silly football game?

According FIFA they are fully aware of, and fully accept, its social responsibility as part of the World Cup. In 2006, the World Cup in Germany was the first to have a comprehensive environmental programme. Then, in 2010, FIFA launched Win in Africa with Africa, an initiative to develop steady football infrastructure across Africa at a cost of \$70 million. On top of that \$12 million was invested in a number of social projects, and the 2010 FIFA World Cup Legacy Trust was founded after the World Cup with a further \$100 million to promote development in South Africa long after the World Cup and to support initiatives that use football to drive social development. It is fair to say that South Africa is still getting profit from hosting the World Cup in 2010. So they are some of the advantages of the world and the same may happen for Brazil.

FIFA believes that its social responsibility is a crucial element of the sustainable success of its events, but the World Cup can only be used as a tool or as a catalyst for change in a country if everyone involved pulls in the same direction as part of a global strategy.

This is some of people writing to stand up for the World Cup because of the World Cup that happened in Africa and I agree they are going to stand up for the World Cup.

But Brazil should have waited till their budget was strong enough for the stadium because of this Brazil may benefit from the stadiums but at the moment Brazil is losing money and the population numbers are going down slowly.

I believe that Brazil should save their money for the country and not spend all their money on stadiums because they might benefit from all their stadiums being used for the olympics and other sports but I wish countries would think and stop and not go out spending money on sports.

# Sonny Sykes

What would you do if you had to sit in a 1m by 1m cage with other humans? Why is it that dogs are made to do this for sometimes all of their lives? Instead of drinking clean, safe and transparent water would you be able to drink contaminated water that is crawling with bugs. Is this fair? The people that do this are cruel, abusive and criminals. These dogs are afraid. Afraid of the breeders. Afraid of human contact. Afraid of cages. Puppy mill dogs have no choice, they must endure pain, discomfort and lack of exercise just to get through one day. So how would you cope if you had to go through this disgusting experience everyday until the day you die. A significant proportion of dogs HERE in the UK have been born in a puppy mill. In fact, the only way to really know if any dog even your own was not from a puppy mill is to visit the breeder where you got them. I have specifically chosen puppy mills as an issue as a lot of people are not aware that these exist and I hope to raise awareness as this could help stop this animal abuse.

A puppy mill, sometimes known as a puppy farm, is a commercial dog breeding facility that is operated with an emphasis on profits over the welfare of the dogs bred, with substandard conditions of care often the norm. Many dogs are plagued with illnesses like kidney or heart disease as a result of the conditions they're kept in. Is this fair? Similar types of operations exist for other animals most commonly kept as pets or used as feed for other animals. The term can be applied to operations involving other animals commercially bred for profit, e.g. "kitty mills." The RSPCA estimates around 50,000 puppies from puppy mills are imported from Ireland every year where breeding laws are practically non-existent. A significant proportion of the UK's eight million dogs will have started life in a puppy mill. Normal dogs get treated with love, care and affection from the day they are born but Puppy mills usually house dogs in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, without adequate veterinary care, food, water and socialisation. Puppy mill dogs do not receive adequate attention, exercise or basic grooming. Is this fair? To minimise waste cleanup, dogs are often kept in cages with wire flooring that injures their paws and legs. It is not unusual for cages to be stacked up in columns. Breeder dogs at mills might spend their entire lives outdoors, exposed to the elements, or kept inside indoor cages all their lives. Is this fair? Often, after the breeder dog has reached the age of 4 years, it is no longer needed and killed. The lineage records of puppy mill dogs are often falsified. Other puppy mill puppies are sold directly to the public, including over the Internet, through newspaper ads, and at swap meets and flea markets. Once adopted it can take up to a year for them to relax to the human touch. I had a dog. I took care of it, played with it, appreciated for what a magnificent animal he was. This is the difference between abuse and caring for a dog and all dogs deserve a loving, caring home that appreciate a dog for what they really are not the value of them. Is it fair that a small minority of people can get away with this?

Puppy mill puppies can have lots of problems but here are a few of the main ones: musculoskeletal disorders, eye problems and deafness. On top of that they can arrive in pet shops with diseases and infirmities for example : parvovirus, distemper and intestinal parasites.

To help combat this horrific act of cruelty WE all should help the law by reporting these criminals to the RSPCA because if we don't this will continue to happen day in and day out. Thousands licensed and unlicensed cases of this appalling abuse have happened meaning we need to act soon, fast and effectively to combat this crime by making the consequences greater and the benefits near to none. It becomes an offence when breeding five or more litters in one year also breeding females are restricted to one litter per year and four per lifetime. Going through these horrible traumas can ruin a dog, like it would a human.

# Alexander Steele

So I am making a stand but if I get tired I will make a sit down . Okay, I am Alex Steele and I want to take a moment to share with you what I have learnt about poverty. I want to make a stand against poverty because the gap between the country's most vulnerable, Oxfam has said is getting bigger. The Government's work to reduce the deficit will hit the poor and the gap between rich and poor in the UK could become greater than it is in the South Sudan.

Millions of people are expected to be in poverty in our country in the next decade, you and I can slowly see this happening around us, take a look at the newspapers, take a look on the streets, take a look on the web. You hear it, you see it, you speak it, how often do you hear people saying, "if only I could afford it? how often do you see homeless people on the streets, food banks getting set up in the community and how often do you say the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

I am a young lad growing up in Mexborough South Yorkshire, I want to be given the chance, I want to be given the opportunity, I want the gap between the rich and poor to get smaller, I want the poor to become rich. If you take a look at the statistics, Mexborough has a higher than average number of people living in rented social housing. Mexborough has a high level of residents with either no qualifications or qualifications equal to 1 or more GCSE at grade D or below, than the national average.

The government should read the statistics and see that a poor education leads to poverty and it is a worldwide problem, knowing that people are on the streets and kids my age are dying because of poverty !

In Brazil 18 million people live in poverty some are born into poverty. I've seen poverty. People who do not have homes, jobs, money and food. I am a child and I have to hear things like all the time and no one does a thing. About 21,000 people die every day of hunger or hunger related deaths.

Some facts that we need to know such as there are 2 billion kids in the world and 1 BILLION ARE LIVING IN POVERTY!

- 134 kids aged 7 to 18 have never been to school
- 6 million kids under 5 die every year due to poverty

What causes poverty? The cause of poverty is hard to find but we can stop it. Do you want to live on the streets?

# Rhys Smith

'Racism is still with us. But it is up to us to prepare our children for what they have to meet, and, hopefully, we shall overcome.' This is a quote by Rosa Parks.

Hello my name is Rhys Smith I am speaking about racism, for every person who has been abused and been called names due to their skin colour, race and creed. I feel that this is not fair, these people are still human and they are going to be here with us and this can not continue, this needs to change. Just stop and think, would you like to be abused like these people? Just think about children being hurt and killed because of their skin colour. In 2006 Damilola Taylor was killed brutally murdered by two brothers, Danny and Ricky Preddie, he was only 10 years old and was stabbed to death because of his skin colour. He moved to South London from Nigeria to live a better life. The further heartbreak and stress caused his mother to suffer greatly after the tragedy. Is this fair?

Another example of racism is Mark Duggan. The police are racists, violent and unfair. The 19 year old man from Tottenham was shot by the police. They shot him because he was a black man and they believed that he had a handgun. They shot him in broad daylight in front of the public. This caused the black community to disagree with what the police did, so then they went on a rampage and destroyed London. The Government were worried because when the riot happened it was a year before the 2012 Olympics. The London riots started because the police killed an innocent man, due to this London had been destroyed.

In certain countries I can't believe people were segregated in schools, churches, toilets and buses. Segregation is still going on today and it will only get worse so if we can stop racism it won't get any worse. Would you like to be segregated like these people?

I am a child who wants people to be equal. I am a child who wants the world to be fair. I am a child who wants racism to stop. Racism is bad and I think that the people who go ahead with racism are cowards. I think racism should be abolished to stop this chaos that is still going on. Do you want racism to stop?

'I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.' this is by Martin Luther King

I believe this is the truth and we should fight for our future.

# Benjamin Smith

I am standing in front of you today to deliver a speech on something I feel very strongly about. I have, personally, suffered from the consequences of witnessing this terrible habit that has spread throughout many countries in the modern world.

Today, I'm spreading my own personal opinion on why smoking should be banned, specifically in the UK. Although many people may strongly disagree with my opinions, I speak with a loud and clear voice to put into words what I have felt for years about this specific subject.

Cigarettes have become increasingly expensive in the past few years since scientists discovered that they were harmful; this is making addicted smokers have less money from the tremendous quantities and money they spend a week on cigarettes, this is not right, and it must stop.

Tobacco cigarettes contain an immense amount of chemicals, including 43 known cancer-causing compounds and 400 other toxins. This is not right, it is not right to affect your body in these horrible ways without a single thought of the future and the example it is giving to the children. It is not right that the cigarette companies are earning millions by introducing harmful chemicals in their products. It's not right to be using the national health service's time because of something terrible that you chose to do.

Recent researches show that cigarettes can cause several major illnesses including Cancer, Stroke and Heart Disease. All of which are life threatening and could cause death. The majority of people have lost close family and friends to the consequences of smoking. This makes them upset resulting in overall sadness throughout families and friends.

No one should have to go through the pain of death, ruin and sadness from a roll of tobacco. It shouldn't be like that.

People should be able to live a full, adventurous and happy life instead of wasting the only chance you've got of life on smoking cigarettes.

One person dies every 15 minutes because of lung cancer, most because of smoking cigarettes. as well as 100,000 people dying from smoking caused illnesses each year in the UK. Furthermore, the NHS spend an expensive 5 billion on treating smoking caused illnesses! As well, the average smoker spends around £3000 a year on cigarettes. It's estimated that, every year, second-hand smoke kills over 12,000 people in the UK. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke causes disease, disability, and death. What did these people do to deserve this? In July 2007, smoking in public places such as bars, restaurants and workplaces was made illegal to protect non-smokers from the health risks associated with passive smoking.

Pregnant smoking women are pushed by the NHS to stop smoking whilst pregnant and further on after birth. 13.5% of women are smokers at the time of delivery. Horribly, smoking doubles the chances of stillbirth. Smoking whilst pregnant can also cause illnesses to the baby when given birth and possibly in later life, as I've found out the hard way.

Is this right? No. This is disgusting. Why should you treat your baby in this way? Even before it had been born and lived a life. All of this has to stop, this why I have to give my

opinion now, or I might never be heard. Please try to stop smoking or don't think of starting it, it's not good for you and others around you. That's my fixed opinion on this matter, I hope yours is similar.

# Grace Sellers

More than 15 million animals are used in labs for testing in Britain each year alone, that's equivalent to 23% of our population, imagine 1 in 5 people in Britain being used by scientists just so we can enjoy all the luxurious products we use today, being bruised and battered and in many cases dying? In just over five years the entire British population would be wiped out. Fifty years and the population of Europe gone, every single one. That is simply in Britain alone. In the States 100 million animals are used in testing each year that's equivalent to one in three people in America, the whole population could be gone in just over three years.

Just think about that, and then think about all the technology we have today. Why is it that with all the software we have today we can print a car, but yet we can not do something as simple as find an alternative to animal testing? Why is it that we are making so many discoveries that benefit humankind and yet we are not doing anything that benefits the environment? Why? We complain that our world is polluted and yet we're doing nothing about it. The first step towards a better environment is letting the animals free. We were made as the superior race and a lot of the time we take this for granted, we were trusted to take care of our world and instead we have polluted and poisoned it. Is it such a crime to want a better environment?

I am eleven years old and yet I know that we are destroying our world. I know that we as humans do not have all the answers, but surely we should be finding answers? We are losing 150 acres of forest every sixty seconds, 60,000 square kilometres each year! Deforestation is damaging our earth. If we destroy our forests we will never get them back. It's the same with animals, once they're gone, they're gone forever and we cannot bring them back or reincarnate them. We have one world, one voice and one chance. We need to stand up against it, make a stand, we are killing animals and their habitats. Sure in fifteen years we may have hover boards and holograms, the future is a bright one. But it's also a grim and dull one, by then over 5 billion animals will have died needlessly due to testing and over 900,000 square kilometres will have been lost because of deforestation. We need to help stop it before there's nothing left.

# Holly Scott

The culture in a community doesn't have to be the same. We need diversity, different religions and race. The colour of your skin should not matter but racism is still with us to this day. It shouldn't be in any community. Even though your skin colour may be different to one another you can still have a friendships together, it doesn't make you different to anybody else.

The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics, abilities, or qualities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.

Racism in schools has been recorded over tens of thousand children including as young as three have been accused of racism at school. We can try and stop this by going into schools and telling them what been racist actually does to people.

There is racism everywhere, you just can't always see it. It's in sports, schools, day to day life. We will start with sports. Racism is in sport not just in Britain and the UK but worldwide. however, the head of FIFA'S anti-racism task force says racism in English football is 'right in front of your face.'

Luis Suarez was racist towards Manchester United's defender Patrice Evra. He has now been charged for racially abusing the player. Also, he was banned from playing eight games and a £40,000 fine by football association. Personally, I don't think this wasn't a very big punishment for him with what he gets payed and I don't think he will learn from this at all!

Even Though there is a lot of racism in football it is in Basketball, too. The owner of an LA basketball team was banned from the sport for life and had to pay a fine of \$2.5m for making racist remarks.

The billionaire Donald Sterling has been the centre of a storm after making racist comments in a private phone call that was leaked to the media.

I have recently seen on the news that in New York there was a shooting in Ferguson, by a white police officer. The officer shot eighteen year old Michael Brown, who was black, several times even though he put his hands in the air to surrender! Police had recently suspected that earlier that day he was involved in a robbery in a shop. But police say that Mr Wilson had no idea about this robbery. So what did make an impact on why he was shot dead or was it all to do with the colour of his skin?

Just think if poor innocent Michael Brown was a white man, Do you really think the officer would have shot him? Do you really think that Darren Wilson would have shot Michael Brown for a robbery? I don't.

Next, I also wonder does the UK have a problem with racism, that is my question. According to the 2013 NatCen British social attitudes survey almost a third of British people - 30% - have some sort of feeling about racial prejudice.

At a McDonalds in Virginia a complainant alleges that about 15 African-American employees were fired on the same day in May last year after a large number of white employees were hired in March. Some supervisors said there were "too many black



people in the store." This makes me wonder if this is not just happening in Virginia but World Wide.

Cyber racism is racism but online. This can be done through: Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Google+, Snapchat and Vine. Cyber racism like Cyber Bullying but with racial abuse included. If I was a person who had ever sent anybody racial comments I would be disgusted with myself , and have to wake up every morning thinking about what I sent them! Put yourself in their shoes, how would you feel then?

Racism is still unfortunately with us. We need to fight for this and become one. 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of their skin, their background or their religion. People learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposites.' A quote from Nelson Mandela.

I would like the next decade of children to be able to live in a world because it's not about the black or white, it's about us all being human! Rosa Parks quoted, 'Racism is still with us but it is up to us to prepare our children, for what they have to meet. And hopefully we can overcome!'

# Kelsea Roper

I am here today to show you that the proportion of animal cruelty is growing and it is way too high. The RSPCA investigate 150,000 complaints of cruelty and neglect a year. This needs to decrease a lot because it is way too high.

The reason I am making a stand against animal cruelty is because animals are living creatures like us and how would you feel if you were in neglect? Neglect, malnutrition and unintentional abuse these are all forms of animal cruelty and it is unacceptable. I know that I am only 11 but I know that the amount of animal cruelty in the UK is too high. I know that the animals that are being abused each year need to be helped. It is up to you the British community to help stop animal cruelty if not today but in the future.

Animals need a loving home not to be abused. They need food and water. They need to be accepted not ignored. We need to prevent anymore animals being killed from abuse. We need to feed the animals suffering from malnutrition. We need to notice and help the animals in neglect. We need to save all animals suffering from animal cruelty, they deserve a better life than the one they are living. So why can't they? Why must they live in pain?

I have one cat and two kittens and they do nothing wrong, they have fun and they are loving towards me and towards other people. However, other people do not see animals like this and they abuse them for no reason at all. Is this acceptable? It shouldn't be so why are there still millions of animals in the world suffering from abuse and neglect? Why are animals born into this torture? The life these animals live is not fair, we need to help them to escape these horrific conditions.

People misunderstand animals as they can not tell you how they are feeling, they can not tell you when they are unwell and they can not tell you they are sorry. It is up to you to spot these signs and to care for your pets, not to ignore them and abuse them. They are living creatures like you and me they do not deserve to be abused. How would you like it to be abused and thrown in a tiny cage with others? You wouldn't so why are animals any different? They shouldn't be, they should be loved and cared for. No animal should have to live with the pain of abuse and neglect it is not fair. They should be treated with respect. Wouldn't you want to be treated with respect? So why can't they? Why are they any different to you or me? Why must we abuse them? We shouldn't. We shouldn't abuse them. We shouldn't abandon them. We shouldn't keep chickens and other animals locked up in cages not big enough for one never mind two or three. Is this fair? So why do we do it? Why do we ignore innocent animals that are being abused in the UK?

In one of the cases the RSPCA investigated there were four cats that were being ignored and left to suffer. One cat was found with a bandage around his neck. When the bandage was removed his neck was totally bald of fur and covered with dried, congealed blood. A second cat had a large open wound on one side of her body that was heavily infected. A third cat had severe cat flu with discharge coming from both eyes; she was lifeless and very underweight. A fourth cat's left hind leg was so badly damaged that the bone was exposed. His foot appeared mangled and the surrounding fur was missing. Three of the cats also tested positive for Feline Leukaemia Virus. All were very thin and had gum disease. The man admitted he didn't know how many cats he had and hadn't taken any of them to a vet. He considered Vaseline and bandages sufficient treatment. It was his conscious choice to ignore the four cats' severe and obvious suffering. An inspector from the RSPCA said, "the cats in this case had the worst untreated injuries

she had ever seen on a domestic pet.” Sadly, the cats had to be put down on the advice of the vet. Do you think the cats deserved to live like that? I don’t.

So I can stand here and tell you all this and you can just listen. Or we can do something about it. You, me and the British community can work together for the good of all animals. We have to try for all the poor animals that are living under the roof of abuse and that are dying each year. It is unfair. We can stop it we just have to work together. So please help the animals that are being abused help the animals that are under neglect because we need to stop animal abuse and it needs to stop soon. Will you help stop animal abuse and help all the innocent animals in the world suffering from animal cruelty?

# Junior Rennie

My name is Junior Rennie and I am making a stand against modern day slavery. So I suppose I should shut up and get started, so I will. The main place you find modern day slavery, is in a sweat shop, and if you don't know what a sweatshop is I will tell you. It is basically a factory full of modern day slaves which work for at least 14 hours a day for a wage of 22p a day. This type of work is very dangerous, and this was shown when in Bangladesh a sweatshop collapsed, and the reason for this was because the owner wanted to build three stories high when the ground could only handle a two story building. In the terrible accident, according to BBC News statistics 1,021 people sadly died that day. Do you want things like this happening in your community?

Today we have the luxury of freedom but other people don't. Some people don't have the luxury of an education but we do. Some people don't have the luxury of a house to call home but we do. So if we have all this luxury, why don't we share it. Well, I will tell you (5 second rest), It is just human nature, It is just human nature to be higher, richer, stronger and more powerful than other people.

So on the whole it is just nasty and it shouldn't be in our community or any community anywhere in the world. We are all equal no matter what our skin colour because down inside we are all humans, so we all should be treated as humans!

Do you agree?

# Asten Quinton

I am here to make a stand against guinea pig abuse. Every fortnight I go to Cavy Corner. Cavy Corner is a guinea pig sanctuary and all the guinea pigs there are there for a reason. That reason is that they've all have been abused and/or neglected. Guinea pigs are small, furry animals. Some have fur, some have hardly any fur, and some have fur only on their noses. Guinea pigs are special to me because I like small and furry animals.

Imagine this. A guinea pig was kicked around a football field by three youths who were about fifteen years old. This guinea pig is still alive today and that is because of a girl called Carly. Even though she was upset, she was brave enough to still take the guinea pig away and run with it to the founder of Cavy Corner, Sue Tate. Sue named the guinea pig Carly in honour of the bravery of that young girl. This is a true story.

And this is why I am here to make a stand against guinea pig abuse.

Imagine this. A guinea pig got bitten, then abused, then kicked out of his own home. He was found and taken to the nearest vets. Once he got to the vets they called Cavy Corner and told them that he might have to get put down. Instead of letting that happen Sue and Winston brought him back to the house. The amazing thing is that he is still alive to this day. His name is Hero and the reason for that is he managed to survive and show courage in spite of everything that was thrown at him. This is a true story.

Imagine this. This final story is quite sad since the guinea pig has recently passed away. Her story is a very horrible one, since Sue and Winston had to actually come and rescue the guinea pigs themselves. They found the guinea pigs abandoned in a small, freezing, black room. In two very small cages there were twenty-six pregnant female and twenty-three male guinea pigs. One of these guinea pigs called Brave gave birth to a daughter called Sasha. Her name is Brave because she was so courageous in spite of the terrible way her owners treated her. This is a true story.

Can you believe that some guinea pigs actually get fed to snakes dead or alive? Should the owners really do all this? Is this fair?

On the ninth of August 2014 it was official that over one-thousand guinea pigs have been rescued and hundreds have been rehomed.

I am making a stand against guinea pig abuse because they have the right to live just like us and after these three stories I think you should feel the same. I am passionate about guinea pigs because I love spending time with them. I think guinea pigs are just like us because they walk, communicate and breathe.

It is because of people like Sue Tate that guinea pigs are still alive now. If the owners are horrible to other pets, why are they kind to other people?

Is all this really appropriate?

This is why I am here to make a stand against guinea pig abuse.

# Emily Poncia

Every year over 16,000 innocent dogs die, due to illegal dog fighting. Just one of many horrendous blood sports. Dog fighting is generally illegal, however, many people violate this law and carry on torturing dogs for entertainment and money. I feel so strongly and passionately about stopping this cruelty that I feel like I should make a stand!

In this horrible industry, two dogs, of a specific breed, are locked in a fighting pit, which can be a hole in the ground surrounded by a 3 foot fence made of plywood or wire. They are then forced to fight viciously for hours on end until one of the dogs is dead or is physically exhausted and cannot go on. Is it fair to do this to innocent dogs? Open wounds, broken bones and death. These are all common things in an illegal dog fight. This needs to stop!

Even though the actual sport is shocking and inhumane, the dark truth behind the aggressive fighting still remains a gruesome certainty. Fighting dogs are pushed to their physical and mental barriers in training for fights. They are forced to run for hours on end on treadmills that are usually homemade like slat mills, but some are tethered to mechanical ones. How can it be fair to do this to them? Owners also use something called a spring pole. It is made from a tall pole or sturdy tree branch with a rope dangling from it with some sort of toy, knotted rope, tyre or other materials they can bite onto. Dogs then have to jump and hold onto the toys to strengthen and improve the endurance of their teeth, neck and jaw. This can result in damaged gums and teeth, causing great pain. Owners usually treat their animals medically at home, when they are injured, so they do not get found out by police. They give them antibiotics, steroids, and iron supplements. Not taking fighting dogs to have professional veterinary care can lead to internal injuries left uncared for which can sometimes lead to death. Before a 'match' dogs are washed under a referee's supervision before a fight, in case they have any poison on their coat. This is a common method of cheating in illegal dog fighting and can sometimes be an irritant or even deadly to the dogs fur. Dog fighters keep track of which dog and bloodline are winning through publications, usually magazines. These are actually illegal in the U.S, but are still common. Worst of all fighting dogs are chained, taunted and starved to trigger intense survival instincts and boost aggression. How could a human do this? This needs to stop!

Even though dog fighters make money, it is at the expense and health of innocent dogs, who just want affection and to be man's best friend. Me and my family got a wonderful dog around my 9th birthday, called Woody. He is caring and protective, I could never imagine forcing him to fight! How can humans do this to beautiful creatures?

'It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the dog in the fight!' A quote by Mark Twain. Let us stand up to dog fighting, does the world really need this, just think of the dogs that died during fighting. Just think of the pain they go through. Just think that they only wanted you to love them, so show them affection. We as humans need to make a change! We as humans need to think! We as humans need to stop now!

# Jasmine Pollard

Many people believe that football is entertainment as well sport and I am not against that in any way. But I feel that the pay for footballers is too much when really people like doctors that are saving many lives from things like cancer, heart disease and the latest deadly disease ebola are paid much less. Many doctors have fought for the lives of people in Africa that they put their own lives at risk to save them. The Queen agrees that doctors risking their lives for others is that brave she is creating a new medal to award them. From 1990 up to 2005 doctors prevented 650,000 cancer deaths. Why should footballers get paid more than life saving doctors? So you tell me is the job of kicking a ball round the pitch as brave and as dedicated as a life saving doctor? You tell me. You tell me.

A footballer like Wayne Rooney gets a reported weekly wage of £300,000 whilst doctors get paid between £37,176 and £69,325. Compare the two together, doctors definitely deserve more. We could not live like we do without doctors. Could we live without footballers? Think about that; the answer is clear, it is yes. We could live without footballers in our life. Do footballers save our life? No. Have footballers saved lives from ebola? No. Do footballers deserve a medal from the Queen for bravery? No. So why do they have better pay, just why? I know from first hand experience that hospital is not a nice place to be but it makes a difference. Football might be something joyful but does it change anything other than scores, emotions and teams? Does that mean anything to our health? No. They have one training session for 90 minutes a day, this is nothing compared to a long 12 hour 5 day a week shift. Doctors pay is not bad at all with the hours they work but footballers pay is too much with only 90 minutes training a day. What is the point in professional football other than a night in front of the telly shouting and screaming when your team don't win. I don't watch football and I don't scream and shout at the telly when my team don't score a goal, I don't watch every match but I am not against football. I am against the pay to professional footballers. I am not saying footballers are rubbish and don't deserve decent pay, there are just others who deserve it more than footballers. Footballers may agree or they may not. But who can spend £200k a week, what would they spend it on? I know life's luxuries are dear but not that dear. Doctors have lives, save lives and extend lives. Footballers have lives and that is all no saving, no extending.

Would some footballers have lives without doctors?

The stadium fell silent as medical staff huddled around the collapsed footballer Fabrice Muamba whose heart stopped beating for a horrid 78 minutes at a young age of 23 years old and if it wasn't for doctors he would have died at such a young age not even discovering half of the world. He is still alive today fighting fit and he would not be here if doctors were not there for him.

Doctors were important in the Egyptian times in 3500,BC, World War 1 in 1914 and World War 2 in 1939; they must be important for us to have them still today. So why do footballers get paid more? Footballers don't help soldiers in wars to save our lives. Football is a fun job and being a doctor is a serious job. Without doctors I don't know where we would be. Would we be in the same condition? Would we be as healthy as we are? Would we have the same family members we have today? Can you tell me why footballers get a better pay? It is not realistic. The pay difference needs to change. We need to send footballers pay further down than doctors. Life saving doctors. I am eleven and I am making a stand. It is time we all do. We shall all rise! Footballers pay will fall!

# Sabaa Monks

Hi, today I am going to speak about women's sport. I am a sportswoman, I am passionate about football. But, as I get older, I can now see and I don't understand the difference in wages between sportsmen and sportswomen in the world. For example, women's rugby. The England's women rugby team won the World Cup and got paid £70,000, whereas the England men's rugby team got paid £1 million for winning their World Cup. Personally, I think this is sexist, what do you think? Other people might think women don't have the same rights as men. Why? We are both human beings, we both play the same sport, we both put in the same training.

My football coach worked with women before working with juniors. He said that women get paid very little in the Premier League, unlike men they get paid up to millions of pounds for winning. As I've researched I have seen women's wages go down and men's wages go up!

I wish that all women had the same rights as men.

I wish that all women had a choice.

I wish there was no such thing as sexism.

I wish sports would give women a fair chance.

Now policemen and women they get paid the same but I don't see why in sports they get a different amount.



# Liam Melville

Role models are people that set a good example to others and show the right values, attitudes and behaviour. Many children and young people look up to footballers and want to be like them because they think that they are amazing, magical and cool but some footballers are not good role models. Footballers get paid millions and they are always getting watched by the media and the public, they cannot afford to make any bad mistakes that would get them suspended

An example of this is Luis Suarez. He allegedly racially abused Manchester United's Patrice Evra. He got given an eight match ban and a fine of £40,000. Do you think this is an acceptable punishment? Liverpool don't think that Luis Suarez did as this statement says : "We find it extraordinary that Luis can be found guilty on the word of Patrice Evra alone." No one else on the field of play saw or heard it. Evra's own Manchester United team mates and all the match officials on the pitch did not see or hear anything. This is unsportsmanlike, nasty and unfair. Patrice Evra himself in his written statement for this case said, "I don't think that Luis Suarez is racist". The FA in their opening remarks accepted that Luis Suarez was not racist.

Sheffield United player Chedwyn Evans was accused of raping a 19-year-old girl. Evans was convicted on 20 April 2012 and was sentenced to five years imprisonment but he only completed half of his sentence. Do you think this is a long enough sentence for someone who is a role model to young kids? He was eligible for release after serving half of that sentence. He was released on 17 October 2014. Although he remains on the Violent and Sex Offender Register, indefinitely.

West Bromwich were fighting relegation from the top flight, their Czech striker Roman Bednar was apparently caught up in a News of the World sting. The newspaper released photos of the striker apparently handing over £420 to a man in a car to pay for cocaine and cannabis. As the story leaked, his club immediately suspended the player pending further investigation. The player was cautioned by West Midlands police and was granted permission to return to action from the beginning of the 09/10 season by the Football Association following his suspension. I think this is horrible, horrifying and disgusting.

My speech has highlighted that there are footballers out there in the top league of football that are not good role models. I want all the countries to make a contract saying that if a footballer does a criminal offence they would complete their sentence and then they couldn't play football again as a paid job.

Good evening everybody, I am here to talk about how everyday police here in the UK, and the rest of the world betray the community.

The police are who we look to, they should be I quote, "pillars of society."

The police are a government controlled organisation who are there to defend us in an emergency life or death situation. They take dangerous drivers off the road. They patrol the towns to protect us pedestrians. Today, I am going to talk about why that isn't always the case.

Police follow orders to make sure everyone is safe, but sometimes they feel the need to take it into their own hands. How would you feel if the police show up to your door, and next thing you know you're in custody? This happens everyday, and its no worse than kidnapping. You know the worst thing about this? The government try to just wait it out so everyone forgets about this.

A protester at an anti-fracking demonstration in Manchester says he was, "battered and bruised" after being assaulted by police officers. He says he got a black eye, cuts to his cheek and forehead, and broken ribs after being thrown "face first" into the tarmac.

Everyday people phone the police in need of help, protection or aid. In some countries up to 15% of these people get beaten, tazed and/or shot. These are the people that we look up to, trust and need. In the USA police were throwing flashbangs at protesters who were, yes, protesting but were not inflicting any harm on anyone.

On July 1, 2014 a highway patrol officer ordered a car to pull over. This officer had a fantastic reputation as an officer, or so they say. This officer had beaten this man with a baton, and who knows how many times he has done this before. The civilian received back, torso and arm injuries. This fantastic reputation is probably like the 100s of other reputations of officers that the government are hiding to make their country look like a good one. Charges for this man are pending.

A black man was shot and killed by a Cincinnati police officer, who followed the 19 year old man down a dark alley and opened fire. The officer says that he thought the man had a gun, but there was no evidence that he had any sort of weaponry, and should not have shot him anyway as the suspect must be either firing, or be bound to fire at any second with a gun unholstered. This shows that the police are possibly even showing racism, and prejudice. The officer has not been charged.

We need to stop this before the police turn into an authorised terrorist organisation. Why, why, why won't the government do anything about this? Are the government against us? The LAPD motto is, "protect and serve". I find this laughable as they have their fair share of police brutality cases.

I am making a stand because this happens too much. But we can stop this. We can show the police that they're not above the law. We can show them that they are not allowed to do this. We can show them that they can not boss us around, because they are not the ruler of this country, neither are the government, but we are! All we need to do is stand together.

Louis McFarlane

# Iestyn Mawby

I ask you today, to not turn a blind eye to bullying. Let's stand up against bullies; you, me and everyone. All we need to do is make a stand, speak out, report it, talk about it. Don't keep bullying quiet. Speak Up!

Susanne Colasand once said, "If you see someone being bullied, make it stop. Why is that so hard for us to do?"

I can not understand how one human can hurt another human. Why people do these hideous, horrendous, horrid attacks on innocent people? People get bullied in school, in work, through social networking and even at home. People can be bullied over the clothes they wear, the music they listen to, the way they look, where they come from and many more things. Why should people be persecuted for what they wear, listen to and more? Can this be fair?

Have you ever been bullied? Has it happened to your friends or family? Just take a moment and think, how did you feel when you heard someone you care about is hurting because of bullying? Upsetting isn't it. Why? Why? Why?

Over 3.2 million students are victims of bullying each year in the world. Approximately 160,000 teens skip school every day because of bullying. This causes losing GCSE marks leading to poor jobs and a bad life. This is not acceptable.

According to Childline 1 in 4 teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and will only intervene 4% of the time. Bullying causes students to miss out on their education or feel self-hatred. According to statistics, around 50-75% students in schools are bullied during lunch breaks. Nobody is free from bullying, we could all one day end up being a victim of bullying or may already have been a victim of bullying. Unfortunately some children with a life ahead of them end it. A local Doncaster boy aged 12 hanged himself because of bullying. 44% of suicides in the UK are a result of bullying.

One thing I don't get is, what does it achieve? Does it bring lasting happiness? Does it bring lasting power or does it bring lasting success? The bullies terrify other people, and yet they are still cowards. A new form of bullying is Cyber bullying, people do this because they can hide behind their computers and write horrible messages that they're scared to say in person.

Opening your emails or texts to find bullying messages in your own home where it is supposed be a safe place is awful. How would you feel if this happened to you?

# Grace Marshall

“If you don’t like pictures of animal cruelty being posted on social media, you need to help stop the cruelty, not the pictures. You should be bothered that it’s happening, not that you saw it.”

- Marie Sarantakis

Today, I am going to tell you about something I am not happy about. Lots of innocent animals and creatures are being treated poorly by people just like you and me. Most people don’t have a reason to be doing this, and some....just think it is funny! Animals are just like us humans, they eat, sleep and even help people who desperately need it.

Over the past few years, millions and millions of animals have been left, starved and trapped in their own homes. 64.5% of dogs are involved in this abuse. You could understand if a dog has to be put to sleep because it was ill or had hurt someone. But leaving your pet dog trapped inside, or in a cage, with rubbish everywhere and no food and water is cruel. Some people even chain their dogs outside, they don’t feed them or give them water; they leave them outside in the rain to starve. People also just kill animals for their fur, skin and bones to make coats, rugs and medicines.

There are many types of animal abuse. Dog fighting is a very common one. People or their ‘owners’ use their dogs, put them in pits, barns, alleyways, old buildings, garages and a lot of hidden away places, to fight. The dogs fight and fight until one dog can’t go on anymore because it’s hurt, passed away during the fight or run away. At the end, if none of the dogs have been hurt or killed their owners will shoot them, beat them or even torture them. This is still legal in Japan, Honduras and some parts of Russia.

Once my auntie went down to a house and found a 7 year old Jack Russell called Gizmo. So after a lot of hard thinking, my auntie took Gizmo in for love and care , for Christmas, A few weeks later Gizmo went back to his owner.

In my opinion, animal abuse is horrifying, horrific and horrid. So just think, ‘can this be fair?’

# Amaan Malik

What football team do you think are the best? Probably the football fanatics will choose either Barcelona or Real Madrid. Probably these football fanatics will choose the best players in these teams, which I believe are Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Cristiano Ronaldo is “beyond perfection” and a “born footballer” who plays for the Spanish team, Real Madrid. You may think that practically all footballers are loaded, but this particular footballer earns mind-blowing amounts.

Premiership footballers earn an average of £676,000 per year, according to a survey conducted by ‘The Independent and the Professional Footballers’ Association’.

That figure, which equates to £13,000 per week, typically rises by between 60% and 100% when performance-related bonuses are taken into account. Strikers have the highest average annual salary, with £806,000, while midfielders earn about £754,000. Defenders earn £653,000 on average and Premiership goalkeepers make £533,000.

But Cristiano Ronaldo made €17 million in 2014. Ronaldo should be paid but not to the extent of millions. On the other hand, the Argentinian Lionel Messi earns a whopping €20 million-also according to 2014- a massive €3 million more than the Portuguese footballer.

Furthermore, if you’re thinking that Ronaldo and Messi earn a lot, well there are other footballers who earn near enough the same wage, for example: Wayne Rooney, the Manchester United Striker, earns a colossal 18.1 million US Dollars (USD). This is far too much as he is not exactly the best player of this time.

If an average midfielder from the Barclays Premier League earns £806,000 you would expect a firefighter to earn a wage near that mark, considering the fact that they risk their lives. The answer is no, and the wage is not even close. On average, a regular firefighter would earn about £21,000 a year, for a trainee. This rises to around £28,500 once qualified and passed as competent after probation. Crew managers can earn up to £31,500 a year, and station managers can earn between £36,500 and £40,500 a year. Retained firefighters are paid a fee, which can be between £2,100 and £2,800 a year.

Personally, that kind of wage to me is nothing in comparison because firefighters have to risk their lives to go into buildings and treacherous conditions to save lives. A firefighter experiences temperatures which can cause serious burns and in the worst cases can cause cancer or even loss of life.

Structural firefighting gear is recommended by the NFPA to be rated at a minimum of a TPP rating of 35. A good rule of thumb for translating a TPP rating into time in heat is to cut your TPP rating in half, this is the number of seconds a firefighter has in 1,000 degrees. This means that they have about 18 seconds to in a room of 1,000. An average temperature that firefighters withstand in a structure fire is usually between 400 and 800 degrees. With this heat resistance is also a big limitation. Though, they have protection from most heat transfer, they have little to no protection from steam. This penetrates right into the suit, and causes very painful burns.

I cannot imagine how a firefighter gets paid hardly anything in comparison to footballers. In my mind, all footballers do is just kick a ball across a pitch and get attention from the public. Most footballers get over £1million in the UK which really could be spent on something else.

The same story continues with the average wage of residents in the UK. In 2011, the average household net-adjusted disposable income was 26,552, while the average annual salary was £21,326. In April 2012, average gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were £506, an increase of 1.5% percent from £498 in 2011. This brought the average full-time wage to £26,500.

Even the police get paid between forces but the typical starting salary for police constables in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is £23,317 and £25,962 after initial training. In Scotland it's slightly higher, starting at £23,493 and rising to £26,223 after completing the initial training period. The range of typical salaries after several years' experience is £36,519 to £41,040 for sergeant; £46,788 to £50,751 for inspector; and £51,789 to £53,919 for chief inspector. London weighting up to around £6,500 and additional competency-related threshold payments are available for all ranks.

Policeman and policewomen are there to enforce the law and keep the world safe but again the footballer wage takes over.

There are around 45,000 hospital consultants who are paid between £74,504 a year and £100,000 a year. Salaries for the UK's 42,000 GPs vary from an average of £103,000 a year for partners in practices to anything between £53,781 and £81,158 for GPs employed by Primary Care Trusts. Knowing the fact that doctors save lives, which is critical, obviously, in my opinion, a doctor should be paid buckets upon buckets of money, because footballers have done nothing for us except giving the world entertainment.

If an average English person gets paid £26,500, footballers should earn that much, if not a smaller amount. Even a maximum average wage for a GP Doctor is £103,000 - that is nothing compared to footballers' wage.

Think about Wayne Rooney, an English footballer who plays for Manchester United earns 50p a second. In spite of the fact he is not regarded as the best footballer in the world he still earns unimaginable amounts.

# Cameron Madgziak

“Football is not so stupid to close doors to people”.

“If you are good, you get the job. If you are top, you are top”.

This suggests that everyone within football gets a fair chance at a job. The FA state that their race equality work is focused on one ethos: using the positive power of football to create equal opportunities – for everyone and anyone and to enjoy the world’s greatest game. Yet there are only two black managers in the Premier League.

Jeffrey Webb, the Concacaf president and Fifa vice-president, said the lack of black and ethnic minority figures in the dugout and the boardroom was overt but that no one wanted to deal with the problem.

The head of Fifa’s anti-racism task force has said that discrimination in English football is “right in front of your face”!

FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe) witnessed that there has been between 300 and 500 Croatian fans chanting monkey noises, which prompted UEFA to investigate.

The Croatian Football Federation has been fined 80,000 euros (£65,000) after fans directed racist abuse at Italy striker Mario Balotelli.

A photographer reportedly saw a steward retrieving a banana and heard monkey chants directed at Manchester City forward Mario Balotelli.

Croatia have three days to appeal against Uefa’s punishment.

A Uefa statement said: “The Croatian Football Federation (HNS) has been fined 80,000 euros for the setting-off and throwing of fireworks, and the improper conduct of supporters (racist chants, racist symbols) at the Uefa Euro 2012 Group C match against Italy in Poznan on Thursday, 14 June.

In a statement it said: “The Croatian Football Federation distances itself from all deviant behaviour of the part of the fans during the final tournament of Uefa Euro 2012 and strongly condemns it.”

Football is the sport of England with over 10 leagues and around 24 teams in each league. I am making a stand today to argue that racism should be stopped.

I am making a stand today to make it clear that racism in all sports is not acceptable.

# Anthony Leigh

Today I will be talking to you about animal abuse and neglect. Every day hundreds of cats, dogs and other animals either die or are rescued by the RSPCA or other charities. These animals die or are rescued for one specific reason, because they are abused and neglected.

I would like to make a stand against this as many animals are dying, they are losing their lives due to neglect and abuse. If you were an animal being abused and neglected, how would you feel? If you were left all alone without food or water, how would you feel? If you were the animal being neglected would you prefer your owners love and affection rather than being abused and neglected? This is why I am making a stand against animal abuse.

An example of animal neglect is puppy mills. The female dog is often kept in poor conditions and is used like a breeding machine, she will produce litter after litter, not being able to wean her puppies correctly. The puppies bred there are neglected and are plagued with illnesses and diseases. This is because the breeders don't care for the dogs that they are breeding. All they want is the money for breeding them, then the dogs new owner will have to buy medicines for the dog and pay expensive treatments to cure the dog from its plague brought to it by the puppy mill. Unfortunately, it is not just the puppies in the puppy mills that have been abused and neglected.

People kill greyhounds they have bought because they are not a high enough standard for the owner because they don't have the racing potential the owner wants or because the greyhound is injured, because of this the owner would kill the greyhound. One final example of abuse for greyhounds is that when they can no longer run their owner abandons them.

One last example of animal neglect is when you leave your animal with little water and little food and leave it chained up to starve to death. The fine for animal cruelty can be up to £20,000 or 6 months in prison. If you don't want to pay this bill, don't neglect or abuse your animal. The amount of people who have been fined or imprisoned for animal cruelty has not been recorded. So how do the government know how many people have been imprisoned and fined? According to the RSPCA's cruelty records for 2006 revealed an 8% increase in rescues and collections from the previous year, an 11% increase in the number of complaints investigated but an 8% reduction in convictions.

The hens that lay eggs for us, battery hens, they are caged up, to lay eggs all day long. They are kept in a factory in poor conditions. The poor conditions they are kept in include cramped cages, the cages are that small that the hens cannot spread their wings without hitting another chicken. They are most likely to never see sunlight and to go outdoors and be free. The hens in these factories will never be like the hens which are energetic and lay eggs out in the open as free range.

This is wrong and I want to make a stand against animal cruelty.



# James Hyde

I believe that animal cruelty should not happen because it is cruel, nasty and terrible behaviour. Think of this; on average every 30 seconds someone in England and Wales dials the RSPCA's 24 hour cruelty line for help. In 2013 they received 1,327,849 phone calls. The RSPCA have approximately 267 full time (46 part time) RSPCA inspectors, 18 trainee inspectors, 55 full time (3 part time) animal welfare officers and 77 full time (6 part time) animal collection officers (ACOs) working to prevent cruelty and promote kindness to animals in England and Wales.

Their inspectors now investigate more than 150,000 complaints of cruelty and neglect every year. In 2007, the Animal Welfare Act became law in England, shortly after it was implemented in Wales. Described as the single most important piece of animal welfare legislation. They have a network of 166 RSPCA branches around England and Wales, and they work with many animal welfare organisations abroad through their international team.

Their four RSPCA animal hospitals and five clinics treat pets in need of preventative medicine or welfare treatments belonging to members of the public who can't afford private veterinary fees. (they also have 37 clinics and 3 mobile clinics run by their branches.) Their 16 regional animal centres across England and Wales help people adopt pets and rehome more animals than any other organisation. (They also have 40 animal centres run by their branches.) They have four specialist RSPCA wildlife centres in England.

The RSPCA also works to improve the lives of millions of farm, laboratory and wild animals. More than 900 million farm animals are reared every year in the UK. Around 4 million scientific procedures are carried out using animals in research establishments in the UK each year. For nearly 100 years, the Act places a legal obligation on owners and keepers of animals to care for them properly.

# Jamie Holdridge

I believe that car related accidents from human error have a great impact.

The reason why this has a great impact on me is because I don't understand why we would risk others lives as well as our own? Just imagine if you were speeding and you crash into someone you knew and you cared for? How would you feel?

Did you know 1.3 million people die because of mobile phones whilst driving per year? Did you know 1,754 people die on Britain's roads every year because of speeding?

3000 people die from drunk driving each year. Every single injury and death caused by drunk driving is preventable. Although the proportion of crashes that are alcohol-related has dramatically decreased in recent decades, there are still far too many such preventable accidents. Unfortunately, in spite of great progress, alcohol-impaired driving remains as a serious problem that effects many victims every year.

The main reason for me raising this subject is because I'm so passionate about this because millions of people die from drunk people, speeders as well as the men and women who think they can multitask on mobile phones.

# Liam Higgs

One morning I was waiting for the bus and a middle aged woman blew cigarette smoke into my face! Is that what you want to happen to you?

I'd like to have a moment of your time to explain to you how passionate I am about people smoking cigarettes, it is making people ill and shortening their lives.

The positive health benefits of smoking cigarettes are absolutely nothing. There are many damaging things about cigarettes. A cigarette contains over 4000 chemical compounds that are bad for your health. 69 of the chemicals are known to cause cancer. If you smoke cigarettes you can develop lung cancer and It also causes strokes and coronary heart disease.

The packs people sell in shops have the pictures of hazards and warnings to try and stop people from smoking.

I could become a smoker because my parents smoke but I'll make the right choice, Will you make the right choice?

# Dalton Hicks

Dear ladies and gentlemen I am going to talk about suicide.

There is many ways to stop suicide. The reason people commit suicide is because people can't cope when they are depressed and believe the only solution is to end their lives. Someone I know has a suicidal history in his family. In the 1990's his auntie committed suicide on the moors in her car and she suffocated herself. You can stand up to whatever is making you feel this way and not let it get into your head; for example if it's a bully you can tell someone, to get it sorted out and stop the bullying. If it is a mental health problem you can get help from the NHS.

However, this help isn't always available because in January 2015 it was announced that the government would cut 50 million from children's mental health services. It's a growing population and with money getting tighter children cannot get help from a young age. But you can tell someone you trust, your family, friends or GP because they will help. The NHS will give pills and medicine to stop you from being suicidal.

According to the World Health Organisation around 1 million people commit suicide each year. The bullies may be vicious, violent and vile but don't let it get into your head, tell someone. We are afraid of being too smart or too stupid. We are afraid to wear the wrong clothes. We are afraid of these bullies, do you think this is right?

Kids all over the world right now are thinking suicidal thoughts... if you could stop this would you? The thing is people can stop these suicidal thoughts. The people who started the thoughts can just not do it in the first place. The people who need help from the NHS can go and get treated and stop these suicidal thoughts. I believe that this shouldn't happen, I believe that people can stand up to help, I believe that this would be a better world without this horrendous darkness. Some people can be suicidal because of the area they live in so if they're in quite a poor area they might think they are nothing which can lead them to commit suicide.

Some people get depressed and believe the only way out is to commit suicide but what they don't realise is there is many other ways to stop wanting to commit suicide. Some people then do drugs to stop themselves being depressed. Suicidal people are upset, depressed and disheartened. Some people stand against suicide, just like me, because there are many charities that want to help. Some people give a lot of money to suicidal charities like Robin Williams. I think that the Government should pay more attention to this because they don't realise how often this happens. The Government should give more money so people can get help from a young age. I think this is important because we all know it feels awful to be bullied everyday and thinking about suicide because of it.

Some people want sunshine in there life but sadly there's too much darkness.

# Leah Hedley

What is a homeless person? A homeless person's plight is caused by poverty and some of the main causes of homelessness include relationship breakdown and domestic violence, mental or physical health problems. About a quarter of people who are homeless have been in local authority care, four in ten rough sleepers in London have spent time in prison and three % of rough sleeping and single homeless people are British ex-service personnel. Also, people losing their jobs affects their lifestyle because they then can't provide for themselves and they have no money so they won't be able to pay bills or rent which then leads to them getting kicked out of their home. 1 in 6 foster children up to the age of 21 also have the risk of becoming homeless.

I believe that everyone has the right to a decent standard of living with food, clothing, housing, medical care and security. Give someone your smiles even if it's the only sunshine they see all day, it may not change the whole world but it will make a difference in their world. In the course of a year, the estimated odds for experiencing homelessness for an adult are 1 in 10.

I am going to tell you a story. One day me and my mum were walking towards Primark when a women asked my mum to change two ten pence pieces into a twenty pence because she had been trying to get a bed for the night and she had spent three pounds on the phone trying to get one. I wonder if they are thinking, 'Am I being punished ? Is it for something I have done ? Is it because I don't fit in ? Or is it because I don't belong here in this world?' Would you like to live as homeless people? Have you ever felt invisible?

Homeless people rely on the generosity and compassion of strangers. They live in a world that we do not understand or comprehend. What may seem as trash or garbage, they see as food, water or a warm coat. What we don't appreciate a homeless person will. When we are in our warm, cosy houses there are 4 in 10 people living in a car or in another place that is not intended for human habitat. Lack of affordable housing and long waiting lists for assisted housing, means that men and women and their children are forced to chose between abuse at home and life on the streets. Nevertheless, these problems are being solved by the big hearted, kind, caring people who are putting shelters up for the homeless for free. However, I believe that there are still people suffering out in the streets.

While you and I would be embarrassed to be found digging through trash for food, warm clothing or any basic need they shed their embarrassment and do what they need to do to make it through another day. We are all capable of survival it is the most basic instinct that humans have. We live in a society that has been coaxed into forgetting what it is to just live and exist. However, if everything we loved was taken away from us tomorrow we wouldn't just curl into a ball and die, we would adapt to a new environment and learn how to survive again.

What we may seem as necessary, homeless people deem as unnecessary. They form families among themselves. They watch out for one another. They will share among each other, if they have to .Their mentality is not like yours or mine. Not that I am saying that they are insane! In order for them to survive in the harshest elements, they cannot afford to think the way we do, they have to do away with emotions that we base on our life's conduct on.

HELP! Join your warm hand with a cold companion. Together we can change the world by changing our communities.

# Archie Harris

Ladies and gentleman I am here to talk to you about motocross on private land. Motocross is riding motorcycles on off road land. They go up to speeds of 90mph. I am upset about this happening in the countryside of Britain. It is messing up places such as Cannon Hall in Barnsley and Cusworth Hall in Doncaster. They have lots of land so no one can or will be able to see them messing around. This is why we have gamekeepers but we still need more of them. The people who own the halls and the farmer's land are getting their land ripped up! This leaves them with less profit and torn up fields. Do they only think about themselves, are they just a load of selfish people?

The public can see their land being torn apart by teenagers and wreckers. These people must be stopped from going on people's land but they still deserve to have fun so we need more tracks for them to go on and have fun.

This isn't what Britain is for, we are a land of agriculture and we don't need people messing that up.

These people can destroy the habitats of many animals which can drive them into cities. However, that won't happen if we stop them from doing what they do. There are lots of tracks built for this kind of thing, if they want to do motocross they should go on one of the many parks around England.

I am Archie and I am very passionate about making a stand against motocross on private land. This needs to stop now, what are we going to do about this dilemma?

# Lyle Haines

I feel deeply about racism in football. This is because one of my best friends has recently been racially abused whilst playing football. This is why i'm making a stand to kick racism out of football.

Racism is where a group white people don't agree with some black people on one subject and they start arguing and calling each other racist names, start fighting, getting weapons and brutally attack each other. Also, that's how wars, protests and other social problems occur.

Do you like football? In my opinion football is the best sport ever invented. Football is a sport that anyone of any age male or female can play. Also, it is one of the easiest sports to get involved in. Where ever you live you can use a ball of string, bottle, little rock, or a sports ball ( football, basketball, tennis ball) to play the game. Football is the most watched sport with over 3.5 billion fans across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Also, it's the most played sport with 250 million players in over 200 countries. Unfortunately some fans/players spoil the beautiful game by shouting racist words, fight, throw flares and other objects at players and opposition fans.

If any fans or other players make racial comments or abuse to the players on the pitch the Fifa (Federation internationale de football association) and FA will enforce things like fines (like if it was a player they would get like a £40,000 - £300,000 and an 4 - 16 match ban like a player called Luis Suarez in 2010 he was racist to a player called Patrice Evra he got a 40,000 and an 8 match ban).

Thank you for listening to my speech about kicking racism out of football. Also, I think black people who play football shouldn't be judged on the colour of their skin or who they are.

# Rory Forester

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Pollution! At some point in our lives we have all made pollution from cars, dropping litter and not recycling. I'm a gardener and I can smell, hear and see the pollution. That is why I'm here to make a stand to reduce pollution and save the planet. So why do people pollute the earth because ultimately we are polluting the planet?

Soil is being contaminated. This prevents nature growth and habitats are getting destroyed because of landfills, mining and household dumping. Soil contamination can lead to poor growth, crops destroyed, soil erosion, habitats and water pollution. Plants will go into extinction and there will be less food and less oxygen. Do you want that to happen?

In the 1950s the bee population was made up of 50 types of species in the UK but now there are only 25 types species in the UK because of the chemicals in the pollution. Pollution is killing our bees! If all the bees die there will be no honey and plants will start to die because there will be no pollen to pollinate the plants and no pollen to make honey. Honey prices and plant prices will go up too. Do you want honey and plants to go into extinction?

The sea is being polluted with over 14 million pounds of garbage dumped into the sea everyday. Animals are dying, plants are dying, sea life is dying. 12% of water pollution comes for activities at sea and 88% comes from dump sites, sewage and oil production.

We are throwing away too much garbage; we need to recycle more because the chemicals are attacking the ozone layer. The ozone layer was once thick but now it's thin because of us, so we need to do something to stop the ozone layer from having a hole in it. The Sun's rays are traveling through the thin part of the ozone layer which is melting the ice caps, the sea is rising because of the ice caps melting, there are more wildfires, coral reefs are being destroyed, floods are occurring more often, the seasons are changing because it less cold in winter and summer lasts into the middle of autumn and there is an increase in extreme weathers. Polar animals are being killed because of us, we are all murderers of the planet by killing animals and the sea. Instead of going to the bin go and recycle and protect our planet.

To try to stop pollution we need to use at home: energy saving bulbs, turn lights off when nobody's in the room and recycle instead of public transport and cars. In general, we could use solar and wind power plants. Don't litter on land or in the sea, replant plants and buy reusable cloth bags instead of plastic bags. These are all ways to try to stop pollution, together we can stop this. Will you make a stand against pollution? Thank you for your time.



# Theo Fleetwood

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I am speaking today about racism in sports.

Do you agree with racism? Have you ever heard the sound of racism? I bet you have because it's everywhere!

We were meant to get rid of racism in the 1950's yet 65 years later and it's still here. You hear it everywhere, the streets, the internet and transport. Well, now it's time to get totally rid of it!

Sport is one of the worst places where racial abuse goes on. An example is in the NBA and NFL. More black players get pulled up for fouls by white referees, than white players. A professor and a Cornell University graduate student says that during the 13 seasons from 1991 through to 2004, white referees called fouls at a greater rate against black players than against white players.

For example, in the Barclays Premier League in a match between Liverpool and Manchester United in 2010 the footballer Luis Suarez was said to make racist comments towards Patrice Evra. Suarez was charged £40,000 and banned for 8 games. I do not agree that the punishment was not enough. Suarez earns almost £200,000 pounds a week, £40,000 pounds will not affect him at all. This match was televised, many people saw this happen.

In a football match between Barcelona and Villarreal, the player Dani Alves had a banana thrown at him, comparing him to a monkey. Alves picked up the banana and ate it to say that he wasn't bothered. Alves played better after the incident and at the end of the match he said that the banana gave him energy. After the game other players started to take pictures of themselves eating bananas to make a stand, they did not agree with what happened. It then started quite a big thing around the world. A bad thing is that footballers are role models. People look up to them and want to be like them! Do you think they should be? Luis Suarez has won a lot of awards. In April 2014, he won the PFA Players, Player of the Year award, becoming the first non European to win the award, and the FWA Footballer of the Year. He won the Premier League's top scorer with 31 goals, he won the Premier League Golden Boot, and shared the European Golden Shoe with Cristiano Ronaldo.

I am making a stand because in the end racism should not exist. People should think before they say things. Why are different races any different to anyone else? They are exactly the same on the inside. We are all human beings. They should not be treated this way, why are you any more important than them! It needs to stop!

# Katie-Rae Duffield

"I believe in destiny. There must be a reason that I am as I am. There must be."

This is a quote from a man who made the whole world laugh, Robin Williams. He starred in many famous films, for example, Jumanji, Mrs Doubtfire, Hook, and so many more. However, behind the funnyman Robin Williams was deeply depressed. He suffered from years of depression, as this took its toll, he committed suicide in his home on August 11th 2014. His death caused great sadness and broke many people's hearts. Nobody realised how depressed Robin was. "You know that place between sleep and awake, that place where you're still remember dreaming? That's where I'll always love you Peter Pan. That's where I'll be waiting." Tinkerbell says this to Peter Pan (played by Robin) in Hook and I think it perfectly describes how Robin Williams will be remembered.

Have you noticed that when we know people have a mental illness, we judge them. Why? It's not their fault. I bet you know somebody with an illness. Whether it be mental or physical. I would like you to think to yourself for a minute what it would be like to have a mental illness. What would it be like to have people judging you? What would it be like for you to be told how to live your life?

Did you know that 20% of adults are affected by a mental disorder? Anxiety affects 14% of adults and 6% suffer from depression.

In the UK the NHS have been told they could save more than £50 million a year by shifting the focus. It has been said that the NHS save £989 every time a person gets treated with therapy rather than going to hospital. The cuts have had an impact on next year's budgets as mental health trusts have been asked to save 20% more for the upcoming year.

'Rethink' said mental health accounted for 23% of the disease burden in England but received only 13% of the health budget.

As a result of this, in November, a 16-year-old girl from Devon spent two nights in a police cell as no psychiatric bed was available. She isn't the only one either. Vulnerable British children are locked in prison as medical facilities don't have the correct help. This is proof that in the future, this is going to affect many people's lives, as these people will not know they have a mental illness and won't receive the help they need or the support they want. The population is constantly growing but long term people who need the support such as mental health, won't get the support they need. If we were to receive help we could possibly slow the death rate. As we can support people with depression, and stop suicide.

If only the services would help, it would give us a ray of sunlight, hope and happiness instead of the great dark glooming cloud that is hanging over us and close to dropping.

Mental Illness is treated like a shameful thing. In many places including England nobody talks about it, nobody tries or listens. It's like an unwritten law, that we don't talk about illnesses and people aren't getting heard.

I may be one person, but for every one person that makes a stand, every one person who hears, for everybody who takes three minutes of courage to stand and talk about things they are passionate about it's another way for people to hear. To know and see.

I may be one person but for everyone who knows, or has known somebody with a mental illness, make a stand then there's more chance of us getting heard. We need to be heard! We deserve to be heard. You may think you don't make a difference but you do. If one person makes a stand then another, then two more, that's more people hearing, that's more of us standing up for these people! We are only human. So why are they treated different? It's basic human rights. People. Please. Come on, it's our only hope left.

# Bethanie Coates

Animals cannot speak so they are not able to defend themselves. I am making a stand against animal cruelty. Animals give us love, they rely on us, they want respect, they want a quality life. They have basic needs : food, water, fresh air and socialisation. We have mouths to speak up for ourselves and make a complaint if we are being treated unkindly. Would you like to be treated unkindly?

I have 11 animals in my home: four dogs, three chickens, two rabbits, one tortoise and a fish. All of my animals in my home have a name, all of my animals give my family happiness and joy; they make us laugh, they are funny and helpful but also fun to play with.

There are horror stories out there that are true, that countless animals are treated badly, not cared for, not loved, not appreciated. My mum told me someone went into her best friends garden and stole their dog. If you watch the T.V. and read the newspapers you will find out for yourselves how many dogs have been stolen everyday. Thieves make lots of money for stealing your dogs or your pets. Do you know why? Its because they steal them then sell them.

RSPCA inspectors now investigate more than 150,000 complaints every year. They have found new homes for 55,323 animals, the UK pet populations in 2013 was estimated at 8.5 million cats and 8.5 million dogs. On average 1 in 2 households own a pet with around 22 million pets owned. More than 50% of the fur in the United States comes from China, where there are no penalties for abusing animals which are raised in unbearably cramped and run-down cages from farms. Each year, thousands of young and healthy greyhounds are killed because of their lack of racing potential or they have been injured while racing and are no longer competitive. The RSPCA bring rays of sunshine into the darkness of cruelty.

I believe that animals have the right for happiness and it is up to us to ensure that happens.

# Azriel Chan

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am Azriel and in this speech I will be making a stand against animal testing, and how its cruelty must be stopped.

I believe animals should not be tested on. They're innocent. Just like us, they feel pain and fear and sadness. Their own natural instincts are to be free and to protect their own lives, not to be locked in a small cage inside a laboratory. Animals every year are tested on: animals may legally be poisoned; deprived of food, water or sleep; subjected to psychological distress; they are deliberately infected with diseases; surgically mutilated; and electrocuted and brutally killed so that we don't suffer. They have to suffer. We do this to them in hope of our own survival. This happens to millions of animals every year.

Research on living animals has been practiced since at least 500 BC, and about 80% of animal tests that take place today are for research and drug development. Think about it. The bitter thought that some medicine you could have taken will have involved animal testing! Innocent creatures will have been examined, tested upon and eventually killed so people will be able to use these new drugs to help them with their everyday lives, illnesses and even save their lives.

Some people argue that animal testing can help and has helped save people's lives. They believe without it we wouldn't know if a product is safe to use or not. The only other way to tell if they would be safe to use is to test them on ourselves. For example, if scientists test a new drug that they think will cure a disease or sickness they can test it on animals to see if their theory is right, and if so, they can use it on humans. People will be able to use these new drugs to help them with their everyday lives, illnesses and even save their lives.

However, many people, like me, believe that animal testing is cruel and inhumane. They also argue that there are other alternative methods to animal testing, and that animals are so different from human beings that research on animals often yields irrelevant results. So why should we still use animal testing when this can be avoided?

On the 21st of June, David Dane talked about how animal testing saved his parents:

'Both my parents are cancer sufferers and both have had their lives extended and their quality of life enhanced by therapies and treatments that were brought into being by animal research.'

In the past year animal research has been key to many medical breakthroughs including: the Gila monster's (South American lizard) venom is a key ingredient in Lixisenatide, a new treatment for diabetes

And due to animal testing, we have new toiletry products and cleaning solutions.

From recent studies, I have found out that an estimated 26 million animals are used every year in the United States and the UK for scientific and commercial testing; 84% of those animals are rodents; 12% of them are fish and reptiles; large mammals take up 2.1%; small mammals are 1.4% of the figure; 0.4% dogs and cats; and 0.1% are primates.

Although scientists still use animal testing as a tool, animals tend to have a different biological system to us, meaning that a solution may cure a disease on a primate, yet have different effects on a human. This must be stopped. Animal testing is inaccurate

science, it has wasted resources, delayed medical progress and even dangerously derailed our understanding of diseases. This must be stopped. We have delayed our understanding of polio transmission, heart disease and diabetes because we studied these diseases on different species. We cannot afford for anymore of this to happen. This must be stopped.

Continuing on what I have found on PETA.org, many studies have shown that animal tests fail to predict reactions in humans accurately, and they sometimes get it right less than 25 per cent of the time. There is also a serious debate within the scientific community about the value of information obtained from various animal tests. This raises doubts about the scientific validity of applying the results from research on animals to humans.

Thankfully, people are now beginning to understand how torturous and horrible animal testing really is and that without it, animals across the globe can live better lives, free and out in the open. I believe that this should stop and that it can. If enough effort and enough support is put forward to getting rid of animal testing then it can be gone for good. The voices of many creatures will be saved.

# Ethan Booth

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. How many of you have ever had a trembling thought of children being used in terrible ways? I can tell you that I have and my overall goal is to have a world without the thought of child labour; a world that my children would grow up in without the thought about children all over the world not as fortunate as them. According to the ILO or the international labour organisation, there are 218 million children aged between 5-17 involved in child labour worldwide. Globally, 1 in 6 children work. What is also shocking is that 126 million children are forced to work in hazardous conditions whilst being beaten. Children are being forced to work in these conditions by their masters and family. Their family do it for money to survive, however their masters are vicious, cold hearted animals, and they are like puppet masters; the children have no rights and their masters control their every move. So I ask all of the men and women of the world, stand up against child labour. I ask for a better world, I ask for a world with no unanswered cries for help. I ask that we make a stand against child labour and protect all the poor children in the world. That's the world I want to grow up in.

What is also horrifying is the fact that children have literally had their childhood taken away from them and every day children are working in poor conditions. Then, in 2003, child slavery was on the rise and the worst countries for child slavery are according to CNN are: Myanmar, North Korea, Somalia at joint first with more and more families selling their children to repay their debts. Also, they sell children for a little amount of money like their children were nothing.

Even they know that they have sold their child to the demented, evil, dark minds of the men and women who support the ever growing fear of child slavery. There are many types of slavery: there's agricultural labour, mining, manufacturing and domestic. However, you might think that's all of them but the list goes on. Now I say to you, never give up, never lose hope and never admit defeat against child labour and help to abolish the growing threat of child slavery. The children's slave masters think they're strong but they are really cowards hiding from the truth that what they have done is evil. Enslaving children for their own command. Also, I ask for the UN to join hands and reassure the safety of the our future by searching each country to abolish any signs of child slavery. I wish to ensure a proper life for the poorly treated children in the world so they can leave school at the age of fifteen to eighteen years of age. Also, every child needs a loving person to live with. Thank you.

# Samuel Bentham

I may only be one boy making a three minute speech but if all of you here, hearing my speech go away and make a difference we will be able to minimise the amount of dog abuse but if we don't then millions of innocent dogs will carry on being abused until we do something about it. Have you ever thought about making a stand against dog abuse? I am here to make a stand against dog abuse. The reason why I am making a stand about dog abuse is because I feel very passionate about the subject and how we should do something about it. The more we don't, the more people think that they can get away with it. If we do something about it then it will minimise the amount of it because they will know that we are cracking down on the abuses.

The reason why I am making a stand about dog abuse is because of the way that dogs are being treated! Think, if you were a dog how would you like it if you were locked in a cage with other dogs that is too small for you all to fit in and then stacked up? The only time you get let out is to be put into fights or abused by other people and in the worst cases even killed and then eaten. We all go about our daily lives never even giving a thought about what things could be happening to dogs around the world.

The other reason why I am making this speech about dog abuse is because they can't speak for themselves. We wouldn't like it if we were treated the way people treat dogs; the thing is we can speak for ourselves and stop the abuse if we were getting abused. Dogs can't, they just have to put up with it or they rely on us to stop it BUT WE DON'T. We just go by and see it happen but we are too scared to say anything just in case they do some harmful things to us.

I am glad to say that Britain is not in the top ten worst countries for dog abuse but that doesn't mean that that we don't have any dog abuse. We have a lot but we just don't see it. If you could see how much dog abuse happened in this country you would try to stop it but we don't so we don't do anything about it. I have done some research and found out that for entertainment some people put a dog in some rope and spin it around until it is almost being suffocated and then let it go and make it spin around until it has completely unwound and then do it again.

What is dog abuse? Dog abuse is when you leave a dog chained outside for most or all of the year, hitting or kicking a dog, using a dog for dog fights or sexual purposes, not adjusting the collar so it is too tight, not treating fleas, ticks, or infections, allowing children to torment the dog, scaring the dog, starving the dog, not giving it a good diet, not supplying constant clean water for the dog to drink, not grooming long haired dogs so that matting and knots occur that trap faeces, not allowing the dog to exercise, not keeping the area clean, not giving the dog toys to play with, giving improper toys or not interacting with the dog, not giving the dog physical affection, keeping dogs in the house too long, punishing dog when it can not hold urine or faeces, keeping a dog locked in car for hours on end, keeping the dog in too hot or too cold conditions.

Did you know that about 1.2 million dogs get abuse each year around the world. That means that if we carry on abusing dogs like this, in 2020 the people of the earth will have abused 6 million dogs. If we carry on in 2030 we will have abused 18 million dogs in the world which is a scarily big number and this will get higher as the years go on. Unless we do something about it. Did you know that if we carry on like this abusing dogs in 2040, 30 million dogs will have been abused which is just under the amount of dogs worldwide.



# Gabriella Bee

Hello, I would like to ask you a question. Have you ever tried to act differently to how you normally do just to become friends with someone? Millions of people are not confident with their own personality, so they try to act the same as someone else to 'fit in'. Do you think that it is right? Do you think it is right that someone feels they have to act like someone else to be popular or join a group of friends? I don't.

Think of something you like or enjoy doing. Do you really like it? Or are you just telling people that you do because 'everyone else' likes it? Or do you really like it? Is it something you enjoy? If you do enjoy it then surely you should make friends with people that like the same things.

There are five main benefits of being yourself :

1. You feel more confident, because you don't have to act differently around people.
2. You don't always have to worry about what other people think about you and what they expect of you. You are who you choose to be not who someone else wants you to be.
3. If you act differently to how you normally do, you won't attract the right friends. It is better to be friends with people that share the same interests with you and act the same as you.
4. You are not lying to yourself or others, you won't feel guilty about not being honest with yourself and your friends.
5. You will not always be stressing about acting like someone you're not.

Around 800,000 to a million people die by suicide every year. Do you think this is right? Do you think it is right that millions of people take their own life because they are not happy with their life. Is this right? Do you think that it is right that people are sick of pretending to be someone they are not so that they think that they shouldn't live anymore? How do people live in happiness when the 10th leading cause of death worldwide is suicide? I know I don't. Why should someone feel that they are not right or no one likes them for who they are? They shouldn't because that isn't true. There will always be someone who agrees with you or likes you or feels sorry for you. I know this because one of my classmates was bullied and they thought that no one liked them but me and my friend actually felt sorry for them because the bully didn't like them because of who they really were.

I feel very strongly about people being themselves. It's not about who the "popular" people want you to be it's about you being you. I may not even know you but I want you to be yourself, express yourself and have faith in yourself, because that is all that matters.

# Oliver Beard

In this speech I am making a stand against child abuse. I think that this is a terrible thing that goes on in the world.

There are many different types of child abuse but first I am going to provide you a few facts about this. Every single day approximately five children die due to child abuse. One out of three girls and one out of five boys will be sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. 3.6 million cases of child abuse are reported each year in the U.S. Most children become victims of abuse and neglect at 18 months or younger. Younger children are more vulnerable.

Child neglect is a common type of child abuse. It is a pattern of failing to provide for a child's basic needs. It may be a result of an attempt to harm a child but not always, it can also result from severe discipline. One in 18 people have been physically abused. The NSPCC have responded to over 9 thousand contacts about physical abuse last year. Over 6600 people have needed protection from child abuse just this last year.

80 to 90 percent of sexual abuse is carried out by a close family member. I think that child abuse should not exist! It is not fair on children because in some cases the child will commit suicide or become an alcoholic. Children are also smaller and less powerful than adults. So adults take advantage of that. Everything that I have just told you is all true. I can't understand how someone can have such a small heart and harm a child in this way like.

Some authorities are not giving people that have been abused the support that they need. I think that this is terrible, sad and upsetting. Can this be fair?

If I could change something in the world it would be child abuse. Only then could I be proud of earth. This must be stopped! In my opinion, child abuse is even worse than racism and animal abuse even though these two things are extremely serious. Thank you for listening. I hope you enjoyed my speech and will think about all of this information about child abuse.

# Thomas Austwick

I am talking to you about dictatorship. I believe dictatorships are wrong because I believe that everyone should have a say about their country. Dictatorship is when a leader controls what his country does and only does what he feels is right and the dictator has power until his death which is when someone from his family takes power. There are no elections.

Some examples of famous dictators are: Kim Jong Un, Vladimir Putin, Saddam Hussain, Osama Bin Laden and Adolf Hitler.

I feel strongly about this because these leaders don't let their people have a say and don't let them think about anything. The leaders choose what the people need to know and what they don't. People are brainwashed because they only know what the leaders want them to know and they believe anything they are told by their leaders, even if it is a lie. Hitler is a great example of a dictator because he lied to his people that Jews were evil and that the Germans were the master race and everyone should be like them. This started a world war. Hitler and his people killed 6 million jews and this was known as, 'the holocaust.'

I think having too many rules is bad because with too many rules means you have no freedom. I think that the lack of freedom is a bad thing because without freedom you can do barely anything and you can't have fun because you can barely go anywhere. I believe that people should not live like this. I believe that people should have freedom. I believe that the leaders should let their people have freedom!

It is hard for us to understand because in England we are very free and don't have many rules but sadly today there are still cases of dictatorship such as Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin.

Kim Jong Un is a great example of modern dictatorship. I believe, he lies to his people so that his country, North Korea, can have the best army in the world and nobody can beat them. He always threatens to nuke people just to make him look powerful. Every citizen needs a framed picture of him in their house and if they don't it is punishable by death. His own uncle disagreed with him so he got executed. He lies to his people so they believe that he is the supreme leader. Vladimir Putin is another example of a modern dictatorship he, like Kim Jong Un, lies to his people and threatens to nuke people and lies about his army, he thinks Russia is the best country in the world.

By now I hope you know how bad dictatorship is and why I am against it.