



Influencing **CHANGE** Toolkit

The
Children's
Society

How to: **USE** SIGNATURES

WHAT IS A PETITION?

A petition is simply a statement about the issue you would like to change. It is addressed to the people you would like to influence (see Section 1: How to Influence People) with signatures of supporters attached to it.

The more people that show that they would like this issue to change, the harder it is for decision makers to ignore. So, the more signatures on your petition, the bigger the impact it will make for your influencing change project!

Whether you start your petition online or on paper, use this section to help start a petition to support your influencing project.

A petition is a really useful way to demonstrate the number of people who are also concerned about an issue you would like to change!



Starting a petition

There are 4 essential parts that make up a petition.

1. Petition Statement: A brief, clear statement about the issue you would like to change, plus the action you would like the people you have addressed the petition to (the decision makers) to take on this issue.
2. The NAME, ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE of every person who signs.
3. A tick box allowing people to opt-out of being contacted by you.
4. A Data Protection Statement.

Statement example

'We the undersigned, petition (Name of School) to allow young carers to have access to a mobile phone during the school day. Young carers have responsibilities that mean being in contact with those they care for is essential to ensure that young carers are able to avoid constant worry and place more focus on their studies during school time.'

My Petition Statement:



Don't forget to put a data protection statement on your petition, it's a legal requirement! Download a petition template that includes a data protection statement from the influencing change pack page at: www.youngcarer.com/influencingchange

GET CREATIVE WITH PLEDGES

A fun way of engaging people in your Influencing Project is asking them to do something instead of signing a petition. Here are some examples of other things you could do to get people involved in creating a change:

* Make hand-prints

On a piece of cloth with paint, or outline with pens. People can then sign their hand prints.

* Make paper flowers

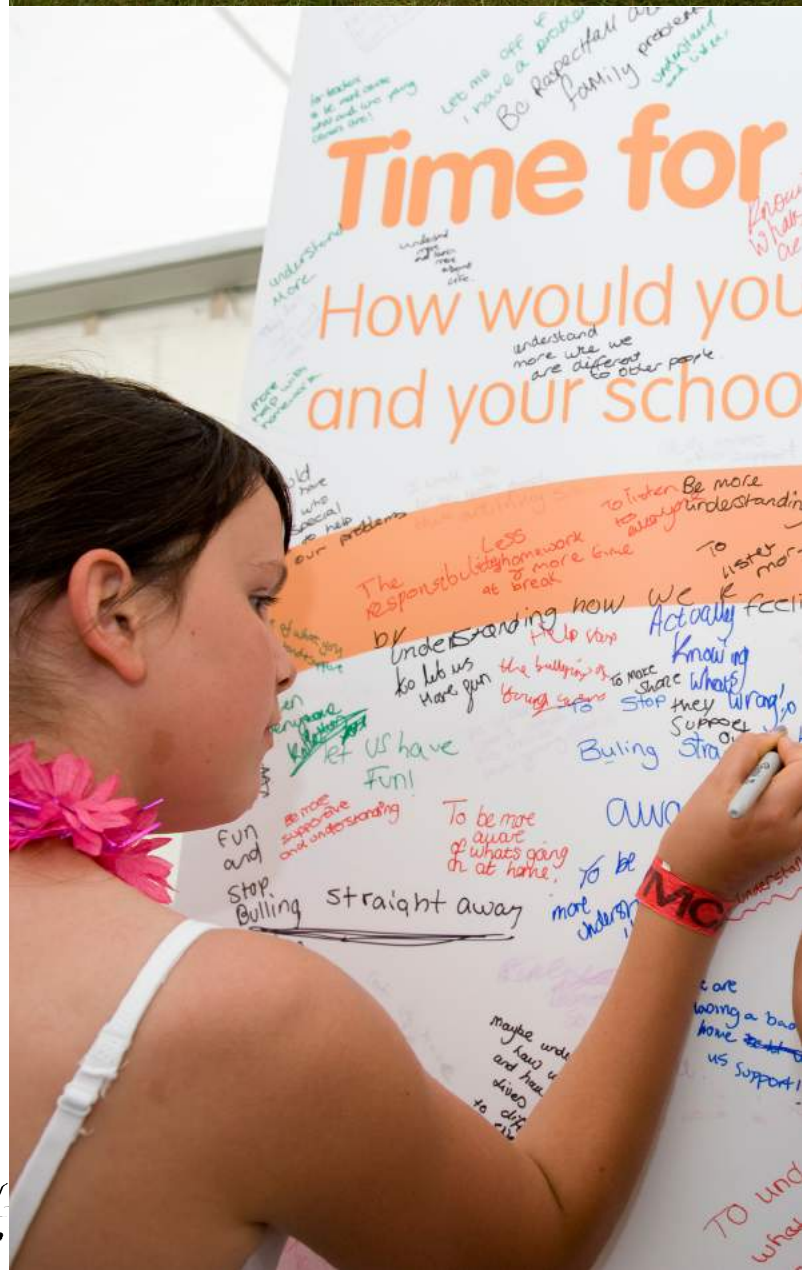
Then attach a tag with the persons name written on it to the flower.

* Design a patchwork square

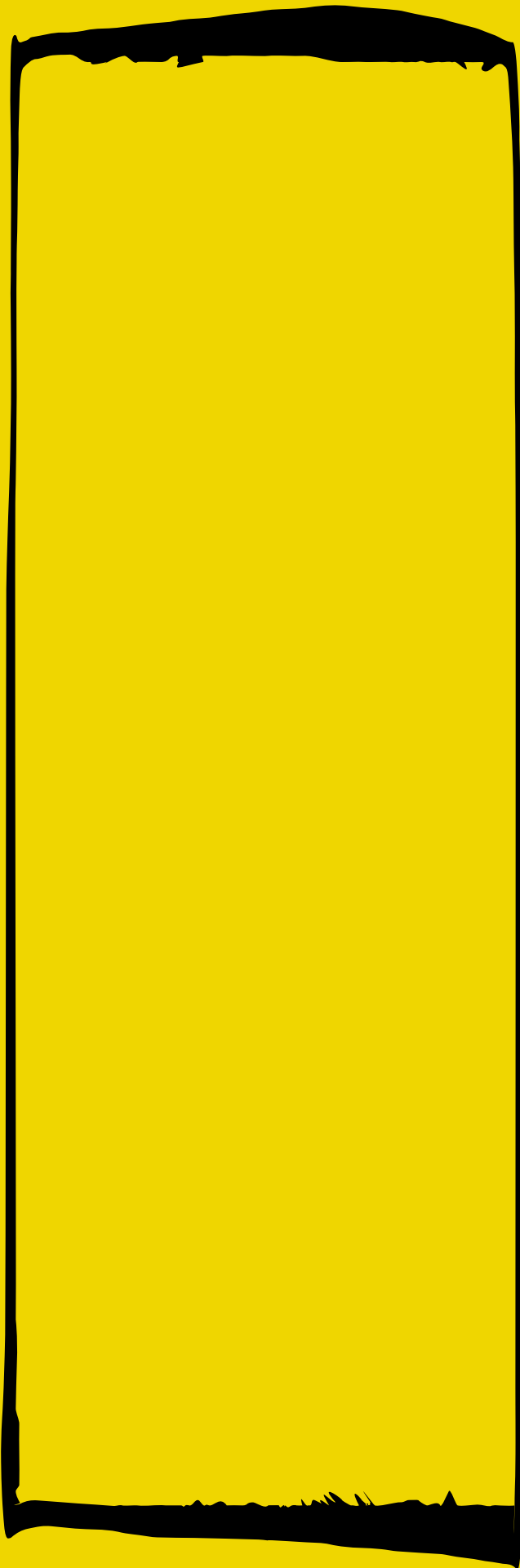
Collect them all and turn it into something eyecatching.

* Draw a self Portrait or take a selfie

You can display them somewhere people can see easily to raise awareness



List some ideas for creative ways to convey the key message of your Influencing Project.





Getting
your
petition to
the right
people

You need to get your petition to people with the power to make the change you want to see. See Section 1: How to Influence People for more information on how to find and contact the people your petition is aimed at.

After contacting the people with influence, you can post your petition online using these websites:

change.org
38 degrees.org.uk

If you're using a paper petition, you need to arrange a good time to hand it in.

Ask the local media to cover the petition hand in - tell them that it will be a good photo opportunity!

For more information about contacting press see Section 5: How to Speak Out.

Write a story about your experience of sending a petition to a decision maker and earn a YCiF Advocate badge!



←--click to find out more.

Pledge About Twitter Contact Search

Add your pledge pin to the map to tell us what you're going to be doing to influence change for young carers.

Tell us about how you are going to influence change for young carers...

How are you going to influence change?

Don't Know

Location:
Please ensure this is a general area and NOT your exact home address

Where will this happen?



We are trying to map out the changes being made locally for young carers on our new interactive online map, the YCiF Change Map.

Make sure you add a pledge for your own influencing change project, and encourage others to do the same.

If you get the opportunity to meet with a decision maker you should get them to write pledge, stating what they are going to do to help influence change for young carers, on the YCiF Change Map. Then, you can keep track of what they've pledged to do and get in touch with them a few months later to see if they've fulfilled their pledge!

You can also raise awareness by sharing pledges on social media.

Evidencing this activity on the YCiF Network, or any way you are using social media to promote young carers' issues, will earn you a social media badge. Click the badge to find out more.



Ycifchangemap.co.uk

1. What are two things you should include in your petition? (There are 4 possible answers)



2. 'I need to have a Data Protection statement on my petition.' True or False?

False

3. Name a website that you can use to send out your petition.

4. Why are petitions an effective tool for Influencing Change?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers:

1. Choose from: A Clear statement about your issue, the name, address and signature of supporters who sign, a tick-box to opt out of further contact, or a Data Protection Statement. 2. This statement is true, it is a legal requirement and included in the petition template, so don't forget! 3. Choose from: change.org/ 38degrees.org.uk 4. Petitions are effective because they show the number of people concerned about an issue, this makes it harder for the people with power to ignore the issue. Also handing in a petition provides a good media opportunity.

How did you do?

If you got 3 or 4 questions correct, you are definitely clued up enough to get out there and start collecting signatures!

If not, don't worry! Re-read the section and try and find some more information on petitions online.

Useful Websites & Resources

* Find your Representatives

www.writetothem.com

* Government Information on Petitions:

www.gov.uk/petition-government

* How Government Works:

www.gov.uk/government/get-involved

* Know Your Rights

www.youngcarer.com/resources/ycif/know-your-rights

* Online petitions

<https://www.change.org>
<https://www.38degrees.org.uk>



Petitions are a really simple way to get more people involved in influencing change and also to raise awareness of the issue.