MINDS ON:
Human Rights At-a-Glance

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1948. It was created as a statement that human rights for everyone, regardless of who they are, where they live, or what they believe are essential for a peaceful, free and just world. It was the first time an international effort had been made to create a list of universally applicable human rights. Although not legally binding, the Declaration has been used and continues to be used by nations around the world as the bases for laws intended to protect the rights of their citizens.

Activity: Women's Rights

If our ideal is that women be viewed as equal to men as human beings, then women and girls face many forms of discrimination in Canada and the world at large. They can experience much greater barriers than men when it comes to owning property, access to housing, education, health care, political representation and economic equality.

In this activity, students access their prior knowledge and/or make educated guesses involving the conditions of women in the world and in Canada.

Post signs throughout the classroom that represent each of the following percentage ranges:

- 0-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%

Encourage students to move to the appropriate sign after reading out the following questions. After each question and the student's movement, allow groups to discuss why they choose that percentage range. After group discussion, read the answer and continue with different questions.

**Question 1:**
How many of the people in the world who cannot read or write are women?

*Answer*: 66%

**Question 2:**
What percentage of elected government representatives around the world are women?

*Answer*: 17%

**Question 3:**
Worldwide, women who work outside the home earn less than men. How much less are women’s wages?

*Answer*: About 20% less

**Question 4:**
What percentage of women in Canada have graduated from high school?

*Answer*: About 90%
Question 5:
Twenty-eight percent of male students age 15-19 work part-time. What percentage of women in the same age group work part-time?
Answer: 38%

Question 6:
Canadian women are more likely than men to go to college or university. However, Canadian women earn less than men in full-time work. How much less are Canadian women's wages?
Answer: 15%

To consider
1. Which one of the statistics surprised you the most? Why?
2. Which one of these statistics upsets you the most? Why?
3. What do these statistics reveal about rights for women globally?
4. What do these statistics reveal about rights for women in Canada?
5. What further questions do you have about equality rights for women in Canada and the world? What statistics could you access to answer your questions?
6. What cultural attitudes do you think impede or promote women’s rights?
7. How do you think the world would be different if every boy and girl had equal access to education?

Personal Reflection
Write a personal reflection on how your experiences and identity have shaped your beliefs on women's equality. Consider some of these questions in your writing.

☐ Is there gender equality in your family? Why or why not?
☐ Is there gender equality in your school? Why or why not?
☐ Is there gender equality in your place of worship? Why or why not?
☐ Is gender equality represented in the media? Why or why not?
☐ What attitudes, beliefs or practices do you believe impede gender equality?
☐ Do you think your gender affects your belief in gender equity? Why or why not?

* This activity is adapted from Empowering Women: Empowering Children – A Middle and High School Unit, teachunicef.org
Answer sources:
1. UNICEF, Basic Education and Gender Equality, unicef.org/girlseducation/index_bigpicture.html
VIDEO REVIEW

Pre-viewing

1. What do you already know about the Nobel Peace prize winner Malala Yousafzai?

2. Why do you think it is unusual for a 17-year-old to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

3. Why do you think the Canadian government invited Malala to become an honorary Canadian citizen?

While viewing

1. What violence was common in Mingora Swat Pakistan?

2. Who was responsible for the attempted murder of Malala?

3. What was the motivation of the Taliban to assassinate her?

4. What question and request did Malala ask of her parents while recovering in a British hospital?

5. How old was Malala when she first spoke at the United Nations?
6. How were other young women motivated after hearing Malala's speech?

7. Malala shared her Nobel Peace Prize with Kailash Satyarthi, a 60-year-old children's rights activist from India.  
   □ TRUE  □ FALSE

8. Malala has returned to Pakistan.  
   □ TRUE  □ FALSE

9. Why is Malala a unique role model for young women today?

10. Malala's books are banned in parts of Pakistan.  
    □ TRUE  □ FALSE

**Post-viewing**

1. Identity a person in your community who works hard to make the community a better place to live. Invite that person to come to class to answer your questions about what motivates them to work for the "greater good," what they hope to achieve, and which life experiences have lead them to their beliefs and actions.

2. Research the life and death of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and explain the significance of Malala wearing one of her scarves for her United Nations speech.

**Looking for more info on the Taliban?**
Consult the following CBC News in Review stories and teacher resource guides:

- Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan, December 2008
- Back to School in Afghanistan, October 2002
- Routing the Taliban, December 2001
LITERACY ACTIVITY: Malala Yousafzai's UN Speech

Here are a selection of activities based on reading, understanding and analysis of Malala's UN speech on July 12, 2013:

- Underline or highlight the sentences that resonate with you. Share what you have highlighted with another student and discuss your choices.
- Choose a quote from the speech and make it into an image/collage/poster that celebrates Malala's vision.
- Determine four adjectives to describe Malala and use quotes from her speech to justify your choices.
- Choose sections of the speech and create 2-3 tableaux that bring to life Malala's words.
- Create 3 deep questions to ask Malala based on your wonderings about her life.
- Write a response to Malala's speech and send it to her.

*Line numbering of Malala’s speech is included here for ease of reference.*

1 In the name of God, the most beneficent, the most merciful.

2 Honorable UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon, respected
3 president of the General Assembly Vuk Jeremic, honorable UN
4 envoy for global education Mr Gordon Brown, respected elders and
5 my dear brothers and sisters: Assalamu alaikum.

6 Today is it an honor for me to be speaking again after a long time.
7 Being here with such honorable people is a great moment in my life
8 and it is an honor for me that today I am wearing a shawl of the late
9 Benazir Bhutto. I don't know where to begin my speech. I don't
10 know what people would be expecting me to say, but first of all
11 thank you to God for whom we all are equal and thank you to every
12 person who has prayed for my fast recovery and new life. I cannot
13 believe how much love people have shown me. I have received
14 thousands of good wish cards and gifts from all over the world.
15 Thank you to all of them. Thank you to the children whose innocent
16 words encouraged me. Thank you to my elders whose prayers
17 strengthened me. I would like to thank my nurses, doctors and the
18 staff of the hospitals in Pakistan and the UK and the UAE
19 government who have helped me to get better and recover my
20 strength.

21 I fully support UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in his Global
22 Education First Initiative and the work of UN Special Envoy for
23 Global Education Gordon Brown and the respectful president of the
24 UN General Assembly Vuk Jeremic. I thank them for the leadership
25 they continue to give. They continue to inspire all of us to action.
26 Dear brothers and sisters, do remember one thing: Malala Day is not
27 my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy and every girl
28 who have raised their voice for their rights.

29 There are hundreds of human rights activists and social workers who
30 are not only speaking for their rights, but who are struggling to
31 achieve their goal of peace, education and equality. Thousands of
32 people have been killed by the terrorists and millions have been
injured. I am just one of them. So here I stand. So here I stand, one
34 girl, among many. I speak not for myself, but so those without a
35 voice can be heard. Those who have fought for their rights. Their
36 right to live in peace. Their right to be treated with dignity. Their
37 right to equality of opportunity. Their right to be educated.
38
39 Dear friends, on 9 October 2012, the Taliban shot me on the left side
40 of my forehead. They shot my friends, too. They thought that the
41 bullets would silence us, but they failed. And out of that silence
42 came thousands of voices. The terrorists thought they would change
43 my aims and stop my ambitions. But nothing changed in my life
44 except this: weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power
45 and courage was born.
46
47 I am the same Malala. My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the
48 same. And my dreams are the same. Dear sisters and brothers, I am
49 not against anyone. Neither am I here to speak in terms of personal
50 revenge against the Taliban or any other terrorist group. I am here to
51 speak for the right of education for every child. I want education for
52 the sons and daughters of the Taliban and all the terrorists and
53 extremists. I do not even hate the Talib who shot me. Even if there
54 was a gun in my hand and he was standing in front of me, I would
55 not shoot him. This is the compassion I have learned from
56 Mohammed, the prophet of mercy, Jesus Christ and Lord Buddha.
57 This the legacy of change I have inherited from Martin Luther King,
58 Nelson Mandela and Mohammed Ali Jinnah.
59
60 This is the philosophy of nonviolence that I have learned from
61 Gandh, Bacha Khan and Mother Teresa. And this is the forgiveness
62 that I have learned from my father and from my mother. This is what
63 my soul is telling me: be peaceful and love everyone.
64
65 Dear sisters and brothers, we realize the importance of light when we
66 see darkness. We realize the importance of our voice when we are
67 silenced. In the same way, when we were in Swat, the north of
68 Pakistan, we realized the importance of pens and books when we
69 saw the guns. The wise saying, "The pen is mightier than the sword."
70 It is true. The extremists are afraid of books and pens. The power of
71 education frightens them. They are afraid of women. The power of
72 the voice of women frightens them. This is why they killed 14
73 innocent students in the recent attack in Quetta. And that is why they
74 kill female teachers. That is why they are blasting schools every day
75 because they were and they are afraid of change and equality that we
76 will bring to our society. And I remember that there was a boy in our
77 school who was asked by a journalist why are the Taliban against
78 education? He answered very simply by pointing to his book, he
79 said, "a Talib doesn't know what is written inside this book."
80 They think that God is a tiny, little conservative being who would
81 point guns at people's heads just for going to school. These terrorists
82 are misusing the name of Islam for their own personal benefit.
83 Pakistan is a peace loving, democratic country. Pashtuns want
84 education for their daughters and sons. Islam is a religion of peace,
85 humanity and brotherhood. It is the duty and responsibility to get
86 education for each child, that is what it says. Peace is a necessity for
87 education. In many parts of the world, especially Pakistan and
88 Afghanistan, terrorism, war and conflicts stop children from going to
89 schools. We are really tired of these wars. Women and children are
90 suffering in many ways in many parts of the world.
91
92 In India, innocent and poor children are victims of child labor. Many
93 schools have been destroyed in Nigeria. People in Afghanistan have
94 been affected by extremism. Young girls have to do domestic child
95 labor and are forced to get married at an early age. Poverty,
96 ignorance, injustice, racism and the deprivation of basic rights are
97 the main problems, faced by both men and women.
Today I am focusing on women's rights and girls' education because they are suffering the most. There was a time when women activists asked men to stand up for their rights. But this time we will do it by ourselves. I am not telling men to step away from speaking for women's rights, but I am focusing on women to be independent and fight for themselves. So dear sisters and brothers, now it's time to speak up. So today, we call upon the world leaders to change their strategic policies in favor of peace and prosperity. We call upon the world leaders that all of these deals must protect women and children's rights. A deal that goes against the rights of women is unacceptable.

We call upon all governments to ensure free, compulsory education all over the world for every child. We call upon all the governments to fight against terrorism and violence. To protect children from brutality and harm. We call upon the developed nations to support the expansion of education opportunities for girls in the developing world. We call upon all communities to be tolerant, to reject prejudice based on caste, creed, sect, color, religion or agenda to ensure freedom and equality for women so they can flourish. We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave, to embrace the strength within themselves and realize their full potential.

Dear brothers and sisters, we want schools and education for every child's bright future. We will continue our journey to our destination of peace and education. No one can stop us. We will speak up for our rights and we will bring change to our voice. We believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the whole world because we are all together, united for the cause of education. And if we want to achieve our goal, then let us empower ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and let us shield ourselves with unity and togetherness.

Dear brothers and sisters, we must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty and injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of their schools. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are waiting for a bright, peaceful future.

So let us wage, so let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism, let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first. Thank you.

Taking Action
Follow Malala on Twitter or Facebook to learn more about her ongoing efforts for women’s equality. Get involved by supporting political action such as petitions. Teach other people about Malala's beliefs and experiences.

Did you know?
Malala has announced she is donating an award prize of $50,000 US to rebuild a United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) school damaged during the recent fighting in Gaza. The donation was announced during Malala's acceptance of the World's Children Prize in Stockholm, Sweden. What do you think of her decision?