

## Inspirational words

### Aims:

- These quotations aim to get the group thinking about their motivations for making positive change in their local community.
- They provoke discussion about how religion might motivate people and they aim to provide inspiration to the group.

Time: 30 mins

Equipment: flip chart paper, pens, cut out quotations

### Method:

The following quotations address the themes of a) campaigning together for the common good and b) embracing diversity and/or religion.

- Take three big sheets, and using a marker write, CAMPAIGNING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD in the centre of one, EMBRACING DIVERSITY/RELIGION in the middle of the other and BOTH on the last sheet. Stick the sheets up on the wall.
- Cut out the quotations below and place in a pile on the floor. Ask the young people to read through each of the quotations together. What are their initial thoughts?
- Ask the group to debate whether the quotation is more suited to either the 'CAMPAIGNING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD' sheet, the 'EMBRACING DIVERSITY/RELIGION' sheet or whether it touches on both. Stick the quotation on to the corresponding piece of paper.
- Ask all of the group members to pick out their favourite quote. Which group does it fall into? Who said it and which religion are they from?

These quotations should help the young people to draw links between their motivations for campaigning and religion.

As an extension, you could also ask the group to find their own inspirational quotations and bring them to the next meeting.

Quotations that the young people find particularly inspirational, could be written up and displayed at meetings to show the different people and religious texts that inspire the group.

### Quotations:

- We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. I do not agree with the big way of doing things.  
*Mother Teresa*
- There are treasures beyond compare in the ocean. If you seek safety stay ashore.  
*Sufi saying*
- Whoever saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind.  
*Qur'an 5:32*
- You must be the change you want to see in the world.

### PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:



## *Mahatma Gandhi*

- The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting working people of all nations and tongues and kindreds.  
*Abraham Lincoln*
- One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.  
*Chinese proverb*
- Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.  
*Kenyan proverb*
- There are ways in which we can consciously work to develop feelings of love and kindness. For some of us, the most effective way to do so is through religious practice. For others it may be non-religious practices. What is important is that we each make a sincere effort to take our responsibility for each other and for the natural environment we live in seriously.  
*HH The Dalai Lama, The Nobel Lecture, 11 December 1989*
- So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.  
*Bahá'u'lláh*
- And if a stranger stays with you in your land, you shall do him no wrong. The stranger that stays with you shall be to you as the home-born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.  
*The Torah, the Book of Leviticus (19:33-4)*
- Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough but not baked in the same oven.  
*Yiddish proverb*
- I consider myself a Hindu, Christian, Moslem, Jew, Buddhist and Confucian.  
*Mahatma Gandhi*
- It's not kings and generals that make history, but the masses of the people.  
*Nelson Mandela*
- Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.  
*Margaret Mead*
- Those who act kindly in this world will have kindness.  
*Qur'an 39:10*
- O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other).  
*Qur'an 49:11-13*

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

