



Mini Use Your Voice 2016 - Girlguiding LaSER's Parliament Week 2016 resource

Use Your Voice 2016 was Girlguiding LaSER's 2-day democracy festival to mark The Senior Section Spectacular. It was held in a series of quirky venues in the London Waterloo area, culminating in 'Live from the Living Room' at City Hall.

Members of Girlguiding LaSER and beyond are encouraged to use 'Mini Use Your Voice 2016' to run their own democracy festival in their unit. Complete at least 3 activities from any part of the resource, adapting them as necessary according to the needs of your unit, then send off to receive your limited edition 'Mini Use Your Voice 2016' badges, which cost £1 each, plus postage.

To order your badges please email info@girlguidinglaser.org.uk with 'Parliament Week 2016 badge order' in the subject line. Please make sure you include how many badges you'd like for girls and Leaders and to send us any images you have ensuring you have the correct photo permissions.

Mini Use Your Voice 2016 can be used by any section. It is divided into three sections - Inform / Equip / Inspire.

Please share what you are doing on social media using #UYV2016 (ensuring that you have the relevant photo permissions)

INFORM

Write to your MP about an issue which you feel strongly about. This might be an international, national or regional issue. If you do not know who your MP is, find out here: <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

Find out about the **refugee crisis** in a particular part of the world. Research different aspects of the topic and present your findings to each other. Consider how you can help. This might mean myth-busting locally or fundraising for a charity which helps refugees.

Research **what you want to change in your local area and make a plan to do it**. This might mean: conducting research, speaking to people, contacting your local council, seeking funding, and more.

Find out about the **Women's Equality Party**, the UK's newest political party. Who set it up and why?

Have a discussion about **campaigns** with which you are familiar. Are they effective? What makes them effective? How would you go about setting up your own campaign?

Watch **'He Named Me Malala'** with your unit. Discuss what makes it so powerful.

Find out about **what Girlguiding is campaigning on** at the moment. Spend a unit meeting learning about and discussing the issues.

Learn about [50:50 Parliament](#) and find out the history behind what it is campaigning for. Discuss why this is important.

EQUIP

Find out about gentle activism, such as **Craftivism**. See <https://craftivist-collective.com/> for some ideas. Think about ways in which you can campaign in this way.

Organise for a **yoga** teacher to come and run a session with your unit.

Set up and maintain a **blog** for your unit. Consider how you can use it to raise awareness of what Girlguiding is and how you can raise awareness of volunteering opportunities, or similar.

Become part of **#TeamGirl**, using [WAGGGS latest activity pack](#).

Set up an **Audioboom** channel for your unit / District / Division / County (speaking to the relevant Commissioners first, obviously) - how can you use audio to develop membership growth and retention?

Set up a **community newsletter** for your unit / District / Division to raise awareness of Girlguiding locally (speaking to the relevant Commissioners first)

Run a **poetry workshop** in your unit, and then collate a collection of poems. Publish it online or sell copies as a fundraiser.

Learn the principles of **public speaking** and find out how and where you can put them into practice. Use these principles to have a debate in your unit.

Have a **story-telling** evening. Discuss the power of story-telling as a tool for being heard.

Partner with a local charity; find out what support they need, how your unit can help, then make an action plan. This might mean giving time, fundraising, or something else.

Make a short film to raise awareness of something you feel strongly about. Share it in a variety of ways and document the reach.

INSPIRE

Find out more about Vincent Dance Theatre's #VDTEverydayAction and get involved with the campaign.

Learn about **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** and the devastating impact that it can have on the lives of girls and young women. Consider what you can do to raise awareness or fundraise for a charity which campaigns to end FGM. See <http://projectacei.org/> and <http://forwarduk.org.uk/>

Visit **New Dawn** created by Mary Branson at the Houses of Parliament - find out more about the story behind it. <https://www.parliament.uk/newdawn>

Organise a **sleepover** aboard [HMS Belfast](#), at [ICANDO](#) or at [YHA St Paul's](#)

Find out about an **inspirational individual** who has set-up a particular campaign. This might be a charity, an organisation, or a campaign relating to a particular issue. Present your findings to others in your unit.

Find out about **Dan Raven Ellison's [inspirational campaign to make London the world's first National Park City](#)**. What can you do to raise awareness of this locally?

Have an '**Unashamedly Awesome**' evening and celebrate how great every member of your unit is, using resources from the WAGGGS resource [#FreeBeingMe](#).

Organise a trip to the Feminist Library, the women's exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery or a fashion exhibition at the V&A.
Get involved with [#EmilyMatters](#) and consider how your unit can raise awareness of what the Suffragettes did.

Hold a **songwriting workshop** where you discuss topical issues, then work together to turn them into songs. Consider performing them to other members of your group.

Organise for [Think Resilient](#) to be delivered in your unit by Girlguiding's Peer Educators.

Finally

We hope you enjoy using this pack with your unit and you find it a practical and inspiring way to get your unit engaging with democracy. If you have any questions about any of the activities above please email info@girlguidinglaser.org.uk with 'Parliament Week 2016 query' in the subject line.

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