

Being an Agent of Change—Taking Action

Option 1: Taking Action

You are now fairly well informed about labor issues, from their origins in Jewish texts, to the beginnings of the Labor Movement in America, to modern-day issues. What can you do to bring about justice in the world?

Think about the following questions and then create an action plan for making change. Write out your plan and share it with someone so you are held accountable.

Directions:

- **Brainstorm:** What modern-day labor issue(s) trouble you and why?
- **Research:** What are the facts? Do research on your issue so that you are well informed.
- **Think:** How does this issue affect you? How does it affect others? Who will support the change you want to make? Who might oppose it?
- **Strategize:** What are some things that you can do to make a change? Write down a plan for how you want to take action and share it with three people (friends, family members, teacher).
 - Write a letter
 - Start a petition
 - Use social media
 - Contact your local politicians
 - Inform your friends and family and organize them to take action
 - Participate in a rally, boycott, or protest
 - Have a fundraiser
- **Take action** based on your plan. Invite friends, family, or community members to join you.

Option 2 on next page.

Being an Agent of Change—Better Business

Option 2: Better Business

You are now fairly well informed about labor issues, from their origins in Jewish texts, to the beginnings of the Labor Movement in the United States, to modern-day issues. How can business owners and companies work to address labor justice issues within their business plans?

Research a contemporary company and contact them to either praise their practices or suggest changes for how they could improve their labor practices.

Directions:

- Choose a business or company about which you feel passionate (or whose products you regularly consume).
- Visit Free2Work.org and read about the various labor-related ratings available. Then, look up the company you chose and see how it is rated.
 - How well does it pay its workers?
 - Do workers receive health benefits?
 - What are the working conditions like?
 - Does the company allow workers to organize?
 - What are the environmental practices of the company?
- Make a list of things you think the business/company is doing right as well as a list of areas in which the company could improve.
- Contact the business/company to:
 - Thank/praise them for things that they do well (in their labor practices or production), tell the company what you think they do right, AND
 - Ask them to change practices that are unjust and offer some suggestions based on your research for how they could improve their labor practices.