

Student Task Force

Taking Responsibility for the Future

What is the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force (STF)

STF is a youth leadership-training program that empowers high school students to become human rights advocates. STF participants develop leadership skills, learn to defend and protect global human rights and become skilled communicators on behalf of children's rights.

What We Do

STFers implement a shared human rights advocacy campaign across campuses. Each campaign is developed in coordination with Human Rights Watch staff and researchers. Students have tangibly supported HRW's advocacy efforts in numerous campaigns including:

- Right to Education
- Ending child labor in U.S. tobacco fields
- Ending Juvenile Life Without Parole in California
- Transitioning our schools and districts to 100% renewable energy

STF staff provide students with in-depth training, access to HRW experts, and tools to engage in each campaign. Students develop leadership skills, including effective communication with classmates and learn how to advocate with government officials and other policymakers.

How to Join:

Each chapter needs a core leadership team, a teacher advisor and general student members. Chapters work closely with the STF team to learn about human rights, prepare weekly agendas, lead meetings, engage members, plan events and advocacy on campus, work with school faculty, and reach out beyond their school communities.

The STF team facilitates weekly virtual meetings with student leaders from different schools. The students collaborate on ways to implement the STF annual campaign at each campus and engage students, teachers, and the community in their advocacy. Students share advice, challenges, and learn from one another how to be more effective human rights activists in their respective spheres of influence.

Email us at stf@hrw.org if you're interested in starting up an STF chapter at your school.

From STF Leaders:

"Before joining STF, I saw activism as just as a nice thought but not something that makes a difference. But now I'm seeing how much work can be accomplished. It's been amazing to hear success stories from other STF Leaders, how they're getting administrators to install solar on campus or embed climate education into their classes. It's so cool that they're able to get that done by just using their voices!"

– 9th grade participant

"This group gives me a sense of community, a space to share ideas and resources. I have learned a lot of different strategies for advocacy, engagement and recruitment that have helped on my campus."

– 12th grade participant

Photos of STfers In Action

See more of our students in action at www.hrwstf.org



Classroom presentation with a film screening



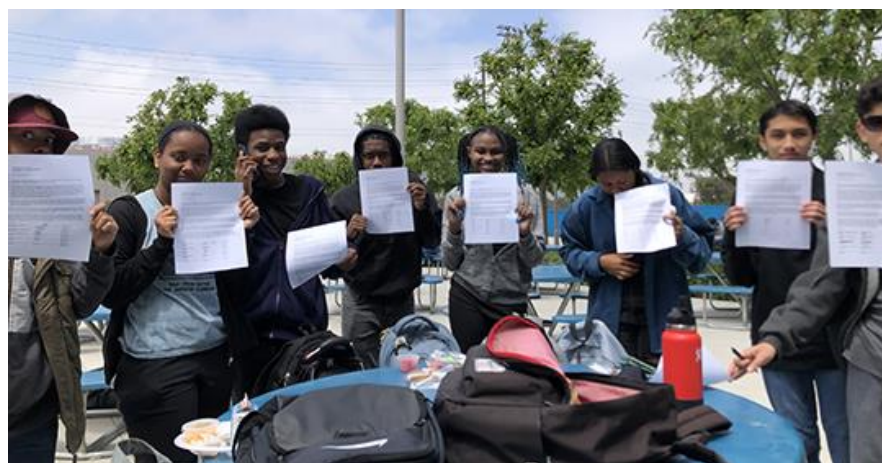
Mock election



Experiential tent exhibit



Community rally for the Global Climate Strike



Advocacy table at lunch