



Assembly

## Bringing about Change

### Aim:

- To reflect on the motivations of people demonstrating against the government in Egypt
- To consider what can be done to uphold justice in our own communities

### Introduction

#### What would you change?



Ask pupils what change they would introduce to their school if they could.

Question them as to their reasons for wanting that change, and as to whether the change would improve life at school for everyone.

Would the improvements be universal and long-term? (A change like shortening the school day or lengthening holidays might bring short-term improvements, but long-term would limit pupils' options.)

What changes would pupils bring to their community, to the country as a whole, to people globally?



Egypt (orthographic projection)

### Looking Deeper

#### Can things change?

Recently, people in various places in the Middle East have started to believe that change could be possible in their countries. Particularly in Egypt, large crowds have been gathering, demanding the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak and the opportunity for a new democratically-elected government to take over.

Observers are left wondering why the demonstrations are happening now, when Mubarak has been president for 30 years. Why not before? And would a change of government bring about an improvement in living conditions for the people of Egypt?



President Hosni Mubarak

Some people are desperate to be free of an unfair, oppressive regime; others are concerned that the structure is not in place for a democratic change of power. If the government is brought down, a more repressive regime could step into the vacuum. And where will it end? The unrest has already affected other countries in the Middle East – how much further will it spread?

Christians believe that God is very concerned about injustice, and many commit their lives to bringing about change. They are inspired by



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verses such as Micah 6:8 in the Old Testament section of the Bible –

“But God has already made it plain how to live, what to do, what He is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love. And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously.”

In seeking to obey this message, many Christians support fair trade, actively work to eradicate poverty, act as advocates, speaking out against injustice for those who have no power and no voice, and share the good news that God values all humans equally highly, however much or little money they have.

## Reflection

### Acting for change

The Egyptian people are demonstrating against injustice. Many Christians are actively working to counterbalance injustice. What can be done in this school, in this community?  
Are there things that are unjust?  
Are people treated unfairly?  
What can I do that will bring about change?

## Prayer

This prayer was written by the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in the 1940s.

O God and Heavenly Father,  
Grant to us the serenity of mind to accept that which cannot be changed; courage to change that which can be changed, and wisdom to know the one from the other, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Keywords

Egypt

demonstrations

change

justice