

Smart & Melanated Sisters Presents...

Solidarity Badge Series

Ages 15-18

“Activist”



Are you ready to take a stand for what is right? Learn how to accept, include and honor those that may not have been celebrated throughout history. Learn about the symbols, slogans, colors and flags that represent different people. Learn the history behind different social movements and teach others about what you’ve learned by making your own trivia game, resource guide. Lead a social justice campaign, organize a protest/rally, join a protest or host a roundtable discussion. Take part in history by helping to make the world a better place for all.

For teens, age 15-16 years old. This Solidarity Badge Series can serve as starting place to begin important conversations around differences, social justice movements and how to become an activist for what is right. Adults should guide the teens through this booklet, having them complete “Phases” 1-5 to earn their “Activist Solidarity Badge”.

“To experience solidarity, we must have a community of interest, shared beliefs and goals around which to unite, to build Sisterhood.”

-bell hooks



Did You Know?



Did you know the raised Black Fist logo on the front of your badge represents **unity** and **solidarity**? A lot of people associate the raised fist with the “Black Power” movement because of how much it was incorporated with the Black Panther Party for Self Defense organization. But way before that, the symbol was used as the logo for the Industrial Workers of the World organization in 1917. The logo later became popularized during the 1936 Spanish Civil War, when it was used as a greeting. At that time it was known as the “Popular Front” salute. The logo continued to spread throughout the United States in the 1960’s during the Civil Rights Movement. Finally, we see the fist used throughout the Civil Rights Movement, mainly by the Black Panthers, where most people are familiar with it.

Now, the fist is used to unite and uplift groups that are either not celebrated like they should be or groups that have been *marginalized* and oppressed. More and more, we see the raised fist used as a symbol of respect for different movements.

So raise your fist, use your power and stand up
in **unity** and **solidarity**!

***marginalized:** describes a person or group of people that are treated as less important

What's the best way to reach your audience?

Phase 1

- ❑ Interview a ***social justice activist** about how they have an impact on the community and what their goals are. Ask them to share ideas with your group/class on how you can better serve your community and stand up for what's right. Document these ideas for later use. Your interviewee can represent any organization or movement that serves those that have been historically *marginalized**. Your focus is your choice.



***Social justice:**

A concept of fair and just relations between the individual and society. An overall idea that everyone deserves equal economic, social and political rights. Social justice addresses equal access for all, especially those that are in the greatest need.



***marginalized:** Making a person or group of people feel less important

What's the best way to reach your audience?

Phase 2

Determine a cause you would like to take a stand for. Then pick one of the options below to complete phase 2 of this series.

- Listen to a speaker talk about your topic** (in person or virtually) and jot down main points that interest you.
- Visit a museum or resource center** to learn more about your social movement or group. This can be done in person or virtually.
- Watch an educational video** like a Ted Talk or documentary to learn more about your movement/group. Identify ways various leaders in the group worked as an advocate for change.

"In documentaries, there's a truth that unfolds unnaturally, and you get to chronicle it. In narratives, you have to create the situations so that the truth will come out."

-Ava DuVernay



What can YOU make something meaningful?

Phase 3

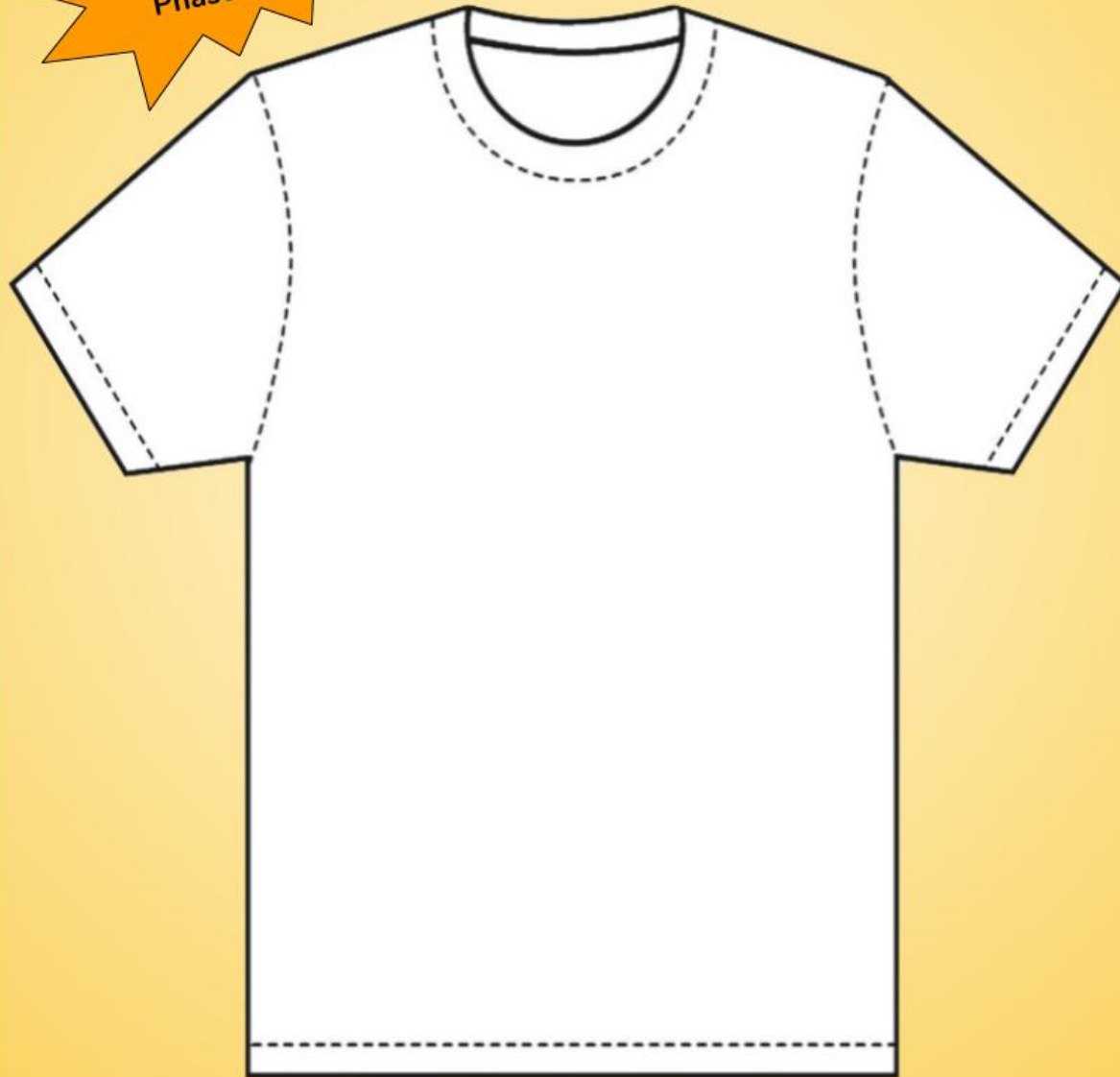
Let's make something meaningful: Pick one of the options below to complete phase 3 of this series.

- Make a social media post or a sign/poster** then Learn about the hashtags that were created for your movement and include them in the post.
- Design a t-shirt** to promote your movement. Be creative and use the slogans, hashtags, color or other relevant content in your artwork. Get them printed to wear them proudly.
- Decorate a backpack** to show your support for your movement/group.



Design Your Own T-Shirt

Use this template to design your own t-shirt for Phase 3



What's the best way for YOU to reach others?

Phase 4

Let's make a plan to share with others! Pick one of the options below to complete phase 4 of this series.

- Create a trivia game** to educate your family, friends and peers about your movement/group.
- Create an “Educate Yourself” Resource guide/ magazine/ pamphlet** to share with others that can be used to teach others about your movement.
- Create your own PSA video** to educate people about your movement.



“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”

-Malala Yousafzai

How can YOU be an activist?

Phase 5

Practice being an activist. Pick one of the options below to complete phase 5 of this series.

- Lead a social justice campaign** at your school, place of worship, or community center. During your campaign, share your PSA video or trivia game with others.
- Organize a protest, rally, fundraiser, or start a petition** to support your movement/group. If you raise funds, donate the proceeds to a movement for social justice or a marginalized group with a social justice agenda.
- Safely, join a protest, rally, march or parade in support of your movement/cause** (Sign a petition or donate to an organization that supports your movement. Share to get others to support your cause.)
- Host a roundtable discussion** on your topic. Focusing on historically marginalized groups and social justice with the help of a community organizer and trusted adults. Possible ideas of where to host your roundtable: place of worship, community center, school, neighborhood, etc.



"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

-Angela Davis