

12



CARE
GLOBAL
TEACH
LOCAL!

MONTHS OF SOCIAL ISSUES

ELT CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

Margarita Kosior

July

December

October

02 FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

03 MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

04 APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

06 JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

08 AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

10 OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

11 NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

12 DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Special Days:

- July 31: Bicycle Day
- December 10: Rio 2016
- October 17: Hungry Helps
- February 22: Mother Earth Day
- June 24: Bicycle Day

CARE GLOBAL. TEACH LOCAL!

GISIG

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A note from IATEFL GISIG

365 days , 52 weeks, 12 months a year. That is a lot of time for things to happen, for the world to change, for people to make a difference. We all like to celebrate special days, remember those who sacrificed their lives for us, marvel at the resilience of the human spirit.

There are so many different, important days in a year. So many people and things that affect our lives. Sometimes in our day-to-day lives in the classroom, we want to teach our learners something different and meaningful, something that will engage them, teach them about the issues that are important and affect us. How do we bring these important issues into our classrooms in a sensitive and educational way, which will raise awareness and help develop understanding and empathy in our learners?

Look no further. *12 Months of Social Issues* helps you do this and much more. This very special teachers' resource book will help teachers across the globe to teach their students about some of these important events. IATEFL's Global Issues SIG is very proud to bring you Margarita Kosior's labour of love. A book that is very much needed in times of uncertainty and instability for educators, to help local communities and wider society shape a better future.

Varinder Unlu
IATEFL GISIG Coordinator

A note from the author

Although incorporating social issues into ELT is presently growing in popularity, more often than not it has the form of a mere one-off occurrence. The creation of an ELT calendar of special days, a pack of ready-to-use ideas (B1-B2 student materials complete with teacher's notes), is an attempt to turn global education into a more systematic effort. It is a compilation of lessons, one per month, focusing on a different special day (mostly UN and UNESCO) each time. In this way, this volume consists of 12 complete sessions.

The publication meets two basic goals: developing linguistic competence (receptive and productive skills, vocabulary and grammar) and raising awareness of important issues. Raising awareness is essential, especially today, in the days of crisis and instability. Since world crisis and instability both stem from and lead to the crisis of human relationships, a few of the lessons in the volume focus on nurturing such bonds and values. Stronger human relationships will inevitably lead to better collaboration, fewer conflicts and a better world.

It is, therefore, our duty as educators to make our students aware of social issues and global injustice, and to help them realise that their voices can be heard and that, when in unison, they will resonate even louder. To this end, the lessons in this volume do not only present important social issues, but also encourage students to take action, reach out to the wider community, and make a difference.

Margarita Kosior

5 September - International Day of Charity

Language level: B2

Duration: 90 minutes

The aim of this session is to:

- engage Ss in discussions on the topic of charity;
- enhance Ss' reading skills (scanning);
- enhance Ss' vocabulary related to the topic of charity;
- enhance Ss' collaborative skills;
- enhance Ss' negotiation skills; and
- raise Ss' awareness of an important issue.

What you will need: a copy of the handout for each student

Teacher's notes

Step 1

Write the word **charity** on the board and elicit meaning from Ss. Ask them to write around the word **charity** other related words and phrases. Hold a group discussion in which Ss express what charity means to them.

Step 2

Write the following words and phrases on the board:

fundraising	donate/donation	generous/generosity	raise money
contribution(s)	support/supporter	volunteer (v) / volunteer(s) (n)	campaign

Ask Ss to make true statements about charity/charities using some of these words.

Some indicative answers:

We organized a fundraising event at the local library to support a local dog shelter.

All contributions are highly appreciated; every little bit helps.

Charities make a positive contribution to society.

Many young people were in the street raising money for charity.

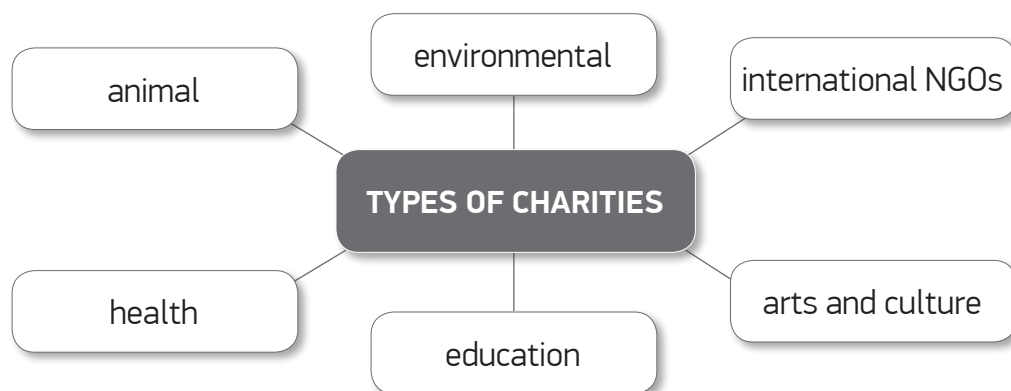
Step 3

Write or project the following questions on the board. Ss work in pairs and discuss.

1. How do you feel when you help others?
2. Do you ever give to charity or volunteer? Why / why not?
3. Do you think it is better to give time or money? Why?
4. Do you have a favourite charity? What charity is it and how did you find out about it?
5. What do you think are some important charities people should support?

Step 4

Explain to Ss that there are various types of charities. You can project or draw the following image on the screen:



Ask Ss what they imagine each type of charity does.

Indicative answers:

Animal charity – e.g. wildlife conservation

Environmental charity – e.g. rainforest conservation

International NGOs – e.g. child sponsorship

Arts and culture charity – e.g. cultural heritage preservation programmes

Education charity – e.g. scholarship programmes

Health – e.g. medical research charities

Explain to Ss that some of the charity types can overlap.

Step 5

Ask Ss if they know any popular or smaller local charity organisations, what they raise funds for and which category (Step 3) they belong to.

Step 6 (Handouts A, B and C)

Divide Ss into three groups (A, B and C). All Ss in group A read Text A (Handout A). All Ss in group B read Text B (Handout B). And all Ss in group C read Text C (Handout C).

Then, rearrange Ss into mixed groups: one student from group A, one student from group B, and one student from group C, if possible. Ss take turns to tell the other group members about the charity they read about. The information included can cover the following areas:

- which category (Step 3) this charity belongs to
- where it is based
- when and/or by whom it was founded
- their mission / what cause this charity supports
- actions organised by this charity
- how one can support this charity

Together, Ss negotiate which of the charities they would like to support and why, and they present their choice to the rest of the group.

Step 7

Explain to Ss that there are people who do not support charity organisations for various reasons. Elicit from Ss what these reasons might be (**e.g. they cannot afford it, they don't believe their money will be spent well, they don't believe charity organisations make a real difference**).

Ask Ss what they can do before making a donation to a charity to make sure they are making the right choice.

Indicative answers:

- a. **Don't feel obliged to donate and take your time to think about it.**
- b. **Do thorough research about the charity you want to support (in your search, use words such as "complaint," "review," "rating," or "scam" in order to identify problematic organisations).**
- c. **Ask for specific information regarding how your donation is going to be used.**

Step 8

To wrap up, write or project the following questions on the board. Ss participate in a group discussion.

1. Do you think that one day there will be no need for charities? Why / why not?
2. Do you think help from a charity can essentially change someone's life? Explain.
3. What charity project would you like to start and why?

Step 9

Ss follow up individually. They do online research to find an existing charity which they would like to support and they present it to their classmates during the next session.

Appendix 1

Recommended additional resources

Article:

- [Ever sent clothing or toys in response to a disaster? Here's what probably happened to it](#) by Dale Herzog

Talk:

- ["The dark side of charitable donation"; TED@UPS by Dale Herzog](#) (2018)

Handout A (Text A)

Read the text about a charity.

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity is the biggest non-governmental, non-profit charity organisation in Poland. The name was coined by Jerzy Owsiak in 1991 and the organisation was officially founded in 1993. In January of that year, volunteers supporting Owsiak and the charity collected money for medical equipment for the cardiac surgery ward at the Centre of Children's Health in Warsaw and wards of paediatric cardiology at several other hospitals in the country. Since then, the organisation has raised millions of zloty (the Polish currency) for the national healthcare system and public hospitals. The cause is different each year (e.g. paediatric oncology, kidney diseases, healthcare for newborns), but it always focuses on raising money for children's health issues.

Once a year, on the second Sunday in January, a grand-finale is organised. During the grand-finale, volunteers in every corner of Poland, but also in other places in the world where the heart of The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity beats, collect money for the charity. In exchange for their donation, each supporter of the campaign receives a characteristic heart-shaped sticker, which they proudly stick on their clothes. Money is also raised online throughout the year. On the day of the grand-finale, music groups volunteer to play free fundraising concerts; the number of concerts has reached almost a thousand in recent years, in one day. The day ends with a firework display known as Light to the Sky.

Handout B (Text B)

Read the text about a charity.

SOS Animals is a charity based in Spain. It was started in 1997 and since then, it has improved the lives of hundreds of dogs. The volunteers of this charity rescue and take care of abandoned dogs, but also send them to new adopted homes in Spain and various countries in Europe.

If you cannot adopt a dog yourself, but you still want to support SOS Animals, you can either donate (money, dog food, medicines, etc.), or you can volunteer. Money is always needed for food, medical costs including vaccinations, neutering, blood tests and micro-chipping, so every little bit counts. As a volunteer, you can make a great contribution, too; even a couple of hours of your time per week will make a huge difference. Depending on your preference and skills, you can either spend time with the dogs, or help with odd jobs around the shelter. You can groom the dogs, play with them or take them for walks, preparing them in this way for their future life in a new home, after they (hopefully) get adopted. If you are good with your hands, you can mend a fence, keep the garden tidy, or fix old doghouses and build new ones.

Handout C (Text C)

Read the text about a charity.

Lifting Hands International (LHI) is a humanitarian non-profit charity organisation dedicated to providing help to refugees in various places worldwide. It was founded in March 2016 by an Arabic translator Hayley Smith, who was working then at Moria refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece. Since then, the organisation has gained the support of many passionate volunteers and has grown in strength. With its headquarters in Arizona, USA, today LHI runs programmes in Greece, Jordan and the USA, among others, and partners with other organisations to provide help and support to as many people as possible.

LHI supports refugees in a variety of ways. At the LHI refugee centre in Serres, Greece, for instance, a volunteer team provides activities including dance and yoga, which help the participants face the effects of their trauma, but also more practical classes, such as English and German. The organisation also provides hygiene products and seasonal clothing. In other places, refugees also receive support in the form of essential items and services.

There are three ways in which you can support LHI: you can donate money, supplies, or join a wonderful team of volunteers to support the movement with your time and passion.

About the author



Margarita Kosior

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As an advocate for social justice, Margarita Kosior believes in spreading awareness of global issues through ELT. Margarita has incorporated social issues into her teaching since the beginning of her career when, as a novice teacher, she still didn't know much about Global Education. She simply believed that what she was doing was the right thing to do. Since then, she has participated in relevant projects, presented at international conferences and written ELT materials based on social issues ranging from modern day slavery, disabilities, the Holocaust, to kindness, as an underlying value necessary to make a big change in the world.

Margarita shares her insights and teaching tips on her blog: [ELT for a Better World](https://www.eltforabetterworld.com) and she is the author of a series of children's stories, **Tales of strays**.