



BAPTIST  
WORLD  
AID



# USE YOUR POWER FOR GOOD

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Five Ways You Can  
Fight Injustice Today



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**When we look at what's happening in our world—at conflict, poverty, slavery and injustice—it's easy to feel helpless.**

**But we are people of hope. We have faith in a God who is restoring all things, and who invites us to join him.**

**There are many ways you can fight injustice in everyday life**, from the words you say and the way you spend your time, to the things you choose to consume. Sometimes it's a matter of making a simple change to your routine; other times you might be challenged to step outside your comfort zone!

We hope this guide sparks ideas, inspires you to act, and perhaps even starts a movement right in your own backyard.



1

# SPEAK OUT

Use your power for good by speaking out against injustices in Australia and around the world. You could call for action by writing to your local Member of Parliament.

## Take Action

Here are some tips on how to write an effective letter to your local MP:

- **Introduce yourself** as a member of their electorate—remember, they're here to represent you.
- **Be personal** and explain why an issue is important to you.
- **Tell your MP** what you'd like them to do about the issue and provide concrete steps.
- **Keep it brief**—MPs get a lot of letters!

## Learn More:

Want to join a collective movement for justice? Check out the Safer World For All campaign.



**DEFEND THE WEAK AND THE FATHERLESS; UPHOLD THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED.**

PSALM 82:3



2

# BE A THOUGHTFUL CONSUMER

We regularly make choices about what food to buy, what clothes to wear, even which super fund to belong to. Profit drives most business decisions, so you can make a difference by investing in companies that promote ethical practices, and care for people and the environment.

## Take Action

- **Before buying something**, check the brand's website or Baptist World Aid's Ethical Fashion Guide to see if they're taking steps to protect workers from exploitation.
- **Buy secondhand** and keep items in circulation for longer to reduce waste and care for our environment.
- **Over-consumption** is when we consume more than our fair share of resources. Before making an impulse purchase, ask yourself: do I really need this?

## Learn More:

On a budget? Here's how you can still have an ethical wardrobe.



**... STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE MOTHS AND VERMIN DO NOT DESTROY, AND WHERE THIEVES DO NOT BREAK IN AND STEAL. FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.**

MATTHEW 6:20-21



3

# TRY VOLUNTEERING

Use your time to support a cause you care about. Many organisations fighting injustice rely on the work of volunteers, so you can play a part in creating real change for others.

## Take Action

- **Explore opportunities** to volunteer in your local area such as your church, aged care homes, libraries, community pantries, or nature care groups.
- **To find opportunities** that align with your passions, visit SEEK's volunteer platform ([volunteer.com.au](http://volunteer.com.au)) or Go Volunteer ([govolunteer.com.au](http://govolunteer.com.au))
- **Ask us about volunteering** opportunities at Baptist World Aid by emailing [hello@baptistworldaid.org.au](mailto:hello@baptistworldaid.org.au)
- **Run your own fundraiser** for a charity like Baptist World Aid and involve friends and family in a cause you're passionate about.

## Learn More:

Here are two feel good volunteering stories to inspire you.



**AND DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES GOD IS PLEASED.**

HEBREWS 13:16



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# VOTE WISELY

In Australia, we have the power to influence government policy and action when we vote. Be informed and use the power of your vote to stand up for people experiencing injustice.

## Take Action

Stay in touch with what's happening (even when it's not an election year) so you can make an informed decision at the polls.

If you're time-poor, short podcasts like The Daily Aus, The Squiz or ABC News Daily give a quick summary on current national and global issues, including those related to social justice.

## Learn More:

How do you vote in a Christian way? Learn more here.



**WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS THRIVE, THE PEOPLE REJOICE; WHEN THE WICKED RULE, THE PEOPLE GROAN.**

PROVERBS 29:2



5

# START A CONVERSATION

This may seem small, but starting conversations with your family, friends, or church spotlights issues of injustice and helps motivate others. Discuss how, individually and collectively, we can work towards a better world.

## Take Action

Disagreeing with someone about a social justice issue can be tricky. Remember:

- **Don't react with anger** ('I can't believe you think this!'), but with curiosity ('Why do you think this way?')
- **Don't attack the person** or take it personally if someone disagrees with you. Instead, focus on the idea in discussion.
- **Try listening to understand**, not merely to formulate a response.
- **Ask God to help you** speak with love, humility and graciousness.
- **Don't give up hope!** We can all grow, learn and change.

## Learn More:

Here's some tips on how to chat to friends about ethical shopping.



**LET THE WISE HEAR AND INCREASE IN LEARNING, AND THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS OBTAIN GUIDANCE.**

PROVERBS 1:5



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