



CHINA, THE OLYMPICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CURRICULUM RESOURCE
FOR MIDDLE YEARS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



“We are confident that the Games coming to China not only promotes our economy but also enhances all social conditions, including education, health and human rights,”

Wang Wei, Secretary General of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Bid Committee, 2001

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The international spotlight is on China as it hosts the 2008 Olympics. Despite commitments to improve human rights during their bid for the Games, there have instead been further restrictions on human rights and freedoms in the name of ‘cleaning up’ Beijing ahead of the event.

China has obligations to protect and promote human rights and the Olympic Charter promotes respect for “universal fundamental ethical principles”, suggesting that respect for human rights lies at the heart of the Olympic movement.

Amnesty International believes that improvement of human rights in China can be one of the positive legacies of the Games. Without such improvements, not only will the Games fail to be remembered in a positive light, but China’s image will remain one of a country that represses its citizens.

FREE RESOURCE

As part of Amnesty International Australia’s campaign on China in the lead-up to the Olympic Games in August, we have released the teacher and student resource *China, the Olympics and Human Rights*. It covers topics including:

- internet censorship in China
- the history of the Olympics and human rights
- media freedom
- the plight of human rights defenders in China
- use of the death penalty and detention without trial.

There are classroom handouts on subjects ranging from the detention of journalist Shi Tao, jailed for sending an email, to practical ideas for action students can take to raise awareness about human rights in China.

China, the Olympics and Human Rights is designed as a series of 1-2 page materials that are easily photocopied for classroom use. It is accompanied by teacher notes and advice.

The resource is designed for students in the middle years, and can be used across the curriculum.

It is particularly suited to students in years 9 and 10 and the Humanities, SOSE/ HSIE and English Learning Areas.

DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCE

Download this free resource by going to:

<http://action.amnesty.org.au/humanrightstoday/comments/12526/>

or follow the links at

<http://www.amnesty.org.au/humanrightstoday>.



Nu Wa, the official mascot for Amnesty International Australia’s China campaign and website www.uncensor.com.au. © AI

“This is a time to be proud of the Olympic Games, but if that pride is tarnished with human rights violations, it is bad for China, it is bad for the Olympic Games and it is bad for the international community.”

**Irene Khan, Secretary General
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