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BURNET NEWS CLUB 2020-21 • ISSUE 3

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# **PROTEST: DOES IT WORK?**

**E** BURNET  
NEWS CLUB



Shutterstock / Jacob Lund

**Protest is on the rise and people are realising the power of speaking up to push for change.**

Through January and February, Burnet News Club students explored different examples of protest. They discussed and evaluated some of the protests in the news and answered questions like: why do people protest? What impact could protest have? And, above all, does protest work?

In this edition of Hub Highlights we showcase some of the best contributions on this topic.

**SEE EDITOR'S PICKS**  
[bit.ly/EP-protest](https://bit.ly/EP-protest)

*Some entries have been edited for clarity.*



**discreet\_drum**

## Protests against lockdown

PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Upton Cross Primary School**

**I**N LOTS of countries, governments have reintroduced or extended restrictions on travel, businesses and our every-day lives to help control covid-19 – but some people do not agree.

Since the start of the pandemic, many anti-lockdown demonstrations have taken place around the world. Protests have taken different forms from country to country but common factors motivating protesters are:

**Economic hardship** – lockdowns have been financially devastating for millions of people who have been unable to work and lost their income. Unemployment has soared around the world since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Misinformation** – since the start of the pandemic, misinformation has spread online. Conspiracy theories and myths about the virus and the vaccinations have been shared and viewed around the world.

Even former American president, Donald Trump, and Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro, spread misinformation about the virus on social media, causing people to doubt health advice.

To prevent protests caused by misinformation, governments need to provide clear and consistent messaging around covid-19, lockdowns and vaccines to build trust among their people. ■

## Who inspires you to protest?

This fantastic question from [ethical\\_cliff](#) at **New Horizons Children's Academy** started a great discussion...

**buzzing\_morning**

**Braiswick Primary School**

Greta Thunberg inspires me to act on climate change because she is right about lots of things and says them well. I think she has exactly what a leader needs to inspire others to protest: being right and saying it in the right way.

**delightful\_effort**

**Michael Faraday School**

I think Monique Bouffé is inspirational because she really got me thinking about human rights. She has encouraged me to always care for people and help them just like when she was younger. She is fighting a good cause, seeking change to the world and helping to create that change.

**Monique Bouffé**

**Expert**

Hi [delightful\\_effort](#), thank you for your comment! I'm so glad you feel encouraged to care of people. I'm certain you make the world a better place, and you're never too young to make a difference!

**creative\_moth**

**Upton Cross Primary School**

Peter Tatchell started protesting at a very young age: he was only a teenager but was an inspiration to so many people! He is very inspiring to me because he shows that, no matter what your age, you can still speak up and get your voice heard. I thought that young people wouldn't be able to protest and that our voices would not be able to get through – but people like him prove me wrong.

## THE EXPERT VIEW

### Best of the questions



**insightful\_orca**

**Ormiston Bushfield Academy**

asked Monique Bouffé, Advice and Information Officer at human rights group Liberty

What's the most meaningful piece of work that you have been involved in?



**daring\_forest**

**Willowtown Community Primary School**

asked Indigo Rumbelow, campaigns team at Extinction Rebellion

Do you think that a protest has to be disruptive or violent for your voice to be heard and do small protests make a change?



**wonderous\_orca**

**Cheam Common Junior Academy**

asked Rob Harrison, co-founder and co-editor of Ethical Consumer magazine

What is the better way for you to campaign: online or offline?



**selfreliant\_snake**

**Evelyn Street Primary School**

asked Peter Tatchell, human rights campaigner

What is the most difficult protest you campaigned at and what were you campaigning for?



**creative\_moth**

**Upton Cross Primary School**

asked Kajal Odedra, author and Executive Director of Change.org UK

Do you think all protests are good? Is there a way people can stop violent protests?



**sympathetic\_horse**

**Lyons Hall Primary School**

asked Khady Gueye, community organiser and Director of the Local Equality Commission

What is something me and my class friends could do in our local area to change something we don't believe in?

## FINAL PIECE

### Protest Podcasts

We challenged students to create a podcast that would showcase their learning and answer this Issue's big question: does protest work? Here are some of the best bits but to experience these podcasts in full, visit the Hub.

**super\_chicken and careful\_moose**

Hammond Junior School

*"When people think about protests, they think about violence, damage and riots but that's not what it's about. People protest to stand up for what they believe in and most want to do it peacefully."*

[bit.ly/BNCPOdcast1](https://bit.ly/BNCPOdcast1)

**jazzed\_beaver**

Hammond Junior School

*"You can tell when a protest is working when more people are joining and things are changing... they don't work if they have a bad reputation or if they have barely any people."*

[bit.ly/BNCPOdcast2](https://bit.ly/BNCPOdcast2)

**decisive\_redcurrant**

Michael Faraday School

*"Protests should definitely be allowed... for your voices to be heard, for changes to be made, for the government to hear your voice... and to let no one stop you."*

[bit.ly/BNCPOdcast3](https://bit.ly/BNCPOdcast3)

**blessed\_heart, humourous\_queen and original\_bee**

Pinner High School

*"I would like to bring up the Black Lives Matter campaign. Its purpose is to raise awareness about the inequality that still exists in modern day society... but it still hasn't managed to completely abolish racism."*

[bit.ly/BNCPOdcast4](https://bit.ly/BNCPOdcast4)



**COMPETITION****Burnet Book Club!**

Good learning is all about making links – so we challenged students to spot this Issue's key themes of protest and democracy in their reading books. Here are some of their brilliant recommendations:

**impartial\_shark**

Boutcher C of E Primary School

A book I have read was *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World* by Kate Pankhurst. I have read this over and over again because I find it so inspiring. As the title implies, the book is about fantastic women who have changed the world for a better future – through protest or other ways. The thing I loved the most was that all of the women did the same thing: whenever they were told they could not do something, they went out of their way to prove everyone wrong. For example, Rosa Parks stood up to racial inequality by refusing to stand up on a bus and Emmeline Pankhurst organised the suffragettes, who spoke out against the lack of women's rights.

SEE MORE  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
[bit.ly/BNC-bookclub](https://bit.ly/BNC-bookclub)

**jovial\_eel****Protest and democracy**

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Lyons Hall Primary School

ON WEDNESDAY January 6th 2021 a group of protesters who had been protesting outside of the Capitol in Washington broke into the government building. Hundreds more gathered outside. All had turned out to support Donald Trump in an attempt

**ambitious\_blackberry**

Preston Manor School

The book that I have read is called *They Can't Kill Us All*. This book is written by Wesley Lowery and it describes the Black Lives Matter movement in the context of American history, as well as Wesley's personal life. It's a deeply researched book that brings alive the quest for justice for Black people who were unjustly killed. He concisely presents a story of human grief and covers almost all the things which happen in protests.

**eager\_reflection**

Cheam Park Farm Primary

The book that I read was called *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. I think that it links with democracy because in the story, a group of children make the rules on an island. One rule was that they could only talk if they held a conch (which the main character Ralph found). The children have to learn to live with each other but the twist is that the group splits into two smaller ones: one with Ralph as leader, and one as a larger rebel group. What I learnt from this book is that in order to live peacefully with others, we need to compromise and listen to other people's views.

to stop his defeat in the 2020 presidential election, following false claims about voter fraud.

Breaching police barriers, rioters occupied, destroyed and looted parts of the Capitol building for several hours. The riot led to the evacuation and lockdown of the government building. Five people died, including a police officer, and lots of people were arrested.

A number of issues about this protest grabbed the attention of the media and the public.

First, would the protesters have been treated differently if this had been a Black Lives Matter protest?

Second, did Donald Trump incite the mob and encourage the riots? And if so, is he guilty of an attack on the democratic structures of America?

And finally, the right to protest is something that separates democratic countries from non-democratic countries, but have the Capitol riots shown that protests can be abused by people who want to hold on to power? ■