


## WEMIN

Migrant Women
Empowerment and Integration

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## Scenario IFA

## Making a change closer to home - running a campaign in your team/group/ organisation

In most organizations there are things that can be improved, for the benefit of everyone. School, college, trainee and councils will (or should?) usually take up issues with management and negotiate changes.

Your group/organization may not have a representative council, or perhaps it doesn't have much power. You can learn a lot about democracy by running a campaign to change something yourselves.

Step 1 Choose your issue. What makes you cross? What could be better? Who would benefit? What needs to happen?

Step 2 Find out what others think! You may be alone on this one. Other people may not agree that there is a problem, and you can't do this alone. You will need support from others, especially from other migrant groups and native residents/seniors, if possible.

Step 3 Raise awareness If the issue has support, you'll need to make everyone aware of your views and try to begin a debate to find out how things could be different. You could hold a lunchtime meeting, make posters, put an entry on the intranet /Facebook, YouTube or elsewhere), give out leaflets, make a presentation, take the issue to the council etc.

Step 4 Decide on the action you want taken and get evidence of support This could be a petition, a motion passed at the youth council, a vote at a meeting.

Step 5 Approach the powers-that-be in your organization with a sensible and properly-costed suggestion There should be more than one of you and you should make an appointment in advance. You'll need to practice this step, perhaps through role play, to make sure that you are confident, polite and clear in what you are suggesting. If your proposal is rejected, you should ask for reasons. They may be good ones!

## 22 tips for being a more active citizen:

1. Get a library card and check out the library programs.
2. Support and read the local paper.
3. Attend city council meetings.
4. Write letters to the editor of your local paper.
5. Start a blog about local issues.
6. Organize a community garden.
7. Work on raising the awareness around a particular issue impacting your community
8. Read the constitution of your resident country
9. Volunteer at a local food bank.
10. Learn the rules of your local community.
11. Organize neighbors to influence members of municipal council to overturn unjust rules of your community.
12. Visit and support local parks and other open spaces.
13. Volunteer on local clean up days to help keep your community beautiful.
14. Regularly contact members of municipal council (and meps= members of parliament) to let know them know your views on upcoming municipal rules/national legislation.
15. Join the social media platforms (Facebook etc.) to connect your neighbors
16. Attend school meetings for parents.
17. Learn about your community's history at your local historical society and/or history museum.
18. Check out your community's calendar of events for ways you can get involved
19. Support local businesses by frequenting them and organizing shop local events to raise the importance of shopping locally.
20. Walk or bike where and when you can to get to know your neighbors and your community.
21. Volunteer as a volunteer firefighter, mentor, or neighborhood watch member.
22. What else could you do as being active in your community?

And if 22 tips towards more engaged active citizen are not enough for you please get 28 tips more at: https://www.good.is/articles/building-blocks-of-citizenship-50-ways-to-be-a-more-engaged-active-citizen-this-year

