

## Methods for Social Change

When people want to change the world, there are several ways that they can go about doing it:

- Direct political action
  - Action through the democratic political system to try to influence laws by directly helping politicians.
  - Meant to change laws.
  - Politicians support a set of policies, and social change is accomplished though trying to support them – changes come as a package and depend on the politician to see them through.
  - This can include simply voting, but also donating to political candidates or parties, working on political campaigns, or even running for office yourself.
  
- Protest movements
  - Action to try to influence the way that people think about politics and society through visible, emotional demonstrations that are meant to build support among enough people to raise awareness of issues and change how people think about them.
  - Meant to change both laws and opinions.
  - If the aim is to change laws, then politicians are influenced indirectly through popular support for change.
  - Changes sought are specific and not part of a package.
  - There are many famous examples. Some of the most famous are the antiwar movement during the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement and the Women’s Rights moment.
  - Protest movements can be both violent and nonviolent.
  
- Education
  - Action to try to influence the way that people think about politics and society through educational efforts.
  - Meant to change both laws and opinions.
  - If the aim is to change laws, politicians are influenced indirectly through raising awareness of the consequences of different policy actions. These movements tend to be less emotional and more logical.
  - Changes sought are specific and not part of a package.
  - Examples include using books (for instance, *The Lorax* is meant to educate children about the environment), seminars held by interested groups, and publishing studies and papers for policy makers and interested citizens.