

Education

Universal access to quality education is not a privilege – it is a basic human right, regardless of gender, ethnic background, economic status, or ability. Worldwide, around 60 million primary school-age children are denied their right to an education. Girls, minorities, and poor children are the ones most likely to miss out. Without this access, opportunities for economic advancement are dramatically limited.

Upstanders take action to improve education, whether providing school supplies and classroom resources to communities without them, distributing books with diverse and relatable characters, or empowering young people with the tools to create a better future for themselves. In doing so, they positively impact entire communities.

Safe Communities

A safe community is a place where people can live without daily fear of violence or exploitation, protected by community representatives and leaders, such as police and educators. Safe communities provide physical security and basic necessities such as food, clean water and adequate shelter. In order for these communities to thrive they also need safe spaces for individuals to make connections and trust one another.

Creating safe communities is critical in all parts of the world. Upstanders work to make communities safer—whether independently or with the help of organizations—by providing necessary services, offering quality education, and creating environments that are more productive and emotionally healthy. For all, a safe community is a sanctuary.

Equal Rights

Equal rights guarantee the same protections, benefits and resources to all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, or disability. Yet, around the world, people face discrimination, bias, and violence because of an integral part of their identity or background that they cannot change.

Upstanders make progress toward creating a more just and equal society through action—protesting, taking legal action, petitioning, or spreading the word through social media—all to affect positive change. They recognize that all humans deserve respect to advance equality, and they work to eliminate obstacles so that all individuals have the opportunity to make the most of their lives.

Economic Opportunity

Economic opportunity means having the right to a fair wage. But it also means access to quality education, vocational training, and financing opportunities, which are foundations for long-term success. Still, over 10% of the world's population—more than 750 million people—live in extreme poverty, on less than \$1.90 a day. Economic opportunity helps people thrive by increasing their productivity and prosperity, leading to stronger families and elevating self-confidence and pride.

Upstanders support these efforts by contributing funds for small businesses, advocating for fair wages, providing vocational training, and locating needed resources so that all individuals can live a life of dignity and self-sufficiency.

Health & Environment

The health of the global environment affects the quality of life for all people, and our actions on the planet affect its health. People have the right to clean air and water, nutritious food, and access to nature. Yet around the world, billions live with polluted air, contaminated water, poor-quality food, and extreme weather conditions due to a rapidly changing climate.

People also have the right to health care. They are entitled to live their lives free of preventable illnesses, with access to treatment, and the ability to monitor their own health. Upstanders advance the health of the planet through education, recycling and conservation efforts. Upstanders support health and medical initiatives across the globe to increase access to medical treatment and medicines, improving the quality of all human life.