

Taking Action Online

Here are some ways that young people like you have used the internet to organize social action.

Boston Walkout

In the spring of 2016, more than 2,000 students in Boston staged a walkout. That means they left their classes and marched together through downtown Boston.

Why? Because they were protesting the budget cuts—or cuts in money—happening in their school system. These students knew that budget cuts would mean fewer art classes, fewer sports activities and less transportation to and from school.

What does this have to do with the internet? Well, the organizers of this walkout used Twitter, a social networking site with many users, to promote their march. With the hashtag #bpswalkout, they managed to quickly group people together to join their protest.

Gender-neutral Bathrooms

In 2015, a high school student in Southern California decided that their school needed to have gender-neutral bathrooms, or bathrooms that anyone could use regardless of their gender identity. That student created a petition and used the internet to circulate it. Nearly 30,000 people signed the petition, and it even got attention from online news sites. As a result of the petition, that school and many others were quick to install gender-neutral bathrooms.

#BringBackOurGirls

Young people around the world have used internet activism to raise awareness, generate interest and organize protests. In 2014, a movement started in Nigeria to demand the return of female students who were kidnapped from their schools by a group named Boko Haram. Because of the use of Twitter, blogs, and Facebook, global activists like Malala Yousafzai (a Nobel Peace Prize winner) and Michelle Obama (a former First Lady of the United States) got involved in this cause, and people in different countries became more aware of and connected with what was happening in Nigeria.