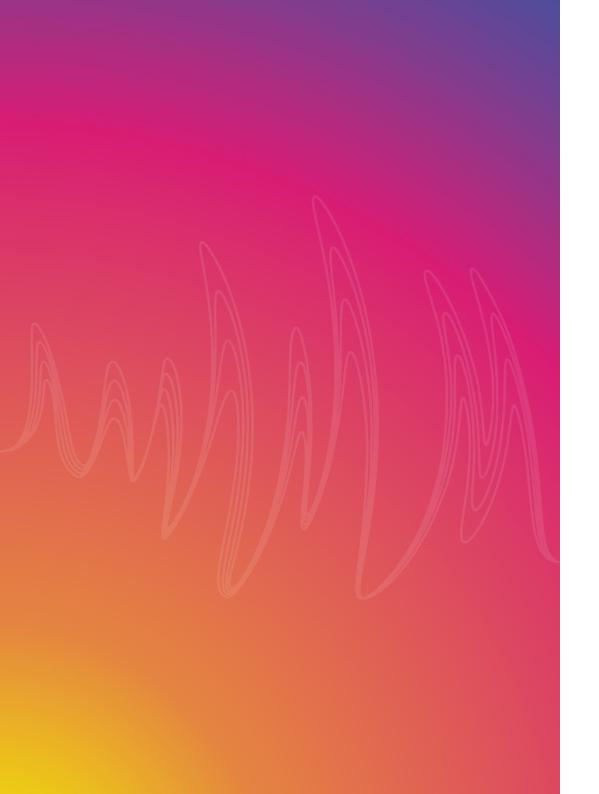
# GREATER MANCHESTER POETIC DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

LAUNCH
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
10TH DECEMBER 2021
HOME, MANCHESTER





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## "POETS ARE THE UNACKNOWLEDGED LEGISLATORS OF THE WORLD"

**PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY** 

We are proud to present this inaugural Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights.

Inspired by the Poetic Declaration, where poets from around the world wrote poems for each of the Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a unique body of work commissioned by Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights UK and led by UK Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, this Declaration has been created by young people from across Greater Manchester - each of whom wrote their own poems in response to the 30 Articles of the UDHR.

Created with artists, teachers and activists the programme took students, teachers and schools on a creative, experiential learning journey to create their own Poetic Universal Declaration of Human Rights: a powerful statement and vision of the future they want to build.

We hope this Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights will inspire everyone across the region and beyond, to celebrate a bold and powerful response to the UDHR, as told by learners from Primary, Secondary and SEN schools. Civic and civil society organisations and individuals can take this Declaration and plan events, recitals and gatherings so that this work moves others to engage with the UDHR in creative and compelling ways and through your events the powerful voices of our young people serve to create human rights change in every part of Greater Manchester.



The 30 Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are everything that Greater Manchester strives to achieve for every single one of its people. It is all encompassing, as is the region, and reiterates the importance of equality for all. The eclectic, diverse communities are what make Greater Manchester such a unique, creative, and inspiring region and I am proud to support this expression of their vision of human rights.

The launch of the Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights helps us articulate Greater Manchester's distinctive cultural voice and ambition and shines a light on our incredibly thoughtful and creative children and young people from across the region.

Our young people are the future of Greater Manchester, and the building blocks upon which we can continue to make this place a fair, equal, and safe space for our people. I am inspired by their words in this Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights and hope they continue to create positive change across our communities.

My hope is that the people of Greater Manchester take this Declaration and make it their own and to celebrate it throughout local communities. I want it to spark discussion, inspire debate and create conversation.

Greater Manchester, this is your Poetic Declaration, composed by your children and young people. Let it educate, influence, and inspire so that we create human rights change, everywhere.

## GREATER MANCHESTER POETIC DECLARATION OF

**HUMAN RIGHTS** 

THIS SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE BY YOUTH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

#### We Are All Born Free & Equal.

We are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas. We should all be treated in the same way.

#### Who we want to be

At school, we are the same.

Same clothes; same rules.

No one is different,

But on the inside no one is the same.

If everyone was the same
I think life would be dull.
A colourless world;
An opinionless world of darkness.
Our lifeless faces staring back at each other In silence.

Outside this pit of darkness Is our very own selves Our true colours.

You are the artist of your own life Don't let anyone else take the paint brush.

The Valley Leadership Academy

## 2

#### Don't Discriminate.

These rights belong to everybody, whatever our differences.

#### Just Because...

Just because I'm poor And I'm not rich Doesn't mean I want more.

Just because I'm not from here And I have different color skin Doesn't mean I can't be your peer.

Just because I don't speak your words And I'm from a different country Doesn't mean I can't be as free as birds.

Just because I have a different mind And I act Differently Doesn't mean I can't be kind.

Just because I have different beliefs And I wear hijab Doesn't mean I can't achieve.

I might be different, an odd key That's just the unique me WE ALL WANT PEACE!

St Winifred's RC Primary

#### The Right to Life.

We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.

Freedom is...
Respect in yourself.
Elegant in yourself.
Equality in everybody.
Daring to enjoy freedom.
Magical if you achieve freedom.

#### **Bamford Academy**



#### No Slavery.

Nobody has any right to make us a slave. We cannot make anyone our slave.

Let there be freedom

So heavy chains become warm blankets

And hard metal bars bend like soft rubber

Let caged birds break free of their prisons, and soar into the distance

Let their golden feathers become quills which spill

The ink of a thousand stories

So fears melt away.

Let there be belonging
So children have a place to call home
Let a mother hold her child, without fear of being sent away
Let children run back home without feeling insecure
Let tears fall on soil to form new plants where they can
grow to become much more
Let the teardrops from a little girl fade away
as she sees her home come back together
Let refugees live the life of another citizen, without breaking down.

Let there be equality
So that all races can live happily
Joining hands and singing in harmony
So that people can walk without worry
And so that innocence doesn't have to be buried
So that black, brown, white can live together
And stay together in peace.

#### Let there be better treatment

So the cows can be free to roam the fields

So the horses on farms can be free of their work

So the whips can be burnt in a fire of worries

So people can be as free as the waves in the sea

So people can walk the streets with no fear

So people can be free of torture

#### Let the people be born free

Let the children run around the fields free

So parents can go to work and put food on the table

So people can have their own hopes and dreams

Let happiness flow through children

So people can have their own opinion.

#### Let there be relaxation

So babies can sleep calmly at night

And unicorns can gallop in a child's dream

So children can go to school feeling happy

And adults can lay on the soft white clouds, looking out at the ocean

Let the soft pillow sink you into a deep sleep with a shhhhhhh shhhhhhh

Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

#### Manchester High School for Girls Prep

## No Torture. Nobody has any right to hurt us or to torture us.

#### Let there be education, and not abduction

I saw on an advert that some girls in Africa were kidnapped They were little girls

Let there be education and not abduction Girls should have education and not abduction and no wrong intentions No abuse

I sometimes think about this at night before I go to sleep

Let there be education

**Lily Lane Primary School** 



#### You Have Rights No Matter Where You Go.

I am a person just like you!

#### You have the right

You have the right to be respected.

To be treated equally,

To be true to yourself,

To control your life of liberty,

You have the right to be admired.

To be treated as a person in the eyes of the law,

To refuse to let yourself down,

To deny manipulation,

To unwrap your inner self,

You have the right to be heard and for people to listen to your every word.

To trace your steps and make the world return to its welcoming state,

To count stars and build the future,

To feel the rain-drops roll down your skin,

You have the right to be the best,

finest and outstanding person you can be.

Make our world change forever,

We are a team, we work together.

St Philip's CE Primary School

#### We're All Equal Before the Law.

The law is the same for everyone. It must treat us all fairly.

Justice is power
Understanding the laws
Silencing the negative
Together we are strong
Individuals standing up for themselves and others
Clearing out the bad
Equal in our fight

**St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School** 



#### Your Human Rights are Protected by Law.

We can all ask for the law to help us when we are not treated fairly.

#### I Want Justice

#### Let there be justice

So, everyone can have freedom and be respected And live life with rights and love our differences So, we can be protected and treated well And possibilities can never end for peace, harmony, and love.

#### Let there be a fair life

So, everyone can have warm clothes

And we can live a life without worrying about medical bills

So, people have someone to talk to if they are nervous or have worries.

#### Let there be a decent world

So, we can see how stunning our common home is

And we open our door with clean air through our nose

So, we can stop all fossil fuels and end pollution in oceans

And we can live a happy life knowing God is taking care of us.

**Christ the King RC Primary School** 



#### No Unfair Detainment.

Nobody has the right to put us in prison without good reason and keep us there, or to send us away from our country.

#### Dystopia

I am shut
Behind thick walls
A suffocating mask
Behind closed doors.

No one would believe A world controlled By something no one could see. A world strangled By a cough and a sigh.

Little did we know.

The Valley Leadership Academy

10

#### The Right to Trial.

If we are put on trial this should be in public.

The people who try us should not let anyone tell them what to do.

#### **PeaceMaker**

I am a peacemaker
I am the peace in a new world
I am the free bird in equality
I am the encourager of humanity.

I am a peacemaker
I am the peace in all the rights
I am the freedom in the air flying like the kites
I am the peace that will make everyone happy

I am a peacemaker
I am the freedom that makes sure people are well
I am the peace that doesn't scare anyone like a bell
I am the rights that makes people equal because
I am a peacemaker

**Abraham Moss Community School (Primary)** 

#### We're Always Innocent Until Proven Guilty.

Nobody should be blamed for doing something until it is proven.

When people say we did a bad thing we have the right to show it is not true.

#### I was accused of murder

I was accused of murder I didn't hurt a soul I got arrested that day, I was sent straight to jail.

I was accused of murder, Just after I got back from work; Now I'm in this prison cell So dark So cold

I wish to go back to my family They're as important to me as gold, But no I'm stuck in this prison cell, Eating cold soup out of a bowl.

I was accused of murder,
I didn't hurt a soul,
I have to go back to my family.
This cell,
So dark,
So cold.

**Stockport Grammar School** 

12

The Right to Privacy. Nobody should try to harm our good name. Nobody has the right to come into our home, open our letters, or bother us or our family without a good reason.

The right of privacy is very important,
People can take it away,
It is a very fragile thing,
A right that everyone should have,
But not everyone has...

People can rob it from you,
People can give it to you,
You could feel angry,
Or you could feel sad,
You might share,
Information with your kin,
And still be private,
Or it could be private just to you,
A right that everyone should have,
But not everyone has...

You living your high life,
High up in the clouds,
When people are on the ground,
With nothing,
No rights as not everyone has them...

**Stockport Grammar School** 

#### Freedom to Move.

We all have the right to go where we want in our own country and to travel as we wish.

#### What really matters?

Size. Shape.

None of it matters.

Colour. Race.

None of it matters.

Travelling thousands of miles,

They find a million ways to endure and

To seek refuge from unspeakable perils.

If only their lives could change when they step foot

on

A single grain of sand.

But,

Shy smiles are challenged, Innocent questions are ignored.

They wonder how blind mankind can be

- - -

To what really matters.

The Valley Leadership Academy

## 14

#### The Right to Seek a Safe Place to Live.

If we are frightened of being badly treated in our own country, we all have the right to run away to another country to be safe.

#### **Drowning**

Hiding away is easier Than standing up and Not being heard. I cannot go to school I am invisible to all.

Flames overthrow what was home In bare feet Running into the shadows. Aircraft swallow all noise but

I must remain silent.

Walking through broken towns Cries from every corner Family members left In a pit of fire, I see As I walk 5000 miles more.

England.

At last. Yet it's not home.

Don't break the silence

Even though you're drowning.

Drowning in a vacuum of sorrow.

The Valley Leadership Academy

#### Right to a Nationality.

We all have the right to belong to a country.

Equality is fairness. Like a marathon runner, it won't stop running. Equality is like the soulful tune of a harp plucking at the strings of your heart. Equality is a bright light guiding the way.

Equality is freedom and it should be your friend.

Equality is Rosa Parks who stood up for the rights of others.

Equality mourns until the sweet melody of justice is heard by all.

St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School

16

Marriage and Family. Every grown-up has the right to marry and have a family if they want to. Men and women have the same rights when they are married, and when they are separated.

#### The right to love

Pride; the escape from everyday life Gone, broken by those who just don't understand

The pain - suffering that I and others that aren't

'normal' have to go through

In fact people go as far as protesting against us because they haven't had the difficulty of justifying themselves

It's madness; they tell you 'It's just a phase' or 'You're too young to know' How can you say that it's ok for a boy to love a girl? But it's not when its two boys or two girls

Don't normalise gay poeple
They just made a bad choice
But it isn't a choice, they've just discovered themselves
So shut up and think before you use your voice

**Stockport Grammar School** 

#### The Right to Your Own Things.

Everyone has the right to own things or share them.

Nobody should take our things from us without a good reason.

#### Lost & Nowhere to Go

Torn apart, all alone. Kept in silence. All on my own.

My skin was peeling, As I hid my feelings. To bear witness, Too afraid to speak.

I felt so weak
I was so scared
No right to exist
No right to talk.

I could barely even walk,
Too exhausted to talk
Too tired to fight
Running for days.
Missing home
Where could I possibly go?

The Valley Leadership Academy

18

#### Freedom of Thought.

We all have the right to believe in what we want to believe, to have a religion, or to change it if we want.

they say Controlled and silenced,	At the same time you beg for them to stop
"Keep your thoughts to yourself" They say. They say.	My heart goes out to those in a love trance,  "Keep it in" they say,
They say.  Broken and breaking,	While your heart dances and twirls.
"Keep it in, who knows who you may	They say.
hurt" They say.	Suffering and hurt,
In love and adored,	"Keep it to yourself, words mean nothing from the poor"
"Keep it, who cares about your love struck self"	They say.
They say.	Accused and afraid, "Keep it, no one will believe you anyway" They say.
They say.	Mesmerized and at one,
They say.	"Keep it quiet, you'll cut someone with
But my heart goes out to those afraid,	They say.
"Keep it together," they say,	They say.
Though really, you're falling apart.	They say. And my heart goes out to those

cracks,

My heart goes out to those in silence, "Keep your mouth shut they say,

"Keep it to yourself" they say, When you should let it all out.

My heart goes out to those 'sleeping rough, "Keep yourself to yourself" they say, So that when you're in trouble, you become a fighter.

**Stockport Grammar** 

19

#### Freedom of Expression.

We all have the right to make up our own minds, to think what we like, to say what we think, and to share our ideas with other people.

I am a community of ideas Express and share thoughts from our mind It's our right

**Abraham Moss Community School (Primary)** 

20

The Right to Public Assembly. We all have the right to meet our friends and to work together in peace to defend our rights.

Nobody can make us join a group if we don't want to.

#### My Life Of Peace

What does peace feel like?
Peace feels like a warm blanket on a cold night

What does peace taste like?
Peace tastes like the very first meal after a fast

What does peace look like?
Peace looks like the sunset on a warm summer's night

What does peace smell like?

Peace smells like a nice warm bubble bath with smelling soap on a cold winter's night

What does peace sound like? Peace sounds like a satisfying autumn leaf crunching on the floor of the dry meadow.

**Christ the King RC Primary School** 

#### The Right to Democracy.

We all have the right to take part in the government of our country. Every grown-up should be allowed to choose their own leaders.

It's like I'm in a glass box
Nothing to do, nowhere to go
Watching on while everyone else has fun
And I'm just trying to play, trying to run
I, Mary Lee, am a victim of theft
Why should men have more rights than me?
All these restrictions and rules I truly hate
Why can't Britain just wipe a clean slate?

All I want to do is vote I just want my voice to be heard But I, Mary Lee, have been put on mute and just because I don't wear a suit

It's like I'm in a glass box and I've been silenced I just want to be heard And to fly and play like a bird

**Stockport Grammar School** 

## 22

#### Social Security.

We all have the right to affordable housing, medicine, education, and childcare, enough money to live on and medical help if we are ill or old.

Everybody works together.

Developing on your own skills.

Uniqueness should be celebrated for every individual.

Kindness should come from the heart.

Imagine what freedom is for everyone.

Thankful to have a chance to be free.

Excited to be a unique individual.

#### **Bamford Academy**

23

#### Workers Rights.

Every grown-up has the right to do a job, to a fair wage for their work, and to join a trade union.

#### **Inspiring Machine**

I am an inspiring machine

I am looking for a job and found one

I am a fair person with different choices

I am an inspirer inspiring people

I am an inspiring machine

I am the one who stands up for our rights

I am an inspirer earning less money working 24/7

I am an inspirer who tries to join a trade union

I am an inspiring machine

I am an inspiring machine who inspires people to get fair jobs

I am the one who loves to inspire at work

I am the person who tries to keep peace in the office

I am an inspiring machine

#### The Right to Play.

We all have the right to work and rest.

#### Right to Rest

All humans should have the Right to Rest If we have to put it to the test. Even though we have to work that doesnt mean to have to be a jerk Every human shall relax and chillax TO THE MAX

St Winifred's RC Primary

25

**Food and Shelter for All -** We all have the right to a good life. Mothers and children, people who are old, unemployed or disabled, and all people have the right to be cared for.

#### Food

Fish and chips is my favourite treat

Oranges are good to eat

Other fruit is just as good you see

Delicious and healthy food is the best right for me!

**Delamere School** 

## **26**

The Right to Education. Education is a right. Primary school should be free. We should learn about the United Nations and how to get on with others. Our parents can choose what we learn.

Our rainbow rights
The right to be you
Explore, play, be safe, look after the world

Poetic canvasses
Of hearts and red glitter
Say you are amazing, outstanding and kind

This is me I am loved I am fun I am funny I am unique

Breaking news
I have right to an opinion
My words flutter like butterfly wings
I own my thoughts
Personal, individual, not factual,
negative or positive

I like the forest
I like Ladywood
It is golden
I like playing with my friends
It is a blessing

I have a right to friends A right to join in Because love wins

Our hands come together like feathers on a flamingo

I have a right to play
It makes me feel safe and happy
Like planting yellow flowers
Like sitting under a colourful umbrella
Like moulding playdough
Like reading my favourite book

I have a right to explore
Like smelling a flower for the first time
Or eating an orange
Discovering new things like a goldfish in the sea

I have a right to be safe When I'm online or when I'm with my friends When I'm at home or when I'm at school Teachers, the police, family – they can all keep us safe

We have a right to care for the world Recycle, look after the animals, turn our lights off Put things in the bin, look after plants and trees, keep the seas clean

Our rights are a gallery of handmade posters ready for everyone to see how colourful we can be We hope you like it.

**Ladywood School** 

27

**Copyright.** Copyright is a special law that protects one's own artistic creations and writings; others cannot make copies without permission. We all have the right to our own way of life and to enjoy the good things that art, science and learning bring.

#### A New Legacy

I am a new legacy
I am a new legacy forming under the sea
I am the undiscovered peace in humanity
I am the inspirer of the new legacy
I am the inspiration of new minds
I am the enjoyment in education
I am the new generation of education
I am a new legacy
I am the new population of humanity
I am the inspiring new generation
I am the new legacy.

**Abraham Moss Community School (Primary)** 

#### Fair and Free World

There must be proper order so we can all enjoy rights and freedoms in our own country and all over the world.

#### **Freedom Giver**

I am a freedom giver,

I am a freedom giver, give you freedom, give you fairness, give you hope,

I am your life, I protect your home, don't ever think you are alone,

I am a freedom giver,

I am the safe in safety, the fair in fairness,

I am the responsible in responsibility, I have my own special ability,

Nobody can make me stand still,

Freedom is ours to keep,

I am a freedom giver,

I am free to be who I want to be,

I am both rights and wrongs, because of me, you always belong,

I am peace, patience, perseverance,

I am freedom, faith, forgiveness and yours forever,

I am the wings of a bird, I will help you spread your wings and fly,

I will give you hope,

The world will give you life,

You can make a difference.

Because I am the freedom giver.

St Philip's CE Primary School

**29** 

#### Responsibility.

We have a duty to other people, and we should protect their rights and freedoms

Everybody is equal.

Nation works together to help this community,

Visiting is ok, you can go to this environment.

Include people to play safe in the environment.

Respect this wonderful community with care.

Organise environmental trips.

Nobody should be treated unequal.

Many love this truly outstanding world.

Educate children to learn about the environment.

Noice the environment.

**T**eamwork can be used to help the environment.

#### **Bamford Academy**

30

No One Can Take Away Your Human Rights.

Nobody has a right to hurt us

If it was something you could taste

it would be the sweet taste of escaping the land of torture.

If it was something you can smell,

it would be the reeking scent of bodies not been deodorised.

If it was something you see,

it would be the pain in the people's eyes of suffering.

If it was something you could touch,

it would be peace in your body of being set free.

If it was a sound it would be the cheer of celebration.

St Mary's Deane

## CUIIOUS

#### **ABOUT US**

A collaboration between Curious Minds and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights UK to draw together human rights and poetry so that young people can express their own poetic vision of the 30 Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### **CURIOUS MINDS**

Curious Minds is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people through great art and culture. Our vision is for a future where getting creative and experiencing brilliant arts and culture is a regular aspect of every child's learning and leisure time.

Fuelled by curiosity, we work to make high-quality creative and cultural learning opportunities available to all children and young people, both in and out of school. We do this by connecting teachers and youth workers with artists and creative practitioners; giving them access to information, expertise, space and resources to facilitate collaboration and innovation in the field of creative and cultural education.

We are proud to have been serving the North West of England as Arts Council England's Bridge Organisation since 2012.



#### **ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS UK**

We exist to inspire and empower people to make decisions and take actions every day that will help make human rights a reality for all - to become ripples of hope in their communities and across the world.

In 1968, Robert F. Kennedy announced his candidacy for the Presidency of the United States. His campaign called on us to envision and work for a world in which the dignity of every human being is honoured and respected; in which we value one another and realise our own power to shape the future.

We are at a critical moment in British and global history. We need to nurture a culture that is built on our shared humanity. The universal concept of human rights that Robert F. Kennedy championed is essential to that effort.

Human rights – the best articulation and codification humanity has ever found for the fundamental interests of people – set out what society should deliver for people and can be a guide to be used and acted on in everyday decision-making, until they are made a reality for all.

And yet, we know that for many in the UK, human rights feel remote – they are for others but not for me. Demonstrating the relevance and importance of human rights is the challenge in front of us.

And so we deliver artistic, educational and cultural programmes that tell a relevant, local story of human rights and celebrate the countless organisations that do the incredible work of making human rights a reality to inspire and build long-term cultural change.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank all of our participating schools for bringing this project to life with their inspirational teaching and creative poetic submissions:

**Abraham Moss Community School (Primary)** 

**Bamford Academy** 

**Bolton School Boys' Division** 

**Christ the King RC Primary School** 

**Delamere School** 

**Ladywood School** 

**Lily Lane Primary School** 

**Manchester High School for Girls Prep** 

St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School

St Mary's Deane

St Philip's CE Primary School

St Winifred's Primary School

**Stockport Grammar** 

The Valley Leadership Academy

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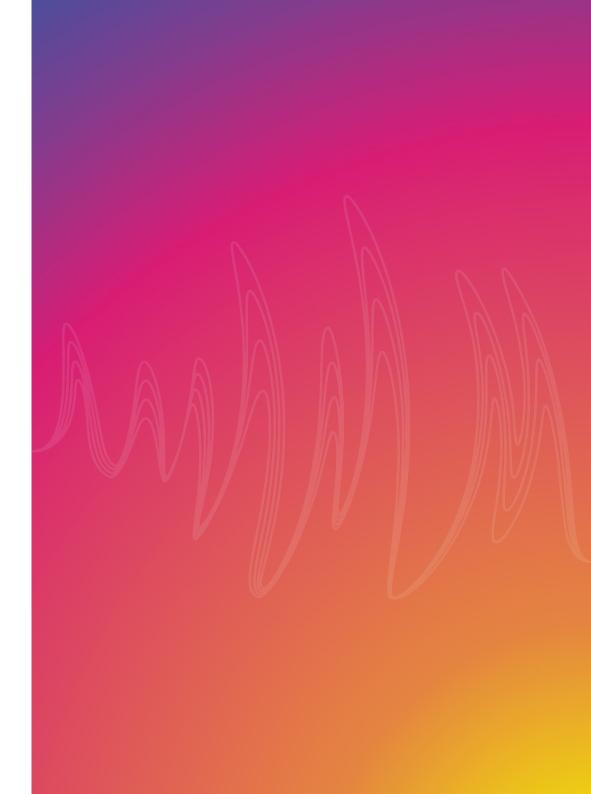
#### **Project Leads:**

Sughra Ahmed, *Director of Education, RFK*Saul Argent, *Cultural Education Manager, Curious Minds* 

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#### HOME

www.homemcr.org





WWW.POETICDECLARATION.ORG

www.curiousminds.org.uk www.rfkhumanrights.org