Dr Russell Rook
SOCIAL ACTION

Opportunity, Possibility and Challenge

Social Action
Opportunity

Intro

From the foundations of our movement, Salvationists have not only observed community needs, but found innovative ways of addressing these needs.
Dr Russell Rook, with Good Faith Partnerships encourages Salvationists around the world to partner with Government and other organisations in addressing societal needs. He urges us to explore innovative solutions for the incredibly complex and often long-term nature of societal challenges within the communities we serve.

Watch clip

Social Action - Opportunity (2:11)

Explore

Brainstorm two columns on a whiteboard. On the left, list bad things we want to stop, and on the right hand side, list corresponding longer-term systemic changes that could replace those bad things with good news stories.

▶ With whom do we already partner?
▶ How have we seen partnerships with Government and other organisations contribute positively to our work?
▶ What challenges have we experienced with such partnerships?

Apply

▶ What are the key challenges that our community is currently facing?
▶ What partnerships can we instigate to foster creativity, compassion and joy in our community?

Social Action
Possibility

Intro

As Christian leaders, who seek to love God and others, we have a responsibility to engage in social action. Dr Russell Rook suggests that our engagement can be classified into four categories: contradiction, contrast, complement and collaboration.

Watch clip

Social Action – Possibility (1:54)

Explore

- ▶ Write the four categories (contradiction, contrast, complement, collaborate) on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper.
- ▶ In what ways are we already engaging in social action in each of these categories?

Distribute yellow post-it notes and markers. Write one answer on each and place them into each of the four categories.

- ▶ What other opportunities do you see in each of these categories within our community?

Distribute green post-it notes. Write one answer on each and place them into each of the four categories.

Apply

- ▶ What evidence indicates that there is a need in this area?
- ▶ Why would we give priority to this opportunity?
- ▶ Have government or other organisations already invested in addressing this need?
- ▶ Is our initiative one that would reflect current research and thinking on holistic service provision?
- ▶ How could we collaborate and share knowledge with other Salvo expressions who are currently addressing or thinking of addressing this need?
- ▶ What resources would be required? For example, people, money, building, advertising etc.
- ▶ Is there funding available? If not, then how could we source funds for this initiative?
- ▶ How could we ensure that this initiative could be sustained if funding were to cease?
- ▶ Who might we partner with in this initiative?

Social Action
Challenge

Intro

Dr Russell Rook notes that we share with this planet with 22.5 million refugees. According to The Guardian, "more than 24000 humanitarian arrivals settled in Australia" within the 2016-2017 financial year. Many more continue to seek the peace and safety of our communities. Russell challenges us to consider how we can reach out and welcome these families.

Watch clip

Social Action - Challenge (1:56)

Explore

▶ How do we help refugees within our communities to find safety, healing and a solid foundation for their new life?
▶ What joy have you found in seeing refugees integrate into our community?
▶ How have you seen our community change and be changed by welcoming refugees?

Apply

▶ What are other agencies doing within our community to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers?
▶ Do we have the capacity to reach out to those in immigration detention whether within Australia or in overseas centres?
▶ How can we better advocate for those who are waiting for the determination of their request for asylum in Australia?