

### Listening 15: Lesson 4C, Exercise 4

Gandhi was born in India on the 2nd of October 1869. After university, he went to London to train as a barrister, then went to work at an Indian law firm in South Africa. There, he noticed that the Indian immigrants who had come to the country to find jobs were treated very badly. He joined their campaign for civil rights while rejecting the idea of an armed struggle. In 1914, Gandhi and the Indian immigrants won a major victory when the South African government agreed to many of their demands.

When Gandhi returned to India, he used many of the tactics he had learned in South Africa to protest against the British. His campaign soon attracted millions of followers. But the British were unhappy with Indian demands for independence and made it illegal for Indians to take part in demonstrations. When a big demonstration took place in Amritsar in 1919, the British army began shooting at the protestors, even though the crowds contained many women and children. About a thousand protestors were killed. News of this terrible event spread throughout India and caused widespread anger. But Gandhi still rejected the idea of using violence against the British rulers. In 1922, Gandhi was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, although he was released after two.

In 1930, Gandhi started a new campaign of civil disobedience in protest against the British and their unfair taxes and laws. Again, his campaign attracted millions of followers. But in 1934, he resigned from his political party because he did not think that they truly shared his belief in non-violence.

In 1947, India finally gained independence from the British. However, Gandhi's dream of a free and united India did not come true. Two countries – India and Pakistan – were created to reflect the two main religions in the area: Islam and Hinduism. Pakistan was a Muslim state and India was Hindu. Gandhi – a Hindu – was opposed to partition, and was shocked by the violence that continued between the Muslims and Hindus for months after Independence. He started one final campaign: to bring an end to the violence in both countries. But on the 30th of January 1948, he was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic.

### Listening 16: Lesson 4F, Exercises 3 and 4

- Girl** Are we going to take part in the Day of Action?
- Boy** I think we should, yes. But what shall we do?
- Girl** I think we should join the rally in the park.
- Boy** Really? Why?
- Girl** Because some of my friends from school are going to be there. It'll be fun.
- Boy** I'm not sure about that. Speeches are always really boring, aren't they?
- Girl** So what do you suggest?
- Boy** Wouldn't it be better to join the march? We can make placards and take them along too.
- Girl** A march sounds a bit tiring. I've got basketball practice all morning. I don't want to spend the afternoon marching!
- Boy** I see what you're saying, but it isn't very far. Come on, you're fit!
- Girl** I suppose so. I'm sure I can manage basketball and a march ...
- Boy** OK. Let's agree on that, then. What time shall we meet?
- Girl** Well, basketball practice finishes at midday, so ...

### Listening 17: Get Ready for your Exam 2

**Interviewer** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the *Politics Now* show. We're looking at political activism among today's young people, and to help us analyse this, we have a young American activist in the studio to give us her views on youth politics across the pond. We welcome Tanya Grey, a student in journalism and an occasional writer for the online activist magazine *Urban Times*. Good morning, Tanya, and welcome to the studio.

**Tanya** Thank you.

**Interviewer** Tanya, you've been looking at some research into social activism in young adults in the US. Can you talk us through some of the findings?

**Tanya** Certainly. It seems that in America more young adults than ever before are actively supporting the causes that they care about – seven out of ten adults between the ages of 20 and 28 are taking real action in ways that make a difference, such as fundraising, joining or organising group events and taking part in boycotting companies or rallies. This is up dramatically from last year – almost double, at 73%, up from 38%.

**Interviewer** Wow. That's certainly a big increase. Why do you think that this has come about?

**Tanya** Well, I think that awareness of big issues has increased considerably due to the World Wide Web. We can all find out things in a second by going online. And people can rally support for causes through media like Google, Facebook and Twitter. Twitter, for example, is used a lot to get like-minded people together and organise protests. And the website Change.org has had some incredible successes.

**Interviewer** Can you explain a bit more about Change.org for our listeners?

**Tanya** Of course. Change.org is a website that aims to promote social change through the use of online petitions. Anyone can start or join a campaign online. Great success was had by a young online activist called Molly Katchpole with a Change.org petition.

**Interviewer** What happened there?

**Tanya** Well, in 2011, Bank of America decided to charge a \$5 fee when any of its customers used their debit card to withdraw money and pay for goods. At the time, Molly Katchpole was a 22-year-old student with the usual money worries, and she was outraged. She did three things: she moved her account to a smaller bank; she started a petition protesting against the unfair bank charge on the Change.org website; and then she cut up her Bank of America debit card on national TV. Her Change.org petition got more than 300,000 signatures in one month, so Bank of America was forced to withdraw its new fee. In fact, all the other major banks in the States announced that they wouldn't be charging this fee either.

**Interviewer** That's an impressive achievement.

**Tanya** Yes, and she didn't stop there. Telecommunications company Verizon also quickly changed its policy of charging customers \$2 to make payments online, after her Change.org petition against their fee garnered more than 130,000 signatures in just 24 hours!

**Interviewer** Gosh, that's a lot of public support!

**Tanya** Yes, it shows that the support is out there if you can get the information to enough people. It also shows that ordinary people have the power to change policy if they join together to make their voices heard. Young people today realise this better than anybody, and they also have the desire and the information to change things.

**Interviewer** I can see that. It's all very interesting. Thank you, Tanya, for coming in to speak to us today.

**Tanya** You're welcome.