**Spread the Word to End the Word**

**Action Kit**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVATION**

Social Media has proven to be a very effective way to raise awareness for **Spread the Word to End the Word™**. Social media will allow you to engage in conversations that help change attitudes and drive people to pledge at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org). Here are some of the more robust social media channels that you can join discussions, subscribe to videos or follow conversations online.

1. Facebook
	1. The official Spread the Word to End the Word Fan Page is [www.facebook.com/EndtheWord](http://www.facebook.com/EndtheWord)
	2. Many young people and other supporters have started pages all over Facebook. A couple of examples:
		1. <https://www.facebook.com/teensagainstrword>
		2. <http://www.facebook.com/ItStartsWithAVoice>
	3. You can use your own status update area in your profile to help raise awareness for **Spread the Word to End the Word**
		1. Post links to videos about the R-word from the R-word website, End the Word YouTube channel or Facebook Fan Page.
		2. Post a message encouraging your friends to take the R-word pledge:
			1. “I pledge #Respect thru my words and actions. Will you? Pledge now at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org) to create communities of inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities
			2. “I just pledged to make the world a more accepting and inclusive place for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, I hope you will pledge too! <http://www.r-word.org>”
			3. “Join our movement! Pledge to end the R-word! <http://www.r-word.org>”
			4. “Language affects attitudes. Attitudes impact actions. Join me and make your pledge to choose respectful people first language at [www.R-word.org](http://www.R-word.org)”
2. Twitter
	1. The official Twitter handle you should follow for **Spread the Word to End the Word** is @EndtheWord – <http://twitter.com/EndtheWord>
	2. When you tweet about the R-word, use the hashtag: #Respect so everyone can follow the conversation
	3. Use <http://search.twitter.com> and put in ‘retard’ to see tweets of people using the R-word. Then tweet @ them and ask them to please stop and take the pledge.
	4. A few sample tweets to help you Spread the Word:
		1. I pledge #Respect thru my words & actions. Will you? Pledge now to create communities of inclusion for people with ID <http://r-word.org>
		2. Language affects attitude. Attitudes impact action. Make your pledge to choose respectful people first language <http://r-word.org>
		3. Watch this powerful PSA on the power of words! #Rword <http://j.mp/tDN6uv>
		4. “I took a pledge for #Respect & I #SpreadTheWordToEndTheWord, and you can too! Just go to r-word.org help end the #Rword” says Holly from Tennessee
		5. Be a Fan of Respect. Help eliminate the demeaning use of the R-word from everyday speech #Respect <http://r-word.org/>
		6. "I pledge! Eliminate this hurtful word and pledge. Pledge #Respect now! <http://r-word.org>
		7. Pledge Your Support: ACT NOW--pledge your support to eliminate the demeaning use of the #Rword <http://r-word.org/>
		8. “In such an era of political correctness, why is it that the word 'retard' is still ok?" asks Soeren Palumbo #Rword <http://r-word.org>
		9. The Power of Words - His courage to say what he believed was inspired by his love of his sister #Rword <http://bit.ly/11IaoQ>
		10. Have you pledged to help end the use of the #Rword? http:// r-word.org/
	5. When you see positive tweets in support of Special Olympics, Best Buddies or the R-word, Re-Tweet them and thank the originating handle and follow them!
	6. Tweet @ your favorite celebrities and ask them to support Spread the Word!
3. You Tube
	1. The official Spread the Word to End the Word You Tube channel is <http://www.youtube.com/EndtheRword>
	2. Share or reference the information as provided by Special Olympics in the You Tube Safety Center on inclusive language and mutual respect <http://help.youtube.com/support/youtube/bin/answer.py?answer=143803>
	3. Link or embed the videos on our End The Word channel to your blogs, Facebook profiles, Tweets, or any other way you engage online – the more people that see our messages, the better!
4. Blogosphere and other tips
	1. There are conversations taking place every day about language, people with special needs, sports, friendship, or any topic you can think of. Find a subject that interests you and engage in those online communities and conversations and help spread the word about this campaign in those communities. Keep the interactions respectful and forward moving, always encouraging people to join us and learn more.
	2. Whenever you see media items posted on any site like You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, etc it is very likely there will be negative comments toward our efforts. Use those comments as an opportunity to engage the person in conversation instead of just reacting negatively. Offer thoughtful counterpoints to their arguments! An example might be:
		1. Commenter: “Stop limiting my freedom of speech!” A common thing we hear, but easily countered with something like, “This campaign isn’t about limiting speech, it’s quite the opposite. We respect your right to say anything you want, we ask that you recognize that words can be hurtful and that words do matter and then choose to use words that are less hurtful.”
	3. Do not let negativity from immature people online get you down. You already know why you are passionate about this campaign. Prepare a few lines of text expressing your feelings and why this matters to you. Then have it ready to engage in positive conversation. We cannot effect change without confronting the attitudes we hope to change. Arm yourself with your honest feelings and words and a well thought out statement of compassion. Most people will respond to this positively. Those who don’t, brush it off, its’ likely they’ve heard your message and it sticks with them, maybe they pledge next year or the year after!
	4. Find more tips! <http://r-word.org/r-word-take-action.aspx>