

# Groups A-G (sec 01): How can we advance the common good?

Sarah Kastelic, an indigenous Kodiak Alutiiq woman living in the United States, asked in a 2018 essay ([https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who\\_defines\\_the\\_good\\_in\\_common\\_good](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who_defines_the_good_in_common_good)): Who should define the common good? From the survey we did a few weeks ago, it seemed as if we had very different views on what the common good is. Kastelic feels that world views of individual communities can contribute to encouraging behaviors and systems that are for the “advantage of everyone.” If you could make a list and had NO MORE THAN 100 words, what would need to SPECIFICALLY happen in a society to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good—something that would be for the “advantage of everyone”? Please share anything that you have witnessed or has happened in your society—no matter how big or small—that demonstrates that advancing the common good is possible.

**JUDI FREEMAN** NOV 15, 2020 05:09PM

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

## Abdulaziz Lebanon, Beirut

Well as you know Lebanon has suffered an explosion not too long ago which wiped out most of the city of Beirut. After that, a lot of people went down to see what they can do to help. They cleaned up the streets, helped people in their houses, offered a place to stay for the people who lost their house, and many other things. Even before the explosion some people tried to keep the area, they are in clean as much as possible and they also recycled.

and resources. I think that people should have access to things such as healthcare, transportation, and education. Looking at the USA alone, billions of dollars are used to fund the military and the top 5% of the population have ways to bypass taxes and maintain their wealth. By taxing the top and redistributing funds from one governmental sanction to another, there is more money to go where it's needed. The money can go to the inner city, where health and education standards have been seemingly purposely ignored.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 23, 2020 04:09PM

## How to advance common good?

1. Improvement of education system
  - provide equal educational opportunities
2. Eliminate poverty
  - government support
  - volunteer
3. Gender equality

In my community, there is children's cafeteris. We can eat food with cheap money.

**EMMA** NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

## Emma L, Boston, Massachusetts USA

This is difficult, but based on issues highlighted in this pandemic, we can advance the common good by:

- Being able to provide all Americans with healthcare. This pandemic showed ever-present disparities in the system, as some people received better care due to more money and influence, while others suffered.
- Re-distributing funding which could go to essential workers right now. Long-term, I think we should use funding to establish trained services other than the police to handle people in crises.
- Teaching proper history of racism in schools. Many areas do not address white supremacy in its full. Maybe bringing a standardized curriculum would help inform our youth.

*Hello! Thank you for your post! I really liked how you said we have to make sure there is equal opportunity in education! This is especially an issue in Boston, where we are learning that many wealthy areas receive more resources and care than impoverished ones. I agree that improving the education system is really really important!*

— EMMA LU

**DAMON** NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## Damon N (Boston, MA, USA)

Although the world and society is slowly progressing towards equality, there are still gross inequalities. I believe that for the “advantage of everyone”, people should have equal opportunities

*Thanks for posting! I would love to know who you are and where you are from!* — JUDI FREEMAN

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:07 PM

### Advancing the common good

1.Society should incorporate acceptance and democracy rather than an attitude of superiority.

2.Education is essential as well as life long learning, because it gives people the opportunity to empower themselves and access decision making processes. Not only formal education, but education in different aspects such as learning about other cultures and their customs, before judgment or stereotypical assumptions are made.

5. Everyone in society should strive to be open minded and value the perspectives of others rather than be fixated on their own perspective. We should respect differences rather than treating others as inferior, because of them.

*It would be great to know who you are and where you are from!*

– JUDI FREEMAN

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 09:15PM

### Nouhaila (Sale Morocco)

How can we advance the common good?

1. Free schools for all citizens with a good standard from all sides.
2. Getting job opportunities and the state's cooperation with the citizen to succeed.
3. The health field must receive the necessary attention from the state.
4. Taking care of rural areas and securing their basic needs.
5. Providing transportation to all places.
6. Developing agriculture from traditional to modern and providing machinery.
7. Development of human thought through spreading awareness.
8. Helping people develop their hobby.

*Hi Nouhaila! I enjoyed reading your post, especially as you described needing to take care of rural areas! I completely agree, and I think in America, there is definitely a difference in resources, for urban vs. suburban vs. rural areas, which we also need to address.*

– EMMA LU

*Thank you Emma, for sharing your opinion.* – ANONYMOUS

AIDAN NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

### Aidan O (Boston, MA, USA) What are some ways were can advance the common good?

-We could work on ways to combat climate changed by reducing fossil fuel emissions released into the environment by our economic industries.

-We could make healthcare universal for everyone globally because no one deserves to die because they can't afford to seek medical help.

-We could clamp down on hate speech in more direct ways

instead as protecting it as free speech, which can create an exclusionary environment in itself.

-We could make sure everyone has a say in their representation in government by eliminating the many obstacles there are to voting and making it easier to for office by eliminating the overemphasis on money.

-We could start making amends for the government sanctioned racism that has been waged on a global scale by way of reparations via government grant programs and benefits that many groups were long excluded from.

- We should eliminate all student loan debt by subtracting dollars from our over-inflated military budget.

-Take funds out of our military budget and put it into the welfare state.

MINHA NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

### MINHA KERALA,INDIA.

•School curriculum should mention about common good.So,students will be aware of this and try to do what they can.

•Using media is also a good way.Highlighting the persons,clubs,etc.who have done good deeds will encourage others.

•Shelter homes for homeless elders.

•Quality and free education.

•Protecting environment and planting trees in our neighbourhood.

•Government should produce new job offers for youth.

•Better health care for elders and needy persons.

☆My State Kerala faced severe flood in 2018,and many people lost their house and shops.A lot of good humans helped these families,even children.The kids donated their money. A lot of cloth shopkeeper's donated all the dresses that they had in their small shop.

☆Our school's Scout &Guide unit and NSS collected money and bought some necessary items such as rice,grains,sanitary pads,etc...and students from our school and other schools helped to clean the effected houses.

☆A lot of fishermen helped the government to rescue the trapped using their boats.

☆There is also a free running hospital for paralysed elderlies.And salary for them are collected from the society.

FROM MY VIEW ADVANCING COMMON GOOD IS POSSIBLE!!

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:00PM

How to advance common good?

Equal education is the key to advance the common good whether the individual is female, male, poor or rich.

Education enable us to know many things such as social skills, problems and so on... and also it will lead to jet equal opportunity to get job, to join their own society, and to access to the medical healthcare system.

gentrification, mostly seniors, and people who are homeless that provide basic necessities

- Free access to universities and educating students more on alternatives such as community colleges and vocational schooling (which are often stigmatized because they are deemed not as “elite”) if they cannot go to university off-the-bat because of expenses
- Set up regulations within workplaces and laws that ban discrimination (i.e. gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, race, age)
- Reduce the CO2 commissions by utilizing public transportation and carpooling as an efficient way to travel and advocate for cleaner alternatives to fossil fuels by spreading awareness or setting up small-scale biomass energy projects within the community
- Access to healthier food options; many people cannot afford organic food or healthier choices because they need to prioritize other basic living needs so they opt for less expensive foods so setting up more local food refrigerators or food sites is a good way for the community to share food that they're not planning to eat and it will save a lot more waste as well (I've seen this happen already within the community but the times for picking up the food should be extended at food sites since people are often not available during early mornings or rush hour)
- Access to affordable healthcare; this can go about in many ways - having alternatives or other numbers than calling 911 or the ambulance because in most cases, the starting cost is \$1000, which may (but mostly not) be covered by insurance but this disproportionately impacts people who don't have the means to pay; setting up local funds for care centers, nursing homes, and smaller hospitals because they need better supplies in order to care for their patients; mental health is something that insurance typically doesn't cover as it's considered a “physical illness” so within our capabilities, we can offer more funding programs for people who don't have the means to afford therapy and spread more awareness to the all generations through webinars (at least for the current pandemic)
- Willingness within ourselves to be able to listen to others, no matter what their perspectives are

RAYNA · NOV 23, 2020 03:51PM

## Rayna (Boston, MA, USA)

To advance the common good, we need to make sure that everyone is on an equal playing field and then given equal opportunities.

To first get everyone equal opportunities, education is key. If we can provide good education to everyone equally, then we can start to see that people in every industry will directly correlate with the demographics of our nation. This will advance the common good being as people who would normally not have these resources (people in poverty, which is mostly people of color) will be able to

take advantage and get ahead in life. This could lead to major contributions to our society, like new inventions and discoveries.

LILAH · NOV 23, 2020 03:48PM

## Lilah G (Boston, MA, USA) How to advance the common good

- 1) We need to create a public schooling system that is accessible to everyone and receive the same levels of funding statewide
- 2) We need race to be a topic covered in curriculum, starting from as early as preschool and kindergarten
- 3) We need mandatory recycling and access to sustainable energy
- 4) We need universal access to clean food and water
- 5) The law enforcement needs to go through extensive training concerning implicit bias, and be tested again every 6 months
- 6) Access to affordable health care
- 7) Elected leaders with open minded personalities and lots of empathy

ANONYMOUS · NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## Eileen (Boston, MA, USA) How to advance the common good?

We need to do better about the waste of food and putting all that food towards people who need it. Also being healthy shouldn't be so expensive, it shouldn't be a luxury. Education should be more equal, like there shouldn't be significantly bad schools. College shouldn't be so expensive. Lastly mental health needs to be given importance. It's not a phase, and it should be treated seriously. - Eileen

ZIQI · NOV 23, 2020 03:56PM

## Ziqi (Boston, MA, USA)

- an educational curriculum that includes life skills, a civics component and includes materials that display a diverse amount of perspectives and peoples
- a health system that is not based on how much money you can give but rather exists to help everybody in need; needs to be less administrative, bureaucratic, and insurance-company heavy
- resource centers providing free or easy access to contraceptives, sanitary products, counseling, and mental health resources
- heavy regulations in prison preventing inhumane conditions, a system which seeks to rehabilitate its prison population rather to force them in a cycle for profit and free labor

GREG · NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## Greg R, Boston Massachusetts, USA

- Reallocate government spending, taking away from military and justice system spending (i.e. decriminalizing drug use) , and using more towards public education, universal healthcare systems, and rehabilitation services
- Increase focus on politics and government in school systems to

*Thanks so much for posting: it would be great to know who you are and where you are from!* – JUDI FREEMAN

DANNY · NOV 23, 2020 03:51PM

## Danny N (Boston, MA, USA) How to Advance the Common Good?

1. Improve the access to education in order to prevent students from being discouraged to going to school. This includes equipping students with necessary resources like technology, having proper busing systems, and convenient locations for learning.
2. Fix the schooling system. Many schools aren't receiving the same funding as others which leads to an imbalance to how schools are run. Some schools lack technology, healthy food, and important school programs/workshops to equip students for real life situations like .
3. Universal access to affordable healthcare - it is way too expensive for the average person and leads to a society where the rich are receiving better care than poorer people

ANONYMOUS · NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

## How to Advance the Common Good? -Noel

1. Ensure that all people have access to basic human rights such proper housing, food, healthcare and clean drinking water.
2. Providing education that is not only free but also GOOD QUALITY, ensuring that all schools have proper infrastructure and resources needed to ensure the success of students.
3. Developing a respect and understanding for different cultures around the world.
4. Prisons should be a place for rehabilitation rather than a garbage dump for society's trash, this can be done by better equipping prisoners for life outside of prison as well as providing counselling and rehab programmes addressing addiction, mental illness, anger management etc.
5. Creating a society that supports, respects and empowers all women through equality in the workplace, providing resources that support working mothers, and ending violence and harassment against women through education.

*Hi Noel! I love many of your points, like that we need to stop treating prisons as a place for "society's trash." We need to lend support before AND after we convict people, not just abandon them. I also like your point about women facing harassment in the workplace. I know many women in many countries do not feel they can speak out about this, because they sometimes are not taken seriously. I agree that we need to educate people about this so people understand the gravity of consent.* – EMMA

*Hi Noel--appreciated your comments. Is this Noel from South Africa?*  
– JUDI FREEMAN

*Noel- Yes ma'am it is 😊* – ANONYMOUS

## Ornella Y (Gisagara, Rwanda) HOW TO ENHANCE THE COMMON GOOD

I think the common good is working together and improving the social well being in society.

- Promoting the public awareness in the society it enhances common goal.
- Accessing all children to school mainly the upper levels and universities because they are somehow expensive that every parent can't afford . it can lead to the common good.
- Improve the well being of people in the society and increase the level of literacy.
- Minimisation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere released by industries,fossil fuels and old cars that leads to the global warming,formation of acidoc rain and etc.
- Improving health facilities and access to clean water.

NANCHON · NOV 23, 2020 04:00PM

## Nan Chon Gaygue,Pyarpon, Myanmar

Common good is not a thing that we can get easily or immediately created. Common good is related to every person who lives in a created community. Being equal in all conditions such as good education, health care, safe housing, fair wages and the ability to participate in politics. Everyone wants to be treated equally. Big,small,short,tall,beautiful,ugly,rich,poor or whoever it is, they all are in a given community.That's why they all have chances to access equality.

Here are some beneficial ways to advance common good-

- (1) Well-developed education in both knowledge and skills and also qualified.
- (2)Equally treated health care in both private or public hospitals.
- (3)Opportunity to get a good job and a higher place depending only on skills.
- (4)Religious freedom, Gender Equality, free sexual orientation and so on.

Moreover, we need kindness,empathy and positivity to advance the common good. If we all treat people like the way we want to be treated, we all will get a common good. Even in our particular society, we should do as much as we can to advance the common good.

DEANNA IRIS · NOV 23, 2020 03:57PM

## Deanna, Boston, MA, USA) How To Advance The Common Good

- o Address the gentrification/homelessness situation; provide more housing/shelter options for those affected by

try and encourage voting

- Create federal voting rules and systems as well as make election day a national holiday
- Increase sense of community, build relationships, and enhance understanding and respect among people with different experiences by connecting them and having discussions, finding common ground
- Increase awareness, funding, and commitment to NGO's
- Increase accountability among nations to abide by international law

ISABELLA · · · · · NOV 23, 2020 03:52PM

## Isabella S, USA, Boston, Massachusetts

- Having an education that is free, but also of good quality
- the government should give more funds to schools, so that they feel the incentive to improve the quality of education
- Programs that help minority students have the same access as white students to scholarships and financial aid for college
- More representation of POC in media
- Not one token minority character on a T.V. show, but multiple characters that have depth
- Free healthcare
- programs for doctors to get rid of racial bias against patients
- People need to be there for others, regardless of what their peers will think

ADDY · · · · · NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

## Addy (Boston, MA, USA) How to advance the common good

-Universal Healthcare that provides quality care for all and not just those who can afford it

-Access to quality education (making it a constitutional right), but not just for the traditional education, rather one that also teaches life skills (taxes, resumes, jobs, etc)

-Aiding in student loan debt (either by making college more affordable, or by adding government aid)

-Having a UN with actual power that is respected by all countries (would allow for better organization of world resources, but could also be involved in fixing government corruption)

-Public transportation (large scale, continental transportation too), would reduce traffic and CO2 emissions

-Sustainable actions through clean energy and stronger government regulations on companies (less waste, no single-use plastic)

-Equal rights for all citizens, and punishing those in power who abuse their position

AIDAN · · · · · NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## Aidan C (Boston, MA, USA) How to advance the common good?

While there are a lot of self-inflicted issues present within the United States, here are the four most important things that I believe need to be addressed in our country right now.

- **Establish Free Public Schooling, from K-College** (large investment but will pay for itself with a future generation of educated citizens and a strong workforce)
  - **Modern Public Transportation System** (revamping public transit to be faster/cleaner lowers carbon emissions)
  - **Less US Government Military Spending** (not the US's duty to act as " permanent peacekeeper" around the world - especially in affairs not related to us - lower military spending to be put into areas like Healthcare/Housing)
  - **Affordable Healthcare** (while free healthcare is appealing, the supply of doctors/medical workers is not enough to sustain this - through subsidies lower cost of healthcare, more accessible)
- These goals are lofty (and a little idealistic) but I do believe that they are achievable within our country. Sharing in a common goal for a better society (advancing the common good) is not a wild idea by any means. While it does not directly relate to the issue being discussed, I have an encounter which really stuck out to me when considering this question. As a child living in the Midwest, I used to visit a soup kitchen every so often because it was close to my school (and made very good soup). The workers there were mostly volunteers, and as a young child I was confused as to why they would spend their time here if they were not even paid. Their goal was truly to help those less fortunate than them, as a way to give back to society. This seems almost cliché, but if I think about this issue, I think about those selfless people back in Michigan - we all ought to be a little more selfless when considering these types of issues. Only then can we truly advance the common good, and not just the "good for ourselves".

TANDIN · · · · · NOV 23, 2020 03:48PM

## Tandin (Boston, MA, USA) How can we advance the common good?

- More funding for public schools, and free education that is accessible to everyone from elementary school to college.
- Better civic education in schools that teaches all students about the governmental systems and how they can participate in our democracy.
- Universal health care that is accessible to everyone regardless of preexisting conditions or financial situation, and free contraceptives and feminine hygiene products etc.

- People in power that show kindness and empathy towards others, value the truth, and trust public health officials.
- Being open minded and accepting of others that may be different from us.

*I totally agree! we often like to stay within our comfort zones and when it comes to being social with people we aren't comfortable around we don't enjoy it or see it as something good. We must find that common ground like you said in order to see what the "common" needs! – MADELINE MAYER*

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## **Madeline M (Afton, Wyoming, USA)--How to enhance the common good?**

I understand that throughout this chat there are many different people from all over. I live in a small community where we have a good education available for anyone who wants it and this year our school has been given a fund so that every child never pays for food. This is what I would say to be a common good for our community. I believe that for everyone to have a common good we need the following...

- Communication throughout everyone interconnecting the the needs of the society.
- I think as well that in order to have a common good we need to understand what is needed from the people. The people are going to be the ones that receive what we they determine is the common good so should they be the ones to say what that is?
- Many programs like our own giving as much help and free food to all students and kids.
- Budget shifting from things that are not as important as what we deem is.
- Finally I would like to say that health care for everyone, not just those who can afford it should be made available.

In conclusion my main thinking here is to talk to the people around, see their needs, understand their requirements and then deem what the common good is from there and supply it.

This is my first post as a new member so I wanted to thank you all for giving me the chance to be a part of this.

*Hi--please make sure you identify yourself! – JUDI FREEMAN*

*Right sorry, I believe I got it figured out for next time but I am Madeline Mayer. Thanks! – MADELINE MAYER*

*Hi Maddy! I really like your ideas, especially about communication. Here in the United States (and I am sure in many other countries people from different geographical areas, economic classes, and even urban versus rural living have vastly different political beliefs – GREG ROSENKRANZ*

*Hi Maddy! I really like your ideas, especially about communication. Here in the United States - and I am sure in many other countries as well - people from different geographical areas, economic classes, religious affiliations, and more have vastly different experiences and perspectives. We also tend to stay within our "bubbles", because who likes people challenging their understandings and beliefs. However, if we do not communicate and really try to be empathetic of others, there is no way we can achieve a common good, as we will not know where there is common ground between us! – GREG ROSENKRANZ*

SILVIA NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

## **Silvia G (Boston, MA, USA) What are some ways we can advance the common good?**

- Provide everyone with the opportunity to have a high quality, informative education
- Access to affordable healthcare that can support you with any struggles whether it be mental or physical
- Outlets to allow people to learn about the importance of politics and voting
- More sustainable and accessible routes to improve environmental care
- A more open minded and accepting mindset about all people no matter where they come from or what they look like
- Equal opportunity to get jobs, schooling, and resources
- News outlets that give all the information and don't favor a certain side
- Guaranteed safe work environment, with fair and equal resources

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 03:52PM

## **Alexandra K, Ukraine**

I believe, it would be wonderful if we had more support-centers for people who are in need.

It is really important now to encourage people to start cleaning and saving our planet, its waters and forests.

I am convinced if we had better education around the world life would seem less scary and dangerous. We should include lessons, where students are taught how to pay bills, how to buy a house or get a job. Lastly, how to deal with critical problems such as death etc.

We should break these differences between men and women, this unequal life. We ought to make sure we won't be killed in this dark square.

Our lives depend only on us. If we stop arguing and providing wars - there will be peace in the world. If each person does anything nice to another human being, it will return. And we will not notice how fast life will become great.

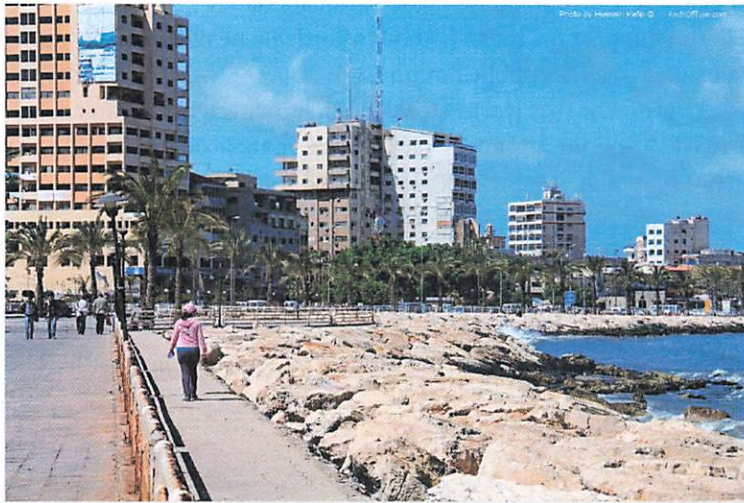
ALI NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## **Ali (Lebanon) How to enhance common good?**

*We all love to take a walk during leisure time as a mean of entertainment and body fitness. But imagine walking on a pile of rubbish scattered on the side road. Moreover, we all get so*

enthusiastic during summer cuz summer means beach and sea. But what good does a filthy beach and dirty sea water make us feel. Some socialists, environmentalists, and other advocates.. comprehended in finding some solution that'll comfort everyone thus enhancing the common good. To illustrate, dispatching a group of volunteers that are wishing for the demise of all rubbish on roads and beach, awareness campaigns shedding light on what's good for everyone (everyone deserves to be happy), also this project can be classified as an enhancement for common good (sharing ideas, learning new ideas from opinions that differ, subsequently nourishing us youngsters into becoming something good in the future). Also the government can help by applying some rules preventing some preposterous acts that means common good.

'this is a photo of the city I live in ... p.s: I couldn't find a better photo sry:)



I completely agree about what you said on environmental care and how it affects our daily lives even when we're simply going on a walk or going to the beach. I really think that emphasizing the importance of this will advance the common good greatly. — SILVIA

Hi Ali! I love your post and your picture! Like Silvia, I definitely agree with protecting the environment, since this is important long-term and in everyday life. I especially liked how you emphasized the volunteering aspect. I agree that these types of projects could enhance the common good, and they can build community. — EMMA

ANDY F NOV 23, 2020 03:52PM

### Andy M (Boston, MA, USA) How can we advance the common good?

- health care systems that include access to physical and mental health need to be immediately implemented across the world
- universal access to clean food and water all over the world
- universal access to good education for both girls and boys
- the guarantee to be treated fairly by the police
- the guarantee to be treated fairly in a court, by both the judge and the jury
- the right to able to protest peacefully
- a workplace free of discrimination against sexual preference, sexuality, gender, religion, and race

-news that tells the whole truth without spewing false information and claims

I agree that mental health should be just as valued as physical health. This also made me think that people should have access to rehab if they have an addiction instead of being — RACHEL

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 03:54PM

- health care systems that include access to physical and mental health need to be immediately implemented across the world
- universal access to clean food and water all over the world
- universal access to good education for both girls and boys
- the guarantee to be treated fairly by the police
- the guarantee to be treated fairly in a court, by both the judge and the jury
- the right to able to protest peacefully
- a workplace free of discrimination against sexual preference, sexuality, gender, religion, and race
- news that tells the whole truth without spewing false information and claims

Thanks for your comment! It would be great to know who you are and where you are from! — JUDI FREEMAN

GRACE NOV 23, 2020 03:56PM

### Grace (Boston, MA, USA) How to Advance the Common Good

- o Accessibility to free healthcare
- o Public education that educates the youth about laws, their government, and broken systems in their society
- o Incorporating more discussions of racial and social issues in school curriculums
- o Better housing for low-income families, meaning newer public housing that does not threaten tenants' health
- o Strict regulations against police brutality to reduce the number of victims from this crime and allow peaceful protesters to protest without the fear of their lives being at risk
- o Increased and free access to feminine hygiene products and contraceptives
- o A government that acknowledges people's rights, creating policies that assure that their rights are protected

DANAE NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

### Danae F (Cuenca, Ecuador) How to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good:

- Provide an education for all students that includes information about politics, laws, and certain cases in which society hasn't been thinking of the common good.
- Create a system in every school in which students have the opportunity to donate to the underprivileged with daily necessary

items.

- Having yearly talks between medical experts and students to raise awareness about certain issues that need to be taken seriously.
- Reminding students at all times that equality is the most important thing, that every single person deserves to be treated the same and making sure that all interactions between students are as they should be, without anyone feeling left out, different, or excluded.
- Free medical checkups for people with scarce recourses and for those who can't reach a hospital/clinic, there should be a way for the medical resources to reach them.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 23, 2020 04:08PM

*How to advance common good*

- free, necessary and public education
- get involved with policy changes that work to improve funding and resources in schools so kids have accessto the tools they need
- connect individuals with jobs that sustain a family
- provide proper health care
- provide families with information on making healthy food choices
- make donations that we don't use
- provide entrepreneurial skills and professional development to youth

*Make sure you identify yourself!* – JUDI FREEMAN

*Hi! I really like your post! I think your point "connecting individuals with jobs that sustain a family" is really important and often overlooked. Many do not get the support they need to pursue jobs which pay above minimum wage, which is not a livable amount much of the time.* – EMMA LU

**RACHE** NOV 23, 2020 03:54PM

## **Rachel R (Boston, MA, USA)**

- access to quality, inclusive education with plenty of resources for students and families, community service opportunities
- more communication and humanization between political groups and regions
- a political culture that prioritizes honesty and integrity and holds its leaders accountable
- representation of all groups in media, leadership, STEM, etc.
- universal healthcare, free contraception and abortions, funded by higher tax on billionaires & rich corporations
- minimum wage that people can live on without working obscene number of jobs, reasonable rent
- better funded social services and youth programs to make sure all kids have strong role models and influences growing up, my elementary school had a Big Brother/Sister program that a lot of kids from disadvantaged homes benefited from

*I agree that youth programs are really important and that they should be better funded and more accessible to everyone who may benefit from taking part in them.* – TANDIN .

**JACK** NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## **Jack T (Boston, MA, USA)**

- Well-developed educational curricula which include a course on the laws, government, and justice systems of students' society; also, standardized and universal s\*x ed, that includes LGBTQ-related info!
- strict laws against voter suppression, automatic voter registration, election days made national holiday
- better support for those without affordable healthcare, through subsidies or a free public option
- a government that works closely with human rights organizations like HRW and the UN and always listens to their demands.
- shift of money from the extravagant military budget to needy sectors like education and gov.-funded programs
- education + gov-sponsored info campaigns advocating awareness of pressing issues like wearing masks today, or for example in the HIV crisis of the '80s, safe s\*x
- greater willingness to take vaccines & listen to public health experts

**REGINA** NOV 23, 2020 04:07PM

## **Regina C (Boston, MA, USA) How to advance the common good.**

- public education worldwide
- a government that represents ALL the people who live in that area
- a government that can separate their own biases to the overall good of the place they have power over
- free healthcare
- people to be open minded in every topic
- take time out of his/her life as the individual to focus on the collective communities they are apart of
- listening and comprehending the other side of any story
- creating a safe space for anyone to feel welcomed

In my neighborhood, I work with a task force run by my community center to educate youth and build campaigns about substance abuse. After working there for two years, we have collected data saying after workshops, and gaining that knowledge, they were more aware of the dangerous effects substances can have.



# Groups H-N (sec 02): How can we advance the common good?

Sarah Kastelic, an indigenous Kodiak Alutiiq woman living in the United States, asked in a 2018 essay ([https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who\\_defines\\_the\\_good\\_in\\_common\\_good](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who_defines_the_good_in_common_good)): Who should define the common good? From the survey we did a few weeks ago, it seemed as if we had very different views on what the common good is. Kastelic feels that world views of individual communities can contribute to encouraging behaviors and systems that are for the “advantage of everyone.” If you could make a list and had NO MORE THAN 100 words, what would need to SPECIFICALLY happen in a society to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good—something that would be for the “advantage of everyone”? Please share anything that you have witnessed or has happened in your society—no matter how big or small--that demonstrates that advancing the common good is possible.

**JUDI FREEMAN** NOV 15, 2020 05:17PM

**ANONYMOUS** JAN 18, 2021 02:42AM

Gulsim, Kazakhstan

- quality education
- affordable medicine
- solving problems with corruption
- being eco-friendly
- implementing the idea of haing a growth mindset

**ZIANE** DEC 01, 2020 12:28AM

**Ziane Boston, MA, USA**

To advance the common good, we as a collective society should:

- create sustainable and equitable housing complexes
- ensure that education beyond high school (including trade school, apprenticeships, and university) are affordable for all
- hold the 1% accountable for their share in taxes
- have mandated education beginning in middle school regarding supporting yourself financially (investments, types of retirement plans, bills)

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 29, 2020 02:39PM

**Lê Khôi, Can Tho, VietNam.**

1. Build homes and provide affordable health care for low-income people: When people have a place to live, they can thrive in other parts of their lives. Moreover, when the government reduces medical costs, it will encourage low-income people to come to the hospital more often and they can get good treatment at the hospital.
2. Education should be free for children in rural or remote areas because they do not have enough money to go to school and I think schools should be built near the town where those children live.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 25, 2020 04:45PM

**Faruk S, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina**

-Make educating young generations about morals principles and the common good in general a priority

-Make people believe that the common good is something everyone should strive to achieve, not just something that is done with minimal effort

-Emphasize the danger our planet is currently in and the fact that only working together towards the common good can help it

-Make selfishness much more socially unacceptable than it is

-Publicly recognize and support individual efforts to achieve this

An example of people working for the common good (albeit a small one) in my society is the recent trend of children planting trees for their birthdays. Hundreds of trees have been planted this way in the last few months.

**JAGNA** NOV 29, 2020 05:45PM

**Jagna B, Poland, Malopolska**

Usually it is so that the uniting of people for some important matter is preceded by an event which unites this society:

- 1) When the government takes away basic civil rights in a country, people are united and fight for their rights.
- 2) In the face of the ecological catastrophe, young people start to change their lifestyle by fighting for the good of the Earth.
- 3) When natural disasters hit an area, they mobilize by sending

numanitarian aid.

4) In the pre-holiday periods, people feel the desire to help others by spending free meals and organizing desks for things needed for the poor.

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:18PM

### **Emmanuelle B, Boston, USA**

I think to advance the common good we need to:

- tax the richer people to give more money to people in poverty
- make healthcare free
- make college way less expensive
- focus on environmental issues
- take troops out of the middle east
- decriminalize marijuana
- abolish the death penalty

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

### **Derrick M, Melbourne, Australia**

- Provide equal education opportunity to everyone
- Better infrastructure for those living in urban sprawls
- Affordable housing for all so people are not consigned to homeless shelters
- Universal healthcare that is free for all
- Affordable tuition fees for university
- Regulation of extremist ideation
- Mandatory community service for everyone to gain empathy for others

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:16PM

### **Katsiarya (Polotsk, Belarus)**

(for Google translation, see below)

Беларусь, Екатерина Гобрусенок. 1. Образование должно быть бесплатным и доступным для всех, кто хочет учиться. Важно также отметить, что образование должно применяться в современном мире, не следует полагаться на достоверность этих учебников 1987 года, когда и за пределами 2020 года. 2. Качественное медицинское обслуживание, где вам действительно помогут. Развитие медицины не стоит на месте, и мы должны наконец научиться пользоваться ею и помогать людям, а я не думаю, как наполнять наши кошельки за деньги пациентов. 3. Жилищные условия. Существует острая необходимость улучшения жилищных условий одиноких матерей или отцов, семей, воспитывающих более 2-х детей, безусловно, стоит лучше заботиться о детях, живущих в детских домах. Стоит задуматься о том, как сделать свою жизнь лучше и потратить деньги на строительство домов с хорошими условиями проживания, поиск родителей для этих детей. А не давать выплаты семьям с определенным количеством детей, поднимать демографию в стране.

1. Education should be free and accessible to everyone who wants

to learn. It is also important to note that education should be applied in the modern world, one should not rely on the accuracy of these 1987 textbooks when and beyond 2020. 2. Quality medical care, where you will be really helped. The development of medicine does not stand still, and we must finally learn how to use it and help people, and I don't think about how to fill our wallets for patients' money. 3. Housing conditions. There is an urgent need to improve the living conditions of single mothers or fathers, families raising more than 2 children, of course, it is worth taking better care of children living in orphanages. It is worth thinking about how to make your life better and spend money on building houses with good living conditions, looking for parents for these children. And not to give payments to families with a certain number of children, to raise the demography in the country.

ABBQ BQ NOV 23, 2020 04:17PM

### **Abd ... (Sale, Morocco)**

In order to advance the common good, we must find out our personal interest, and same for other. The most important thing is to benefit the common good, even if that means sacrificing something for all. For example, I give the money to the security man, and he gives me security, I sacrifice money and he sacrifices effort.

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:18PM

### **Johny S, Boston, MA**

1. provide affordable healthcare to everyone
2. reform the criminal justice system
3. help provide clean air and water to all people
4. provide more resources to underfunded public schools to make a good education accessible to all families and children no matter what income
5. Help adults get advanced educations so they have access to higher paying and more secure jobs
6. provide more safe spaces for kids and teens to get mental health help or to help them be a part of a good environment

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

Dismantle systemic racism through more equitable education, healthcare, housing, food. Ensure the availability of affordable, healthy food in all neighborhoods, especially not leaving out lower income communities or communities of color. Eliminate "food apartheid". There is a grocery store in Boston with this goal, as well as eliminating food waste by "food rescue". Greater emphasis on development of public transportation instead of personal vehicles/personal transportation, at least in urban areas. This is better for the environment and is more equitable (lower income families may not be able to afford a car but rely on public transit).

Thanks for your comment! Please identify yourself and where you are from! – JUDI FREEMAN

Sorry: I accidentally posted the same thing twice. The other one has my name but I can't figure out how to delete this one. - JASMINE LEE

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:17PM

## Jasmine L, Boston, MA, USA

- Dismantle systemic racism through more equitable education, healthcare, housing, food systems.
- Ensure the availability of affordable, healthy food in all neighborhoods, especially not leaving out lower income communities or communities of color. Eliminate "food apartheid". There is a grocery store in Boston with this goal, as well as eliminating food waste by "food rescue".
- Greater emphasis on development of public transportation instead of personal vehicles/personal transportation, at least in urban areas. This is better for the environment and is more equitable (lower income families may not be able to afford a car but rely on public transit).

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:16PM

## Olivia T, Boston USA

- distribution of wealth
- free education and healthcare
- clean food and water for all
- environmental action and awareness
- equal opportunities given to everyone no matter your background
- affordable housing
- diversity and more education about cultures other than your own
- more public transportation

MARGARET NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Maggie O, Boston, USA

To advance the common good we need:

- Access to affordable healthcare for everyone
- Access to quality education for everyone; quality education across all public schools and more funding to public schools
- Access to free/low cost college so that everyone can have the option to continue with their education
- Provide all with access to healthy and affordable food
- Recognition of and education about climate crisis; creation of jobs relating to sustainability; maintaining green spaces, especially in cities
- Compassion and respect for each other; to be open to listening to new perspectives and lift up others' voices

EMILY NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Emily H, Boston, USA

To advance the common good, there needs to be support in:

- Accessibility to public transportation: making sure services will not be cut to fit a budget and making sure fares will not be raised tremendously (proposal for low-income fares)
- More funding for public schools, ensuring no child is left behind. This can mean more guidance counselors, better learning material, and new technology .
- Accessibility to affordable healthcare
- Stabilization in housing rights. Whether it be policies to protect renters during a pandemic or rent control to ensure no one is being evicted, policies can be made to protect low-income families and provide more affordable housing rather than trying to gentrify communities.

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Megan N, Boston, USA

- redistribute excessive wealth to help end world hunger
- extend access to a good education for families of all incomes
- everyone needs to learn and show respect to everyone regardless of different views
- create a sense of community in all spaces
- make mental health help and resources more accessible to everyone
- help lower incarceration rates by decriminalizing smaller crimes

ALLISON NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Allison B, Boston, MA

In order to advance the common good we must:

- Have universal healthcare, affordable healthcare to all
- Lower prices of medications, allow people to have better access to them
- Free tampons and pads to whoever needs, helps promote hygiene
- Being an up stander not bystander when you see acts of injustices
- Free college to help provide people with a better career
- Equal access to good education in lower income areas
- More empathy and tolerance to all people
- More charity work, spreading the importance of volunteering
- Educate the problem of climate change, eliminating waste with products and/or households
- Lower jail time for drug crimes, instead provide rehabilitation to help them in the future
- Work with children who have committed crimes to understand how their crimes affect people and provide programs to help them get educations and than they will be less likely to reoffend

OLIVIA NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Olivia B, Boston, USA

Advancing the common good within systems:

- Quality education should be made much more affordable/ accessible to all.
- More funding into quality healthcare for all; should be made more affordable/ accessible.
- More laws and regulations should be placed so that big companies are forced to be more mindful about/reduce carbon emissions and other things harmful to the environment

Advancing the common good regarding society and personal behavior:

- Everyone should be more mindful of the environment and their impact.
- Less stigma around mental illness in schools/workplace
- Overall empathy and kindness to people in a situation different than their own

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

## Saul H, Boston, USA

To advance the common good, we would need to widen our understanding of others. Several actions may also help:

- I think that if everyone was connected by empathy towards others, we would all treat each other better.
- Equal rights to education. If everyone can afford an adequate education, this will advance the common good.
- Expanding knowledge on ways everyone can help improve the condition of the environment.
- Equal rights to free, or affordable healthcare for everyone.
- Access to clean water and food in all countries.
- Better religious and racial tolerance. This also includes beliefs and sexual choices.

PAING CHAN THAR NOV 23, 2020 04:17PM

## Paing Chan Thar, Gaygue, Ayeyarwady, Myanmar

To advance the common good,

- (1) Every person who is color or not should attain equal rights.
- (2) Ought to attain the equal educational system for the youth.
- (3) Easier access of high education for low-income people
- (4) Making the public schools have many opportunities like the private ones.
- (5) Job opportunities should be the same for the educated.
- (6) Treat someone like the way you want to be treated.
- (7) Must have the freedom of religion.
- (8) No one should neglect the betterment of people and it is a good time to start the "Common Good".

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

## I hannah S., USA, Boston

1. Accessibility to affordable housing and healthcare. This would ensure that everyone would have a safe and healthy environment to thrive in and therefore have less stressors.
2. Accessibility to quality education for everyone. This would allow equality of opportunity and not just benefit students with wealthy families.
3. Promotion of one's civic duties and community service; this would encourage people to make their communities cleaner, a desirable place to live in, and a place where they feel comfortable in.
4. Encourage creativity over telling children how they should think.
5. Increasing tolerance of all races, religions, cultural beliefs, and sexualities.

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:18PM

## Nahna Pc, India, Kerala

Inorder to advance common good:

- There should be education systems which are open to all.
- Kids should be taught how to think instead of what to think, which will create a generation of creative, thinking, problem solvers.
- People should return more than their share of good to the world.
- Fair rewards should be given for hardwork.
- People should stand together against all that is wrong and unfair.
- Youth should be made more aware about the common good.
- People should form relationships with others who have different life experiences.
- People should help each other voluntarily.

DIANA DIEP NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Diana D, Boston, USA

To advance the common good, society ought to focus on improving the following:

1. Granting greater access to affordable housing and housing vouchers. This includes expanding voucher programs and reinforcing inclusionary zoning within luxury housing.
2. Promoting volunteerism in non-profits. Volunteering boosts individual skillsets, builds empathy, and benefits the community directly.
3. Make healthcare more affordable and accessible, starting with combatting big pharma's price gouging
4. Offer more mental and emotional support to those who conduct drug-related crimes, rather than simply imprisoning them.
5. Educate people about the basics of recycling, composting, and overall sustainability. Promote positive environmental choices.
6. Greater access to nutritious yet affordable food in low-income

areas/food deserts.

7. Expand the access to free/lower-cost education/resources for all. This includes more funding for public libraries and community colleges.

LUKAS · NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

## Lukas H, Boston, USA

The following would help advance the common good:

- Providing low-income communities with access to healthier food and food education; funding organizations that dedicate themselves to improving food deserts.
- Destigmatizing mental illness, encouraging people to seek help/treatment.
- Decriminalizing drugs.
- Mandating voting in places where it isn't already mandated.
- Paying teachers more. Having more equal early education and having college be more affordable.
- Helping the environment: being mindful of the things you eat, staying away from plastic containers and bags, reusing and recycling.
- Having affordable healthcare and providing lower-income communities with proper medical care.
- Education around white supremacist and patriarchal systems.

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:12PM

## Shuwen M. Boston, USA

To advance the common good, there needs to be:

- accessible health care for everyone
- access to quality education for everyone. People with more resources should not be entitled to have a certain education, but that education needs to be provided to everyone.
- clean environment for everyone to live in: clean water, air, and street.
- affordable and convenient access to nutritious food
- open conversations about everyone's needs
- fair and equal treatment of others regardless of their background
- ability for everyone to address their own opinions without fear of their life

Something that shows advancing the common good is possible is making cities and communities more accessible for people with disabilities: the presence of ramps, braille, and truncated-domes.

TIFFANY · NOV 23, 2020 04:18PM

## Tiffany D, Boston, USA

In order to advance the common good there must be:

- Accessibility to quality education in lower income areas (along with other resources that adequately prepare these

students for college and future careers)

- Affordable healthcare offered to everyone regardless of financial status
- An emphasis on environmental sustainability through renewable energy, the reduction of consumer waste, enforced paper bag usage (for my family personally, we've been trying to utilize reusable tote bags whenever possible)
- Compassion: nothing will ever change if people don't learn to sympathize with the less fortunate
- De-stigmatization around issues related to mental health and well being
- Tolerance for people of different religions, races, ethnicities, etc.
- Active participation in local/national elections and in movements that aim for reformation in corrupt institutions

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:10PM

To advance the common good, we need several things to happen. Reduce jail time for drug-related offenses. Encourage competition in healthcare in order to lower costs. Educate people on life skills such as cooking and doing taxes. Make citizenship easier to attain so that fewer people cross the border illegally. Mandate more training for police officers and people in positions of power. Tax companies more for carbon emissions. Reduce taxes for companies that have low carbon emissions. Offer better opportunities for people with mental health issues to get treatment. Promote charity work for all who are able.

*Thanks for your comment! Please identify yourself and where you are from! — JUDI FREEMAN*

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

## Vincent O, Boston, Massachusetts

To advance the common good, we need several things to happen.

- Reduce jail time for drug-related offenses.
- Encourage competition in healthcare in order to lower costs.
- Educate people on life skills such as cooking and doing taxes.
- Make citizenship easier to attain so that fewer people cross the border illegally.
- Mandate more training for police officers and people in positions of power.
- Tax companies more for carbon emissions.
- Reduce taxes for companies that have low carbon emissions.
- Offer better opportunities for people with mental health issues to get treatment.
- Promote charity work for all who are able.

PATTY · NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

## Patty H, Boston, Massachusetts

To advance the common good especially right now, there is a need for:

- greater accessibility towards quality public education (includes increased funding for schools)
- shared understanding of everyone's differences (not alienating others based on stereotypes of their race)
- volunteer more to help out the community (I volunteer to make workshops surrounding substance abuse and results have shown increased understanding from kids in the Allston/Brighton area!)
- use of sustainable tools (bringing a reusable bag to the grocery store, eliminate the use of single-use plastics)
- decreased stigma surrounding the area of mental health (implementing a course in schools)
- increasing education in the topic of politics/government so that young people are more inspired to vote and actively engage in politics

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

### **Saeed , South Lebanon**

- 1.all types of awareness campaigns for better future and generation
- 2.free healthcare and education to support people with low income
- 3.governments should take taxes from high income individuals to distribute it on poor people
4. Charities should attract volunteers to clean the beach,public gardens and streets for better view by this way the volunteers morals get developed
5. All governments should sign a treaty to preserve human rights
6. Super powers should destroy their nuclear arsenals for a peaceful and safer future

ISABELLA NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

### **Izzy C (Boston, MA, USA)**

-To advance the common good effectively, most people need to be invested in the efforts and they need to start being concerned with the wellbeing of everyone instead of just their own.

-The common good should be defined by the people.

-What would need to happen to encourage the behavior and systems that advance the common good:

- Easier access to high quality education
- Increasing funding for public schools
- Sustainable living habits
- Decreasing our consumption
- Shifting away from being a materialistic society
- Making giving back to the community a norm
- Volunteering
- Being compassionate/ respectful
- Taking action and helping others regularly

-NOT BEING a bystander

- Increase cultural tolerance/awareness
- Embracing differences instead of letting them divide us

-Something that happens regularly that advances the common good is when people actively raise awareness about certain issues and do their best to take action. This can take the form of protesting, donating, making calls, etc.

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:10PM

### **Christopher N, Boston, USA**

- Compassion (This has occurred a lot throughout this year with people of all backgrounds marching for BLM)
- More funding towards public schools in low-income areas
- Affordable housing so people don't have to worry about rent during emergencies like covid-19
- At least affordable healthcare for everyone so that going to get medical care doesn't cost a large portion of one's income
- Education on the environment and sustainability starting in primary school
- Teach people at the latest in high school about things that relate to everyday life in their future like bills, investments, taxes, etc.
- Free public transportation
- Affordable college so people feel more inclined to go get higher education and won't be indebted for 10-20 years after their graduation

ANONYMOUS NOV 23, 2020 04:10PM

### **Paarth A, India, Gurgaon**

1. Quality education: Education, be it for literacy, information, or soft skills, is the first step to make citizens around the world aware of everything happening around us and giving them the capacity to act on it. 2. Setting an Example: Well educated citizens will follow rules of law laid down by institutions. This creates an example for other citizens, leading to a safe environment, wherein all citizens are trustworthy and confident in the abilities of one another - "good for everyone". A small example of this is the separation of waste material by all houses upon realisation of its importance through awareness and education. This simple, yet important task demonstrates that advancement is possible, and can be replicated in other important areas as well.

NAYELI NOV 23, 2020 04:11PM

### **Nayeli Q (Boston, MA, USA)**

To advance the common good there has to be institutions that push people to grow and learn as people since not every one can come to that behavior on their own, however it can't be forced. Need for:

- ~ global connection
- ~ emphasis on giving back to community

- ~ work to eliminate or devalue companies that mistreat their workers
- ~ mental and physical health resources
- ~ countries working with international human rights groups
- ~ well funded universal education system that teaches more than 1 side of history

- ~emphasis on learning about cultural/societal and religious differences (to boost culture of tolerance and awareness)
- ~universal healthcare
- ~sustainability for the environment

\*\*\*\*\*

# Groups O-T (sec 03): How can we advance the common good?

Sarah Kastelic, an indigenous Kodiak Alutiiq woman living in the United States, asked in a 2018 essay ([https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who\\_defines\\_the\\_good\\_in\\_common\\_good](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who_defines_the_good_in_common_good)): Who should define the common good? From the survey we did a few weeks ago, it seemed as if we had very different views on what the common good is. Kastelic feels that world views of individual communities can contribute to encouraging behaviors and systems that are for the “advantage of everyone.” If you could make a list and had NO MORE THAN 100 words, what would need to SPECIFICALLY happen in a society to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good—something that would be for the “advantage of everyone”? Please share anything that you have witnessed or has happened in your society—no matter how big or small--that demonstrates that advancing the common good is possible.

**JUDI FREEMAN** NOV 15, 2020 05:19PM

**ANONYMOUS** DEC 03, 2020 01:14AM

## Valeri [redacted] Athens, Greece

This question sounds a lot more simple than it actually is, nonetheless, I'd like to believe that when asked this question, most people would probably answer it with the starting lines such as small businesses, volunteerism, community work or even facility management of the area. Honestly, I'm not sure which one would be the most fit, but for a start, I think we can all agree that in order for a community to start working on their problems, they'd first have to address them, perhaps in the forum of community gatherings and information spreading. It's like they say, all apples come from the same tree, let's ensure to endure.

**HOÀNG [redacted]** NOV 25, 2020 01:07PM

## Hoàng [redacted] Can Tho, Vietnam

I think that everyone sharing and helping each other when they're in difficult time that become beneficial for the whole society. In Vietnam, when natural disasters raged in the Central region, people in the South and the North kept helping and constantly sending necessary supplies or food for relief. The spirit of solidarity of Vietnam, they always sharing and positive connection with each other no matter what happens. So I think this is the greatest mutual benefit that everyone receives in my country

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

## Jasmin [redacted], Reutte, Austria

First of all good education is crucial for everyone's well-being. By learning about history and politics we understand how Democracy works and who/what could endanger democracy. This way one would be able to detect early "warning signs" and work against that. By learning about economy we feel more confident planning

our futures. The list goes on and on. In Austria nobody has to pay for education, even most universities don't charge a fee. The only thing you have to buy yourself are notebooks and (at university) textbooks.

Secondly, we should realize the importance of not being biased towards other people. We have to be aware that everyone has prejudices to some extent, we have to detect them and fight against them. Every person deserves respect.

Furthermore we should stop putting everything into categories. It is our way to understand the world, but it can be very harmful. If we say "You are a black person, you are a white person, hence you are superior and you are worthless (excuse my language)" then we build borders that do not exist, since we are all human. This relates to prejudices, but it's a different approach. I'd encourage everyone to try to think "out of the box" more often, to see the big picture, to question things.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## Adna [redacted], Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. unity - coming from a country with diverse culture and nations, i consider unity and finding mutual goal as crucial for achieving common good. In order to contribute to prospering of society we must all find common ground, an objective that we all share and aim to achieve. Spreading the idea of common good is impossible without all of us agreeing to implement it.

2. Education - society must agree on a certain aim, in this case it is achieving common good. That cannot be done unless all of us are aware of basic steps which lead to this. Education allows people to form their own point of view and principles without imposing them to others as the only righteous solution. It is a watermark



that significantly accentuates now dedicates we are to seeing a bigger picture, to overcoming limits imposed to us. Everybody has a right to be educated, and that should not be something that in order to obtain, we must sacrifice something. Therefore free education plays a big role in this process

3. Encouraging communities to be involved in preservation of environment - United by will to save out mother nature, we would gradually improve our surrounding and see a significant progress. Other forms of common good cannot succeed in existing if we do not have a healthy and clean environment to observe them in.

GIAN NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## Gian - Boston, MA

After reading some passages about Thanksgiving and what exactly the Natives were doing around that time, it's clear to see that back then, within their little gift exchange economy, they were all much happier and trusting of one another. To even wish to take steps in advancing some kind of common good, we would first have to acknowledge that society has normalized stepping on one another and exploiting others for the sake of self interest or profit. This would have to cease if we would want to unite under one common good and trust one another.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:19PM

No one list would help. All cultures treat the common good differently. If we see it as more trivial things, such as appreciating the food we have, some people do that through prayer during meals. Some do nothing. If we see it through a lens of grandeur, a society would have to openly agree on ideals that fit to their overall culture and norms. For example, going a specific speed limit everywhere could serve as a common good. What would the advantage be? If everyone followed it, the number of accidents (between cars, cars and pedestrians, etc.) could easily be reduced.

I haven't noticed anything in particular besides the mandate of wearing masks. Sure, not everyone will follow this. But for those who do, they set an example for others that lead to other people doing the same. That behavioral example then helps to reduce the number of cases that exist day to day (even though it's somewhat failing right now, but props to those who are still trying).

If we continue with the example of masks, as soon as everyone agrees with the idea that wearing a mask will indeed protect them and others against the virus, then the idea of the common good would be fully achieved.

*It would be great to know who you are and where you are from!*

— JUDI FREEMAN

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

No one list would help. All cultures treat the common good differently. If we see it as more trivial things, such as appreciating the food we have, some people do that through prayer during meals. Some do nothing. If we see it through a lens of grandeur, a society would have to openly agree on ideals that fit to their overall culture and norms. For example, going a specific speed limit everywhere could serve as a common good. What would the advantage be? If everyone followed it, the number of accidents (between cars, cars and pedestrians, etc.) could easily be reduced.

I haven't noticed anything in particular besides the mandate of wearing masks. Sure, not everyone will follow this. But for those who do, they set an example for others that lead to other people doing the same. That behavioral example then helps to reduce the

number of cases that exist day to day (even though it's somewhat failing right now, but props to those who are still trying). If we continue with the example of masks, as soon as everyone agrees with the idea that wearing a mask will indeed protect them and others against the virus, then the idea of the common good would be fully achieved.

*Great post! Who are you and where are you from? — JUDI FREEMAN*

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

## Andre - Boston Latin School, MA

No one list would help. All cultures treat the common good differently. If we see it as more trivial things, such as appreciating the food we have, some people do that through prayer during meals. Some do nothing. If we see it through a lens of grandeur, a society would have to openly agree on ideals that fit to their overall culture and norms. For example, going a specific speed limit everywhere could serve as a common good. What would the advantage be? If everyone followed it, the number of accidents (between cars, cars and pedestrians, etc.) could easily be reduced.

I haven't noticed anything in particular besides the mandate of wearing masks. Sure, not everyone will follow this. But for those who do, they set an example for others that lead to other people doing the same. That behavioral example then helps to reduce the number of cases that exist day to day (even though it's somewhat failing right now, but props to those who are still trying).

If we continue with the example of masks, as soon as everyone agrees with the idea that wearing a mask will indeed protect them and others against the virus, then the idea of the common good would be fully achieved.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

Jenija  
Pokhara, Nepal

We were born lucky, privileged and never had to worry about having food at out plate or never had to stress upon unpaid bills. However we do bear this responsibility to help the people not as fortunate as us.

Here are some major measures to advance common good:

- Good education and health
- Financial sector should be stable e.t.c

I feel that people should sit down and understand each others need and if we don't want to do that then nothing good will happen. And also we should seek to make the people happy.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

## Kali I., USA, Boston, Massachusetts

In order for a society to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good, we would have to first get to a point of unity and cooperation. I think that, as of right now, it feels as though we can't progress here in the U.S. because there is this

To encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good everyone needs to be able to have access to quality education. A quality education is key to getting a good job and a decent income to support and have a family. Everyone should also have free healthcare. Many times people are sick or need to go to the hospital but don't go because they fear the fee they will have to pay. We need to get rid of that fear so that everyone will be able to have good health.

AMBEF NOV 24, 2020 06:15PM

## The Common Good

In order to advance the common good, high quality education must be accessible to ALL. This means lower tuition prices, innovation, encourage creativity and stimulation, reforming programs, and more versatility for all learning styles. Through this, children will be able to see school as less of a burden and more of an engaging and freeing curriculum. I say this because with education comes more participation and engagement in social and political issues that permit advancement and progression to a better society as a whole.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:19PM

## Lucy B, USA, Boston, MA

To encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good I think everyone needs accessibility to basic needs. There is no reason a bottle of water should cost so much as well as food. It is something we all need and those deprived of it are treated as less than, but it is not their fault that it is not accessible. If everyone does not have the same accessibility to basic human needs then there cannot be just advancements.

LEV NOV 24, 2020 06:15PM

## Lev, USA, Boston, Massachusetts

The first, and most important thing that would need to happen in a society in order to promote the "common good" would be an overwhelming societal understanding of what the common good is, and why it is mutually beneficial for everyone to contribute to it. Many people think only of themselves in a society simply because they believe that is how society functions; but in this sort of society that we are describing, the whole system would fall apart if every person thought only of themselves. Thus, it's important for everyone to understand the common good of a society, and maybe see some direct impacts of this. Secondly, it would require that everyone actually care about the common good. There are many people in the world who, when asked, would rather fend for themselves rather than thinking for the common good of a society. However, my question is this: Is it possible to have both? Is it possible to have a society where working for the common good also benefits the individuals? I think that the answer is yes.

YU.H NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## Yu.H Hiroshima, Japan

First, I think in order to achieve common good for everyone, we need a good quality of education for everyone. I think learning about differences can change our perspectives and this could lead to us achieving common good for everyone.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

## Cecelia, USA, Boston, Massachusetts

I think "the advantage of all" is really hard to define, and different people probably have different opinions of what helping everyone means. That being said, I think we need to take drastic measures to protect the environment because that is the one thing that truly impacts everyone, and if we ruin it beyond reversal we won't be able to improve anything else or improve anything for people.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## Hadeel, Lebanon, Tyre

There are numerous ideas for how we can enhance the common good. Here are some of them.

First, free education can be one of the several aspects of common good in societies. Nowadays, many children are facing illiteracy just because they are poor and can't afford schools fees, in this case, governments, organizations and charities can build free schools so that all children can learn equally.

Another idea is preserving the environment. This can be done in different ways such as cleaning beaches, recycling wastes, cleaning gardens and not throwing wastes in water. In general, when taking such steps, not only we preserve and keep our own environment and cities, but also every part of the society, preventing diseases and environmental destruction.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## Pranav India

To advance the common good I feel we should look into these aspects particularly.

-Education: I believe education is the first step to achieving anything. It spreads awareness and build the foundation for furthering the common good.

-Getting politically involved: As citizens there is certain limits to what we can do to promote common good. Firstly we need to do that. When we are doing everything we can as citizens we should start getting involved with the political administration of our area to expand our aim to a larger scale. The government has more resources and wider reach than us which will immensely help in furthering our cause. A small scale example is RWAs. Resident Welfare Associations help in keeping the residential area safe, clean

political divide and tensions are high. People need to be able to sit down and understand the need to prioritize the good of everyone over the good of just a select few. If we don't have this willingness to cooperate with each other, then nothing will come of it.

**PIN YI** NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

In order to advance the common good, we might need to: 1. Develop an education system that is both high-quality and affordable for everyone. Too often the education system favors those with a higher socioeconomic status, as they have access to quality private schools and tutors, and do not need to worry about paying exorbitant amounts of college tuition. 2. Maintain a robust economy with enough jobs (both entry-level and advanced) for everyone. In many countries, even graduates from top colleges are having trouble finding jobs. 3. Provide top-tier healthcare for everyone, regardless of age or preexisting conditions. No one should ever be forced to choose between receiving medical care and having money on hand to buy food or other necessary supplies.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:19PM

## **Erin**, USA, Boston, Massachusetts

In order to advance the common good I think that we have to start by addressing how to improve health, education, and income for everyone. I think we should start with those who are struggling the most with these 3 things, and then work our way up. We have to make sure that everyone starts off on an equal playing field no matter their age, race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. We also need to address climate change and working on implementing policies that help prevent it because we only have 7 years until we can't reverse it, and all our problems won't matter if we don't have a healthy planet to thrive on.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:19PM

## **Sarah**, Boston MA

In order to achieve common good as a society we need to work on creating equal opportunities for every citizen despite our differences. Education should be available and free for all as it is the key to having a successful life and opens a lot of opportunities.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## **Advancing the common good, Joanna**, USA, Boston MA

The key factor to advancing the common good is accessibility. In my mind this entails 1) Making quality education affordable to all, 2) Making healthy food a commonplace resource, and 3) Reforming the way welfare currently works. I've seen the first point implemented in a multitude of ways: scholarships and financial aid programs are key to providing education opportunities. Additionally, many people upload intellectual property (primarily textbooks) online, making expensive education resources free and

easy to access, which combats the exclusivity and elitism that accompanies many higher education institutions.

**HNIN THET** DEC 05, 2020 07:59AM

## **Hnin Thet**, Myanmar

If I have to say the definition of common good, it means "the advantage or benefit of all people in a society". Besides, advancing the common good means building a community that offers quality of life for all, regardless of age, gender, income or cultural background.

As for me, there are three things we all need in order to advance the common good: education, income and health. I believe education is the basic step to achieve anything. For example, a person who is living in a community in which he receives quality education opportunities since his childhood through his high school years. Then, he or she will get a stable job and enough income to support a family through retirement. That's why, high quality health care and education opportunities must be accessible to all. It means lower health and school expenses regardless of income and background. Besides, we also have the rights to get higher paying and more secure jobs.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:19PM

If you could make a list and had NO MORE THAN 100 words, what would need to SPECIFICALLY happen in a society to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good—something that would be for the "advantage of everyone"? Please share anything that you have witnessed or has happened in your society—no matter how big or small—that demonstrates that advancing the common good is possible.

*Thanks for your post. It would be helpful to know who you are and where you are from!* — JUDI FREEMAN

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## **Antonia V**, Australia, Melbourne

- equal education and equal opportunities for all. No one should be disadvantaged for their race, age, income or gender. I think that no matter what society you are in, there will always be this issue. Common good would be to ensure that someone from any background can achieve their goal/job in anyway possible. The best way to deal with this is equal education which will ensure that everyone can be educated at the same level, without there being a strong disadvantage just because of your background, hence the need for free education. "common good" can only be achieved if everyone has the same opportunities to achieve it.

**ANONYMOUS** NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

## **Brian N**, USA, Boston, Massachusetts

and provide a good living experience. Their roles during this pandemic has increased manifold. They are checking the people for travel history to any foreign place, regular health checks,, contact tracing, isolation of infected people and direct contact with the local police, health and other administrators giving frequent reports about the status in the locality. This is what is needed to be replicated in a larger scale to promote the common good

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:21PM

## Tanvi , Gurgaon, Haryana, India

To advance the common good of the society I believe that we need to specifically take these measures-

a. People must have the right to practice the profession of their choice. Make education free and open to all. Education is the key to achieving any goal since "common good" - be it in the form of environmental conservation to achieving financial inclusion we need awareness and literacy.

b. Make financial inclusion universally an achievable target so people have the resources to work to benefit the nation and the society.

C. A promotion of a happy, fulfilling and long life that makes everyone feel loved, included and worthy of respect.

D. There must also be a free flow of trade that allows people of different age groups, classes and gender to participate in business activities.

I believe that India's measure of demonetisation, and making all 29 states a common market and providing for inclusive education policies show its dedication towards making common good a shared goal. At a micro level I believe providing subsidies and reservations to some sections of the society to provide equity seem like a measure to promote common good.

JACOB NOV 24, 2020 06:18PM

## Jacob D, USA, Boston, Massachusetts

In order for people to really start acting in a way that benefits the general community, I think that we should make these communities very diverse. Diversity of ethnicity often leads to diversity of thought which will heighten society. I think that the second thing we must do is improve people's material conditions. With this, comes the implementation of policies such as public option or Medicare for All, free state university, and democratic workplaces. All of these are feasible except for maybe the democratic workplace. However, all of these will greatly benefit communities and the people in them.

Also, here is what I think the common good/goal we all should share is: we should seek to make the most people happy to the detriment of the least amount of people.

## An T., USA, Boston, Massachusetts

To answer what must happen to achieve a society that advances the common good, I first decided to answer what would a society like that even look like? Well, everyone would not only respect each other's differences but even value them. People would be selfless, and generous in giving their all to help the commonwealth. So, what steps can we take to get there?

1. **In order to care about another, you must be cared for first.** We have to make sure that everyone is stable, financially and emotionally. This would come in the form of free healthcare, less taxes towards the middle and lower class, providing actual homes not homeless shelters to those who need it. Another component to this is having better conditions in prisons. Prisons should be seen as rehabilitation, not punishment. Humanizing and treating prisoners better the way we understand crime, and lessen the crime rates.

2. **Education is the foundation of a country.** The way in which future generations grow to view other people and themselves will affect the welfare of the country as a whole. Education is crucial to advancing the common good. This takes form in having diverse curriculums and practicing empathy and mutual understanding in the classroom. If children are more exposed to people who don't look like them, diversity will be a normal thing, and everyone will be seen as equal.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:14PM

## Emily M., USA, Boston, Massachusetts

Here are some potential ideas for how we can potentially advance the common good:

- Implement specific policies that allow for equal educational opportunities (similar to how BPS is working to make the playing field equal by getting rid of the ISEE, though I think that it would be better if we could change the curriculums so that the test would actually be testing on what students learned in their schools)
- More supports for lower-income and minority groups (perhaps programs offered by schools or the district that will help students learn things they never learned at home - like college stuff)

*Hadeel Shrara, Indeed, the project we are participating in "Global Civic obligation initiative" can be also classified as common good by allowing us to share our opinions, also developing our civic commitment and by nourishing teens in order to be something good and important in the society. - ANONYMOUS*

KATHERINE ... NOV 24, 2020 06:20PM

## The common good.

I know it isn't something that is easy to achieve, but a simple way to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good would be to treat people the way you would like to be treated. Granted this childhood saying does have its faults, seeing that if, for some odd reason, someone was wanted to be treated

poorly, which would lead to a cycle of bad behavior.

\*\*\*\*\*

[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text that appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]

# Groups U-Z (sec 04): How can we advance the common good?

Sarah Kastelic, an indigenous Kodiak Alutiiq woman living in the United States, asked in a 2018 essay ([https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who\\_defines\\_the\\_good\\_in\\_common\\_good](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/who_defines_the_good_in_common_good)): Who should define the common good? From the survey we did a few weeks ago, it seemed as if we had very different views on what the common good is. Kastelic feels that world views of individual communities can contribute to encouraging behaviors and systems that are for the “advantage of everyone.” If you could make a list and had NO MORE THAN 100 words, what would need to SPECIFICALLY happen in a society to encourage behavior and systems that advance the common good—something that would be for the “advantage of everyone”? Please share anything that you have witnessed or has happened in your society—no matter how big or small--that demonstrates that advancing the common good is possible.

JUDI FREEMAN NOV 15, 2020 05:21PM

MICHAEL JAN 17, 2021 04:28PM

## Michael L., Boston, MA, USA

Common good should be decided by the general population, the "common people". For common good to be promoted in society, these ideas should be promoted:

1. Give to others
2. Listen to each other
3. Just be kind!

These would just get people started towards bettering society, as it promotes compassion and empathy. In general, I think another key thing would be to think about others, not just yourself. When the pandemic hit, my father could have just stayed home and worked from home, as his job enabled to do so. But his job was working at a non-profit who distributes food to the people who need it most in Cambridge and Boston. He chose to continue going to work, and continue to keep on giving what he could. If more people could just be like that, think about how other people would be in their situation, then society would automatically become triple what it is now.

ANONYMOUS JAN 17, 2021 02:24PM

## Arsen B., Karaganda, KZ

I believe common good should be defined by communities, both on a small and large scales. Families and citizens of a country overall may have slightly differing definitions of common good, but they all have to be advanced to make a difference. To advance the common good, people should:

1. Be aware - understand that they can benefit a lot from mutualism arising from advancing the common good.
2. Be connected - communicate with others in the community to stay coordinated and understand what others want.
3. Be empathetic - if a misunderstanding/problem arises,

understand the point-of-view of the other person and what motivates them.

After the pandemic struck, many people were in need of getting food safely. I believe food is one of the common goods humanity shares as a whole, and I've witnessed as more and more food delivery couriers appeared on the streets, doing a risky job of delivering goods to people who otherwise cannot get them without endangering themselves. In some sense this is the advancement of the common good, as people support each-other by exchanging food delivery for economic benefit.

ANONYMOUS DEC 08, 2020 09:54PM

## Nina A. Skopje, Macedonia The "common good" is kind of difficult to define cause it can mean different things to different people. For me, I think the only way to advance the common good are these things:

- 1.respect
- 2.love
- 3.honesty

Listening to a person's point of view is one of the best ways of showing respect. From time to time, you might not always agree with the person with everything but allowing each to have and express views is a sign of respect.

Everyone wants and need to be loved. We need to spread love to people who do not receive it usually, they will be happier and the world will be a better place to live.

Honesty means being truthful to others, but most important it means being truthful to yourself first. Being an honest person means standing by the fact, speaking and always supporting it. And people should always be honest, because if someone lies

about something, the truth can very easily come to light and then the truth is lost and it's hard to return it back.

ANONYMOUS DEC 05, 2020 04:01PM

## ville nästi, rajamäki, suomi

in finland common good is that you help someone is fallen, but you do not sit next to them in bus or train.

Common good should be defined through traditions and culture on countries. Common good will largely different on different parts of the world. No one can say what's right and what's wrong (except law). Common good is lastly on individuals own world view.

good qualities o common good:

1. be kind
2. respect everyone
3. treat everyone equally.

I'm not very religious, but here the Holy Book defines common good greatly: treat everyone like you would want them to treat you.

RAPHAEL C. DEC 03, 2020 12:41AM

## Raphael C., Philippines

The common good is referred to what is shared or beneficial to all the members of the community.

I believe that in order to promote common good in the society, we must address the social disparity within the populations in our communities. I believe one way to tackle this problem is to spread the ff:

- o Love
- o Respect
- o Kindless

When these three attributes are present in a community, the population will be able to come together as one, and discuss and decide the common good for their community -- without leaving the others behind, where everyone will be advantaged -- and I think that is the most important.

ANONYMOUS DEC 01, 2020 12:33PM

## LIZALISE M ,CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA

The common good in a broad perspective is defined by morality. Irrespective of where you come from all teachings boil down to treating others the way you want to be treated.

To advance the common good people need to:

- 1) stop being selfish .people only care when an issue affects them
- 2) Communities of different cultures need to interact so common ground can be found and people can meet one another halfway.
- 3) people need to realise that there's power in numbers but must not misuse this.

South Africa still faces the after effects of apartheid which includes segregation this makes Communities look out for themselves. Generally people do look out for each other for example volunteering volunteering and activism against femicide and other social pressing issues issues.

ANONYMOUS NOV 27, 2020 01:17PM

## Sara N. Beirut, Lebanon

I believe that for a society to advance its common good, it must reflect on what pieces are missing, find them, and complete their "puzzle". It should tackle ethical, materialistic, and psychological needs, starting with:

1. Educating people during their school years about mental health properly.
2. Providing easy access to psychiatrists and psychologists.
3. Providing free shelters for all
4. Religious freedom
5. Free education
6. Free healthcare
7. Fixing the minimum wage so it can do what it's supposed to do
8. A good government
9. Protester rights that don't receive any negative backlash
10. Rehabilitation of addicts instead of sending them to jail
11. Protection of indigenous land.

ANONYMOUS NOV 27, 2020 01:41AM

Common good, being a subjective matter is sort of complex topic. But, in my opinion, the frameworks of this topic are respect and empowerment. Problems are inevitable with the huge diversity we have in terms of ideologies, but mutual respect is what binds us together for better. Also, there is gap between privileged and under-privileged. Empowerment serves to minimize his gap so people can better live qualitatively in the society. - Kusum Subedi

JULIA NOV 24, 2020 08:12PM

## Julia Brzesko, Poland

Common good is a really hard topic to talk about. I think that we should make „comon good" ourselves. Ask yourself a question - when do you feel well? the answer is that people feel well, when

they are appreciated and well treated. I think we all should respect some rules: at first we should be kind to others and respect their opinions. at second we shouldn't stick our noses in someone else's business. And last but not least, we should fight for equality and human rights for everybody living on this planet. If we want to change something, we have to start with ourselves.

ANONYMOUS DEC 02, 2020 04:17AM

## Tapasmi RC, Gurgaon, India

Common good broadly refers to something that results in the benefit of everyone, so I think there are certain policies that the government can adopt for the welfare of its country, such as: 1. Universal healthcare 2. Education for all 3. Mandated livable wage for all 4. Regulation and proper disposal of industrial waste 5. Raised carbon or energy taxes 6. Removal of environmentally harmful subsidies 7. Switching to alternative sources of energy 8. Infrastructural development 9. Affordable housing 10. Reducing income inequality 11. Improve food security 12. Corporate accountability A collective change can be brought about by instilling good values in oneself first- such as kindness, empathy, mindfulness and responsibility.

STASII NOV 24, 2020 06:12PM

## Anastasija, Skopje, North Macedonia

"the common good" is an easy sentence to define. The common good can be anything that makes anyone feel loved,wanted,happy,important or worthy. There are many things that society could change to make everyone feel accepted like cafeteria tables in schools,we all know the horrible feeling of not fitting in ,there shouldnt be such thing as a circle table to devide people from getting to know one another,learn about new cultures or just to make friends. The main three things that stant for common good are:

- love
- respect
- care

it's very important to help anyone in need,respect everyone's choices and opinions,to spread love not hate and most importantly to do the same for ourselves. Society can be very overwhelming with the negativity it shares, a person shouldn't be defined by the way they dress. People shouldn't hate their bodies because the society says so. It's a hard topic to disguss since it affects many people in many ways. Thankfully i didn't witness any cafeteria table fitting since we don't have circle ones in my school,but I am a victim of bullying and cyber bullying. I'm sorry if anyone ever experienced anything like that it's truly horrible. That is my opinion on the common good, can't wait to talk more about different topics! Stay safe and healthy!

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:13PM

## Serena Boston, MA, USA

in my opinion, these are what is needed to advance the common good:

1. Solidarity with those who have been oppressed. Nothing will change if we don't center those who are most affected by the world's faults.
2. Willingness to put in effort and sacrifice. There are many out there who say they support the common good but are not actually willing to put the effort in.
3. Open-minded-ness. Related to the last point, in a fight for equality you will encounter mental/emotional struggles. You have to be able to accept different viewpoints and question what you think you know.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:09PM

A lot of people think that the common good must refer to an entire population of people being benefitted but people could also work towards the common good of family, friends, a group they're part of, a community they're actively involved in and/or any other groupings. The process involves: setting aside our differences/respecting one another having civil conversations in order to reach a point of mutual understanding acknowledging the problems within the community/society and being willing to find and work out a solution for it It may be near impossible to contribute to an entire society alone but advancing the common good could first happen in smaller groups and then eventually affect the society as the people unite and come together.

*Hello! Thank you for posting. We would love to know who you are and where you are from! – JUDI FREEMAN*

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:09PM

## Xixin L, Boston, MA, USA

A lot of people think that the common good must refer to an entire population of people being benefitted but people could also work towards the common good of family, friends, a group they're part of, a community they're actively involved in and/or any other groupings. The process involves:

1. setting aside our differences/respecting one another.
2. having civil conversations in order to reach a point of mutual understanding.
3. acknowledging the problems within the community/society and being willing to find and work out a solution for it.

It may be near impossible to contribute to an entire society alone but advancing the common good could first happen in smaller groups and then eventually affect the society as the people unite and come together.

XINYAN NOV 24, 2020 06:09PM

## Xinyan C, Boston, MA USA



I believe that people have different ways to define the common good depending on their perspectives. The most important thing to remember is to do the right things to help yourself, your family, your friends, and the people in your community.

1. Respect. People should understand that everyone has different experiences and treat them how you want to be treated.
2. Social awareness. It is important to acknowledge the problems in your community and educate yourself about the issues around the world. And actively contribute to solving these problems.
3. Have sympathy and be compassionate. Everyone should learn to put themselves in others' shoes and use the privileges that they have to help others who are less fortunate.

An example I have witnessed is when I was volunteering at a food pantry. Even though not everyone is able to donate money and resources, some people donate their valuable time so that low income families can have access to healthy food.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:09PM

## Katie R, Boston, MA USA

I believe the common good refers to what is in the best interest in the long run for the majority of people affected by whatever decision is being made. However, like many of my classmates have stated, this will change based on who is involved and what level the decision takes place on. Assuming we are talking about a global scale, this is what I believe needs to happen.

1. Empathy: People need to adopt a mentality of "what affects one of us affects us all." Seeing someone struggling and turning away because it's "not your problem" is not going to get us anywhere.
2. Open-mindedness: Too many people are set in their beliefs, and feel like theirs are the only correct option. Once we accept that different people think differently from us, and that's ok, we will be a more accepting society overall.
3. Independent thinking: people need to stop accepting the disinformation they read at face value in order to make more informed decisions about legislation and voting.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Azalea T, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

For a society's behaviors and systems to be of advantage of everyone, these things would need to happen:

1. Understanding. When people make an effort to understand others, they have more sympathy for their issues and needs.
2. Willingness to help others. This would make people more likely to support systems/programs like universal healthcare and local measures like food banks.
3. Desire and energy to demand change. It takes willpower to achieve change, so there needs to be a movement to

promote the common good.

To achieve the above 3 points, I think quality and equality in education is crucial, because people have to be informed about history, civics, culture(s), and more. I also think there needs to be change in income inequality and workers' rights so people make a living wage and have the time and energy to organize. One thing I have seen in my community was the creation of a "community fridge" for people to take and leave food. This made me happy to see because organizers, business owners, and everyday people work together to benefit everyone.



ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Sam, Boston, MA, USA

There are three key factors that determine what the common good should be, and while different factors can be chosen by different communities and cultures, these three are ones that should apply in all examples. The first factor is education. The common good should always be a force for the education of all citizens of the world, not just the privileged few. When an entire society is properly educated, amazing things can and will happen. The second factor is respect. While we must acknowledge that people often have different circumstances, we must also acknowledge that the circumstances that someone is in do not disqualify them from being treated with respect. We can't progress the common good if we forget to treat others with respect. The third factor is the will to listen. So often in society, people don't listen to the opinions of those they disagree with. Conflict ensues, and no progress is made. Instead, we all must recognize that people have the right to have opinions, and the right to express those opinions freely.

## Lilian C, Boston, MA, USA

If I were to make a list of what makes up the common good in the world it would be:

1. Kindness: kindness can go a very long way. You never know what someone is going through and a friendly hello or smile might make their day.
2. Respect: If everyone showed everyone with mutual respect this world would be a much better place. We need to start respecting everyone no matter what, they are people too.
3. Love: Everyone wants to be loved. So I believe if everyone showed love towards people who weren't getting it, the world would be a lot more full of love and happiness.

## Ahlam N , Sale , Morocco

- o for example , two parties made a deal , that deal is beneficial for both of them that's common good .
- o A society that lacks common good will fall apart because one of the parties is not getting benefice or any profit from the deal .
- o when there's profit there's common good.
- o for example ; we made someone the leader of our group , for exchange , he needs to guide us to success not the opposite , the profit for the leader is the position of control (title) , and for the group is a good guidance to a better outcome .If both parties are satisfied that's common good , if they are not they search for another substitute .

PENTAGRAM 3 NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Aris , Finland, Nurmijärvi

The word "common good" by itself already tells what should happen that would encourage behaviors that leads to common good.

Common good is something beneficial to everyone, something common that everyone wants.

Which means for there to be more common goods there should be more common goods.

For example if there is a table that one person wants and if that person gets it, another person would benefit from it. The person wanting the table would get the table because he wants what he wants and that would be beneficial to the another person.

There isn't anything specific that would "encourage" common good since common good is something that happens automatically everytime.

If there isn't a common good (something that would benefit each side) then there simply wouldn't be common good (act that would benefit each side).

There isn't anything that would "encourage" common good to happen, because common good can't simply happen if there isn't a common good.

## Willa D., Boston, MA, USA

1. love
2. hope
3. sacrifice

These 3 attributes work harmoniously when actively trying to better society. It is more than just one act of kindness. The common good of society is something that you work for every day in every aspect of your life. For this to happen, my nation (USA) would have to become more united and actually start to care for one another. An example of this I have seen are strides for free healthcare and free college, and although it has not been successful yet, I think it would involve sacrifice, love, and hope for a better future on everyone's part.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Greta , Boston, Mass, USA

I believe that the common good has many different meanings depending on the context.

I believe that as a society, the general common good is

1. respect
2. empathy
3. kindness

You never want to continue the cycle of being mistreated, so if someone treats you not nicely, rather than continuing it, you can be kind to others. This could stop the cycle of people hurting others, making everyone more positive. A small step but something

SOPHIA F NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## The Common Good

I believe that the "common good" is relative to the people that are creating. The "common good" in your family is different from the "common good" created in your school community. And of course their is the "common good" across the human race. The "common good" that spans the human race is one that is made of

1. kindness
- 2.integrity
3. empathy

To encourage the "common good" we all have to lead by example.

We have to show others what we need. Because after all it is "common" which means that it comes from all of us.

*Hawraa k.That's true, the common good has a lot of meanings depending on the context. Hence, the common good as a society is not the same as a family and several other sides, but all are holding the idea of benefiting people all over the world. – ANONYMOUS*

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Tiffany , Boston, MA, USA

I believe that the common good is something that I have only seen a few times throughout my entire life. I believe that as a society we should:

1. respect
2. kindness
3. try to understand what the other person is going through and

understand that different people lead different lives.

These are what I believe are the things that can advance the common good, even if it is a small step towards a better future.

\*\*\*\*\*

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

Making a decision for the "common good" means putting aside differences and reaching out to those who you might have nothing in common with. The only way to expand and encourage the "common good" to be everyone's priority is through: 1. Honesty 2. Empathy 3. Respect First and foremost, I feel that everybody needs to take steps to honestly acknowledge their own privileges and biases. Otherwise, we cannot be truly fair or ever hope of becoming equal if we do not realize our differences. Empathy helps us understand that every single human is deserving of rights, equality, and respect.

ZOE NOV 24, 2020 06:13PM

### Zoe P, Boston, MA, USA

Making a decision for the "common good" means putting aside differences and reaching out to those who you might have nothing in common with. The only way to expand and encourage the "common good" to be everyone's priority is through:

- 1. Honesty
- 2. Empathy
- 3. Respect

First and foremost, I feel that everybody needs to take steps to honestly acknowledge their own privileges and biases. Otherwise, we cannot be truly fair or ever hope of becoming equal if we do not realize our differences. Empathy helps us understand that every single human is deserving of rights, equality, and respect.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:11PM

### Maximilian D, Germany, Pfaffenhofen, Bavaria

1. Follow your Moral Compass (If you don't have one see yourself into the next Insane Asylum please. Thanks.)

That's pretty much it for me. If you try to define it any further it can lead to undesirable extremes that don't help the Common Good at all (For example too much Focus on Equality --> Communism) NOT saying that equality is bad but following equality to its end goal isn't pretty.

So honestly, just do what's morally right, that's the only safe answer I can give.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:10PM

Respect: It is important to recognize that each person has their own unique experiences. In order for people's lives to be valued, there shouldn't be conditions. They should matter regardless of who they are, and it's each individual's job to respect people who are different from them, or believe different things, or don't conform to societal norms. Empathy: people need to acknowledge the struggle that people go through and not dehumanize anyone, but rather try to understand differences and work to be productive and accept others Sincerity: In order for society to improve, people need to stop being selfish and think of things that would benefit themselves, but rather uplift ideas that help those who need it most, and those who aren't in positions of privilege. In

our society, congress has become more representative of different groups of people, which gives more people a voice in the government.

Hello! Would love to hear more about who you are and where you are from! — JUDI FREEMAN

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

### Gabi V.R., Boston, MA, USA

- o Respect: It is important to recognize that each person has their own unique experiences. In order for people's lives to be valued, there shouldn't be conditions. They should matter regardless of who they are, and it's each individual's job to respect people who are different from them, or believe different things, or don't conform to societal norms.
- o Empathy: people need to acknowledge the struggle that people go through and not dehumanize anyone, but rather try to understand differences and work to be productive and accept others
- o Sincerity: people need to stop being selfish and think of things that would benefit themselves, and uplift ideas that help those who need it most, those who aren't in positions of privilege.

In our society, congress has become more representative of different groups of people, which gives more people a voice in the government.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:10PM

### Hnin Ei , Gaygue, Phyar pone, Ayeyarwaddy Division, Myanmar

Common good is difficult to define because it can mean different things to different people. Webster's Dictionary defines common good as "belonging to or shared by each or all". The "common good" is at the core of any situation where two or more people form a partnership, group or country. The reason many organizations exist is to provide a common defense, mass-transit, public safety, public health and many other functions. Without common good, there would be no other reason to form an association. To get common good, we need

- 1.Equality
  - 2.Good will
  - 3.Civil rights ,I think.
- Equality is having the same rights, opportunity and treatment as everyone else within a given system.  
Goodwill is the act of benevolence.  
Civil Rights are promised in the Constitution to ensure that all citizens are equal under the law.

ABBY NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

### Abby B., WY, USA

In my opinion, a society that would advance the common good could possibly:

1. Make sure all voices are heard, no matter who someone is or where they are from.
2. Provide equal amounts of consideration into suggestions given, weighing options and thinking about the affects on everyone involved in the society before the decision is made.
3. Create a plan where members of a society who wish to voice their opinion can without being ignored or feel like they are insignificant.

In society, I believe that the common good varies widely, but a common goal can be reached by cooperation, respect, and communication.

ESL NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Esli R, Boston, MA, USA

As many other people have said, advancing the common good includes showing compassion, empathy, kindness and respect. While everyone has to make an effort in their own lives we also need government enforced policies that will benefit the people, such as:

1. Universal healthcare
2. Better education systems
3. Improved affordable housing
4. Less division in politics
5. More action regarding climate change

While it is important for individuals to advance the common good, we do not have the power to do everything that must be done, and need those in positions of power to take initiative to advance the common good.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Colin Boston, Ma, USA

I believe that the common good has different meaning depending on its context. The common good in your school or your community is different from the common good in your family. The common good in our society is made by

- 1) Empathy
- 2) Kindness
- 3) honesty

We can encourage the common good to others by leading by example and showing others that we need to treat everybody kindly and have empathy for others. Even though treating other nicely is an easy and small thing to do, it still can mean a lot and can come from anybody, which is why it is the common good in our society.

LEAH NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Leah P., Boston, MA, USA

The common good varies in magnitude. You may be trying to better a group of friends, a family, a small community, a country,

or the world in general. It can be guided by:

1. Respect: You cannot truly want the best for someone if you do not respect them. Working towards the common good involves seeing that everyone is different in their opinions, life experiences, and identity
2. Compassion: Compassion is the leading force towards the common good. It takes self-reflection to realize that your successes may not be shared amongst other peoples. Wanting to share that positivity is compassion, rather than simply acknowledging that others may not have the privileges you do.
3. Hope: One must have hope that their advancements for the common good will actually bring at least some success. Hope also involves acknowledging that failures and set-backs are natural and are steps towards achieving goals.

ANONYMOUS NOV 24, 2020 06:09PM

## Hawraa k, Lebanon, Tyre

"Common good" is meant by everything that can vary our society and make it sufficient. This thing can be demonstrated in activities that came from traits of people: 1-Respect

- 2-Love
- 3-Tolerance
- 4-cooperation

For instance, the best thing we can do to our society is saving the environment by cleaning beaches, gardens, or even growing plants. furthermore, we can donate blood and distribute food for poor people, because this will inspire others to do the same. Thus, all of us must share in advancing the common good to secure a welfare life in the future.

MAIANH TRAN NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM

## Maianh T., Boston MA, USA

I think that the only way to advance the common good is to understand, respect, and support each other.

1. Understanding: This goes hand in hand with education. I feel like in order for a lot of people to show these other attributes that many have mentioned on this padlet, they need to see where other people are coming from.
2. Respect: Once you understand, you can respect others.
3. Support: After you've been educated and can respect others with different experiences than you, showing and giving support is the next step.

An example of how I have seen that it is possible that the common good can be advanced is the way that others use social media to spread awareness on social issues. Information and personal experiences serve as a source of education that kickstarts the 3 words that I have listed. The more people are exposed to the world around them, the closer we are to advancing the common good.

LILAH CONROY NOV 24, 2020 06:08PM