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# A book to empower children

Angelina Jolie and Amnesty International want kids to 'fight back' with new child rights handbook.

HOLLYWOOD actress Angelina Jolie says she hopes to empower children around the world with tools to "fight back" for their rights with a book she has written with Amnesty International.

*Know Your Rights (And Claim Them)* – written with human rights lawyer Geraldine Van Bueren, one of the original drafters of the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – aims to equip kids with the knowledge to safely challenge injustices.

"So many children are in harm's way across the world and we're simply not doing enough," said Jolie in an interview.

"These are their rights, decided years ago based on what would make them healthy, balanced, safe and stable adults."

Jolie, special envoy for UN refugee agency UNHCR, said she hoped the book would also remind governments of their commitment to the global treaty enshrining children's civil, social, political and economic rights.

"We spent a lot of time blocking those rights, so this book is to help the kids have a tool book to say 'these are your rights, these are things you need to question to see how far you, depending on your country and circumstance, are from accessing those rights, what are your obstacles, others that came before you and fought, ways you can fight'. So it's a handbook to fight back."

The mother-of-six said she put up the UN convention in her home for her children, but was surprised to learn her own country, the United States, has not ratified it.

"That infuriated me and made me start to question what does that mean? So for each country, what is



'We're going to find that some adults in some countries are going to block the book *Know Your Rights (And Claim Them)* and the children will find it so I think that's how it's going to reach more children,' says Jolie. — Reuters

this idea of, you have the right to an education... but then why is it so many children are out of school? Why is it the girls in Afghanistan are being harmed if they go?" she said.

## How to be an activist

The book addresses identity, justice, education and protection from harm, among other issues. It provides guidance on becoming an activist, being safe and a glossary of terms and organisations.

"Through the book, you have to find your own path forward, because we are very concerned about the safety of children. We don't want children just running around screaming for their rights and putting themselves in danger," said Jolie.

The book is peppered with examples of powerful young voices from around the world, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, climate activist Greta Thunberg and 15-year-old Palestinian journalist Janna Jihad.

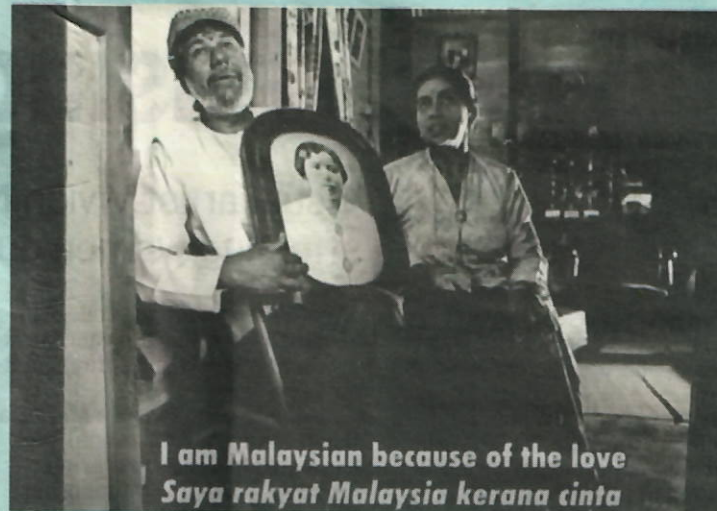
"I was trying to... show the world what Palestinian children face on a daily basis," Jihad, who lives in the village of Nabi Salih, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, told Jolie and other young activists in a video call, where they discussed their campaign work.

"It's really important to band together with other young people... that's the way we will ever be able... to make change," added London-based Christina Adane, 17, who campaigns for a healthier food system.

The book is out in Britain now and for pre-order in other countries, with the aim of worldwide publication.

"We're going to find that some adults in some countries are going to block the book and the children will find it so I think that's how it's going to reach more children," said Jolie.

"The children will make each other aware of it and they might even be a part of translating it and getting it to each other." — Reuters



A screen shot of Jo's *Aku Malaysia* video with images provided by acclaimed photographer SC Shekar.

## A Malaysia for all

VETERAN theatre practitioner Jo Kukathas and Orang Asli visual artist Shaq Koyok gave the arts and culture scene a strong presence in the *Aku Malaysia* online series, where they shared their stories on what it takes to be Malaysian, how they embody Malaysia, the challenges they have gone through, and the best way forward.

Jo's deeply heartfelt yet hard-hitting video offered a glimpse of how we can hit the reset button and move ahead with an inclusive, caring, thoughtful and progressive-minded Malaysia for all.

In his video, Shaq passionately spoke (in Bahasa Malaysia) about breaking barriers and how he overcame his childhood struggles and obstacles as an Orang Asli to achieve his dreams in becoming an artist.

The *Aku Malaysia: A Series Of Voices*, presented by CSO Platform For Reform, is a nine-part series leading up to Malaysia Day.

"Their messages speak of genuine hope, because in spite of all that we are faced with: the pandemic, inequality, and unstable politics and economy, we should not give up on Malaysia," says a statement from CSO.



Artist Shaq discussed the challenges of breaking barriers in the art scene and showing that the Orang Asli community can make a difference.

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### The Devil Makes Three

Author: Tori Bovalino  
Publisher: Page Street Kids

When Tess and Eliot accidentally set free a book-bound demon, all hell breaks loose. The demon doesn't want to go back into captivity, so it does everything it can to ensure that Tess and Eliot give in to its demands. Now Tess's loved ones are in danger and Eliot's magic is being disrupted. If only they had stayed away from the ancient book in the library's grimoire collection, life might still be mundane and predictable. But now, this demon is a bomb just waiting to go off.

### Land Of Sand And Song

Author: Joyce Chua  
Publisher: Penguin Random House SEA

After her father was captured by rebel clans, Desert Rose jumps into action. She has a mission and she knows exactly where she needs to go: to the Oasis Capital to hunt

## Feel the demon whirlwind



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mankind. But knowing his location is just one part of the battle; she will need to infiltrate the Imperial Guard before she can even get close to him, a task that will put her wit, loyalty and determination to the test.

### How We Fall Apart (How We Fall Apart #1)

Author: Katie Zhao  
Publisher: Bloomsbury YA

Nancy is a child of immigrants who came to the US in search of the American dream. It looks like they did a pretty good job getting her into an elite high school that consistently ranks number one in every academic and extracurricular achievement. But no privileged life can prepare her for the news that her best friend and classmate.

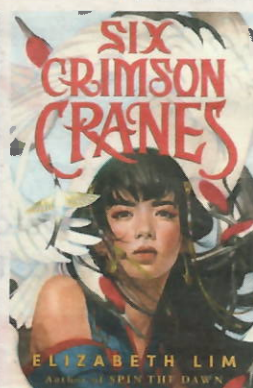
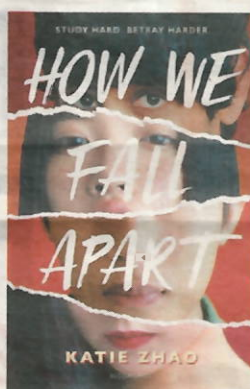
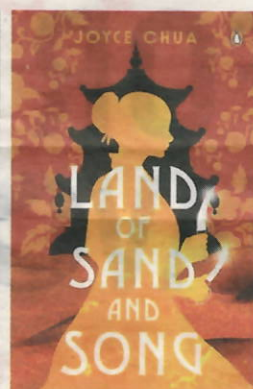
### The Woods Are Always Watching

Author: Stephanie Perkins  
Publisher: Dutton Books For Young Readers

Neena and Josie have stuck with each other through high school, but now they are going to different colleges and will soon be thousands of miles apart from each other. Before their separation, the young women decide to go on a three-day hiking trip. The terrain is punishing but what looms ahead is even more sinister. But the women have no idea what is lurking in the trees. Who would expect such evil in the woods?

### Six Crimson Cranes (Six Crimson Cranes #1)

Author: Elizabeth Lim  
Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf Books For Young Readers



but she also conceals it well, lest she catches the attention of other

her from the royal home. Her brothers are turned into cranes