

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

'Educ8 for Live8 - and help Make Poverty History'

Aim:

Following the massive media coverage, this assembly aims to give students a better understanding of Live 8, Make Poverty History and white bands and how they are part of a global action on poverty at the G8 summit. Live 8 and Make Poverty History also offer students a unique opportunity to explore their role as Global Citizens, make up their minds about the issues and potentially take action.

We hope teachers will support Make Poverty History and Live 8 by organising an assembly in as many schools a possible across the UK between 1st and 8th July.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

- Live 8 is more than white bands and pop stars: what have the G8 Summit, Live 8, Make Poverty History, and white bands got to do with global poverty?
- Live 8 and Make Poverty History are about the unfair inequalities between rich and poor countries. The rallies, concerts and G8 summit are a special moment where people can ask for a fairer world and an end to extreme poverty.
- More than half the world's population live on less than £1.30 a day, and 100 million children are out of school. It is unfair that some people miss out on a decent standard of living because of poor education and health care, whilst others have more than they need.
- Many rich countries have helped create economic systems, which mean that they are getting richer, whilst poor countries are made poorer. Make Poverty History and Live 8 are asking for the rules to be changed to give all countries the same chance to provide for their citizens.
- As a school community we can speak up about inequalities and unfairness through Make Poverty History. We can ask G8 leaders to make the changes to enable everyone to live happier, healthier lives.

Structure

Combine the components to create an assembly suitable for your students, depending on time and any actions your school might be taking.

1. Introduction: introduce students to what's going on: Live 8, Make Poverty History, white bands and the G8. **[3-5 minutes]**
1. Make Poverty History: explain the issues that many people are asking the G8 to act on. **[5-7 minutes]**
2. Inspiration from Nelson Mandela: a short film about why this is all happening. **[4 minutes]**
3. Conclusion / What we can do to change the world: explain what students can do. Choose whatever is appropriate for your school setting. **[3-4 minutes]**

Preparation

The assembly can be led by teachers with student input, or entirely by students. They can read from a script but a run-through beforehand would be helpful. You will need 2 large pieces of paper and pens, musical instrument, a CD player, white band (or a picture featuring one), PC/laptop and data projector (or the script for Mandela's speech). To download Mandela's film [click here](#)

WHENTOHOLDYOURASSEMBLY

30th June – 8th July: any time but the best opportunities are

1st July: White Band Day, the day before Live 8

5th July: Make Poverty History Children's Day

6th July: big rally in Edinburgh, first day of G8 summit

It's for both Primary and Secondary schools and can be adapted for the whole school community. The assembly lasts about 15-20 minutes.

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1. Introduction

Remind students about all the exciting things happening - world leaders visiting Scotland and pop stars doing concerts. Have the audience heard of any of these? Do they know the names of anyone involved (e.g. Tony Blair, Sir Bob Geldof)? What are they doing?

A group of students now explain what is happening.

Student 1: [holding a large piece of paper with the eight G8 countries' names written on it – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK, USA] There's an important meeting happening [soon/at the moment] where the most powerful leaders in the world get together. It's called the G8 summit, and this year it's in Scotland.

Student 2: [holding a large piece of paper with 'Make Poverty History: more and better aid; trade justice; drop the debt'] A big group of charities, faith groups and loads of other people have come together to remind the leaders of the G8 countries what they can do to help make people's lives in poor countries better. They're called the Make Poverty History Coalition.

Student 3: [wearing a white band or holding a picture of someone wearing one, e.g. a celebrity wearing one] Make Poverty History is asking everyone for help to tell world leaders that we think it's wrong that people live in poverty to show we care what happens. They've asked everyone to wear a white band, like this one. People all over the world are wearing white bands.

Student 4: [holding a musical instrument or microphone] Loads of famous pop stars support Make Poverty History too, so they're putting on Live 8, which is the biggest pop concert the world has ever seen in eight countries across four continents! Do you know who's performing? [You could play a pop track by one of the artists, eg U2 or Joss Stone. Check out www.live8live.com for a full list]

Creative Ideas to start your assembly

Music speaks louder than words

Play a track by one of the Live 8 artists as students come in – U2 would be a good choice.

Listen to the Message

Start with a performance of the school band – then ask what music has to do with changing the world? It's about getting people to listen to a message even though they are busy and have lots of other things to do and that is what Live 8 is about.

Click it!

Get students to make or act out your own version of the 'Click Ad' – where famous people click their fingers every three minutes to represent a child who is dying of extreme poverty. [Click here](#) to link to Make Poverty History.

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2. Make Poverty History and Live 8

Make Poverty History and Live 8 are about making the world fairer. Countries like the UK provide people with free education and health care, and things like housing and support. But many countries can't afford to do this.

What do students think are the most important things they need in life? A mobile phone? A car? What about things like enough food to eat, going to school, or making friends?

Lots of people all around the world don't even have the basics. Use some of the statistics below to help explain further. You could write them on cards or ask students to read out each one.

The Facts

- One billion people, that's a sixth of the world's population, lives on less than 65p a day
- 600 million children live in absolute poverty. This means that only their minimum levels of food clothing and shelter can be met
- Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases – one every three seconds
- 100 million children miss out on school completely
- The poorest countries' share of world trade is less than half a per cent
- Every day, the world's poorest countries pay over £30 million in debt repayments to rich countries
- It would cost around £3 billion a year to pay for every child in the world to go to school - less than what the US spends annually on ice cream
- Over 20 years ago, rich countries including the G8 promised to give 0.7% of their income to poor countries to help them develop, but none of the G8 countries have reached this target yet
- A child born today in Norway, one of the richest countries, can expect to live until they are 79 years old.
- A child born today in Zambia, one of the very poorest countries, can expect to live until they are 32 years old.

Creative ideas to show big statistics

Make up three simple signs: Rich Countries, Poorer Countries and Very Poorest Countries. Get a group of 30 students on stage: 15 girls and 15 boys.

They represent all the children in the world. Now divide them up:

- Five live in the rich world (two girls and three boys) – (including children in the UK)
- 20 live in the poorer countries (10 girls and 10 boys)
- Five live in the very poorest countries of all (three girls and two boys). Their families survive on less than 60p a day.
- All five of the rich children attend secondary school
- 16 remaining children go to primary school
- Eight complete primary school
- Four go on to secondary school
- Nine never go to school at all and work to help support their families

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2. Make Poverty History and Live 8

Does the audience think that this situation is fair?

Then you could say something like:

- You can see how the actions of the world's richest countries affect the lives of the world's poorest people.
- Although G8 countries help by giving money as aid to poor countries, this only helps pay for a few things they need.
- Many poor countries borrowed money to add to this but now can't afford to pay back. They often have to pay back more than they receive in aid.
- Often, richer countries sell cheap food to poorer ones, which means that farmers in poorer countries can't sell the crops they grow, so they can't make any money to help the country develop.
- These things help create the kind of poverty that stops 100 million children around the world getting to school, something that we take for granted.
- Rich countries are partly responsible for what is going on, so rich countries can also change the situation. This is what Make Poverty History and Live 8 are all about.
- Make Poverty History says that the G8 countries should help by giving more aid, making trade fairer, and dropping the debts that poor countries owe us.
- They want the G8 countries to do these three things so they can help millions of people, and make sure everyone has all the things they need to be happy and healthy.

Optional: If you want to expand on the issues of aid, trade and debt, there's more information at the end of this document.

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3. Inspiration from Nelson Mandela To download Mandela's film [click here](#)

Nelson Mandela was in prison in South Africa for 27 years because he felt that the Apartheid system in the country was racist, and tried to change it. Apartheid meant that black South Africans were denied their rights by a white minority government, were kept poor and couldn't enjoy all the things that white people had. Lots of people said that it was wrong that he was in jail, and asked for change in South Africa to make the country fairer for everyone living there. Eventually he was set free and became the President. So Nelson Mandela knows how powerful it can be when everyone gets together to tell important people what they can do to help the world become a better place.

[Play film] [Script of Speech]

Time for reflection

[This is an opportunity to insert a reflection, song, quiet time or something else that would be suitable for your school setting.]

So what Nelson Mandela tells us is that this year, it's our chance to tell world leaders about fairness, and about how they can change the lives of billions of people. He calls on us to be the great generation.

Let's take a minute to think of people living in poverty, who don't go to school or can't see a doctor when they are sick, and what we can do to help them change this.

This week is a special week, when literally millions of people will all be asking world leaders to act to make the world a fairer better place – pop stars, politicians, school students, you and me. It's amazing and powerful when all of us say the same thing all at once – that way our voices combine so loudly no one can ignore them.

If you want your assembly to include an act of worship, this is a good place to do so.
(You could also [click here](#) for some specially prepared readings, prayers and meditations.)

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4. How schools can take part in the activities

Live 8 and Make Poverty History are about letting the G8 leaders know that they can change the lives of billions of people living in poverty, and that people round the world want to see these changes happen. So they're wearing white bands, taking part in pop concerts and holding rallies to make sure that the G8 leaders know how they feel. By speaking up about what they believe, they can persuade world leaders to do something to Make Poverty History in 2005.

And the school can join all of these people and help Make Poverty History! At this point you could tell students what else is planned during the run-up to the G8 summit. Here are some ideas:

- Musical performance – in the style of Live 8 – during the assembly, at lunchtime or in the evening
- Everyone wears a white band on White Band Day - July 1st
- Wrap the school in a white band, take a photo and send it to the website: the best ones might even feature at the Live 8 concert on 2nd July! See below for details
- Take part in the SMF2S challenge online, make a 'buddy' and speak up for over 100 million children too poor to go to school, [click here](#) to make a buddy online.
- Arrange a school or family trip and join thousands of others at the rally in Edinburgh on Saturday 2nd July. For more information [click here](#).

On White Band Day, 1st July, buildings all over the world will be covered with a white band. Put a white band round your school, take a photo and send it to schools@makepovertyhistory.org. It will join hundreds of others in a huge online gallery! Please send us your photo by 8th July.

If you want to put a white band around your school at least one week before Live 8 (deadline 27th June) a film crew could be visiting your school! Let us know about your school's white band, and it could be featured in a White Band Day documentary, to be broadcast at the Live 8 concerts! Send us an email and photo of your school's white band to schools@makepovertyhistory.org with the subject heading 'Live 8 schools'.

Links

Links to be added to further resources and activity ideas, and organisations e.g. DfES, TES etc

Online resources to be provided at www.makepovertyhistory.org / www.sendmyfriend.org / anywhere else

- Script for assembly: html and pdf?
- Quote(s) from someone high profile to do with MPH encouraging schools to take part through the assembly?
- Powerpoint presentation of images/stats as a background to performances / reflection time
- Mandela's 2min MPH film already available online but needs to be able to be downloadable onto a disc
- Script from Mandela's film as an alternative: split up so several children can read it .pdf
- Activity suggestions to do as 'actions' after the assembly as a separate 'pod' on the webpage itself so teachers can access that without the script.

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TAKING IT FURTHER WITH AID, TRADE AND DEBT

Aid

Make Poverty History and Live 8 wants the G8 countries to give more money to poor countries as aid, so that they can spend it on things like hospitals and schools. It would cost around £3 billion a year for every child in the world to go to school. That's less than what the US spends on ice cream every year. Over 20 years ago the UK promised to give 0.7 per cent of its income to poor countries, but so far we've only got to half that figure. If we gave that much next year, an extra 1.5 million people could beat poverty that same year.

Yveline lives in Haiti. Because of disagreements with the government of Haiti, the US blocked a number of aid payments for things like education. She misses out on school. [Click here](#) for her story.

Trade

The G8 countries can also help make it easier for poor countries to earn money themselves, by letting them trade more of their products in rich countries. They can also help by letting poor countries support their farmers to grow more food and earn more money themselves. In 2000, the European Union gave nearly £500 in assistance to each European cow, while it gave people in African countries just £5 each.

Opoku lives in Ghana. When his family's cocoa crop failed, he had to drop out of school because there was no money for books and uniform. [Click here](#) for his story

Debt

Lots of poor countries pay debts to countries like the UK and the US because we lent them money a long time ago which they're having trouble paying back. It's not a lot of money to a rich country, but it could make a huge difference to a poorer one. Nigeria borrowed about £3 billion, but because of the interest on the repayments, it has already paid back about £9 billion, and still owes about £18 billion! Some countries have already had some of their debts cancelled. When this happened in Uganda, the government had enough money to pay for free primary school education. At their recent meeting, Finance Ministers from the world's richest countries, including Gordon Brown from the UK, agreed to cancel all the debts of 18 countries, but they stopped short of extending this deal to all of the poorest countries.

Mahamood lives in Uganda. Uganda's debt relief enabled the government to pay for free primary school education for the first four children in every family. But he still misses out. [Click here](#) for his story