

## Make Poverty History!

By now, you may well have heard of the Make Poverty History campaign. Perhaps you saw or heard about Nelson Mandela calling for an end to global poverty in Trafalgar Square in February. Perhaps you were involved in White Band Day I on 2 July, watched the Live 8 concert or were involved in some of the other events surrounding the G8 Summit in July of this year.

### What does the campaign want?

**TRADE JUSTICE:** An international trading system that is fair and enables poor countries to work hard and become less poor by trading on a more equal footing with richer ones.

**DROP THE DEBT:** Many very poor countries owe money to wealthier countries. Often the interest they pay on the debt is greater than the aid they receive from the same countries! The campaign wants the debt to be dropped so the poor countries can keep the money they currently have to pay in interest.

**MORE AND BETTER AID:** All the wealthy countries of the world agreed that they would try to give 0.7% of their annual income (GNI) in aid, but most still do not do so. The campaign wants them to try harder.

### Success is possible!

Kuapa Kokoo is a co-operative of cocoa growers in Ghana, West Africa. The farmers used to be very poor but now, due to new fairer trading systems, they are doing better. Kuapa Kokoo means 'good cocoa farmers' and their slogan is Pa Pa Paa – 'best of the best'!

We can buy Fair trade goods in our shops. Barna Ahmad works in Dhaka, Bangladesh making hand-crafted products. The incense she makes is now sold in Body Shop in the UK. She was a migrant and used to be poor, requiring help to survive. She is now independent and doing well – thanks to her own hard work, the association she works for and the people who buy her incense!

The country of Madagascar used to owe £340 million to the World Bank. The Bank has been persuaded to cancel £267 million of that debt so the burden to Madagascar is now less. More needs to be cancelled, but progress is being made.

Think about the Make Poverty History campaign and discuss some of the issues.

Choose an issue you find particularly important and make a leaflet or poster which will inform others about it in a clear way. If the issue is important to you, you will want to persuade others of your points, so remember to use persuasive language.

... Do you want to know more about the Make Poverty History campaign  
Go to [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)