

# Make Poverty History

## Introduction to the Make Poverty History campaign



“This is not about charity, it’s about justice.” Bono, September 2004

In July 2005, 36 million people in over 70 countries united under the Global Call to Action against Poverty, and demanded that the world’s leaders act to overcome the injustice of global poverty.

In the UK, a quarter of a million people marched across Edinburgh demanding that the G8 take action, and across the world 2 billion people tuned in to watch Live 8. They demanded that leaders deliver debt cancellation, more and better aid, and trade justice. They set a new goal for this generation – to make poverty history.



The G8 leaders responded by agreeing to cancel the debts owed by 40 of the world’s poorest countries. They promised to increase aid to poor countries by \$50 billion by 2010, with half of this going to Africa. They promised to increase humanitarian aid and to support peace-keeping and arms control, and they called for a world trade deal that favours poor nations.

Finally, they agreed to tackle climate change. They didn't promise everything the campaign wanted, but they did promise a lot.

**This resource** provides you with all you need to revisit the issues raised by the Make Poverty History campaign, and remind your pupils that while we achieved some important changes through the campaign, we still need to keep pressure on politicians to keep their promises.

Created by Global Express, the materials help young people to critically reflect on actions they may have taken to support Make Poverty History, and to evaluate how effective the campaign was. It was written towards the end of 2005, but its content is still relevant and could easily be adapted for use in lessons about the legacy and impact of Make Poverty History.

It is aimed at teachers of 8-14 year olds, and includes information about key events in 2005 (the G8 Summit, Live8, the UN Millennium Summit in New York).

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