

Deliver a wake-up call – Ring the bell



Ringling the school bell at Mashimoni Squatters Primary School, Kibera, Kenya
Ami Vitale/Oxfam.

This resource presents The Wake Up Call, a campaign action for young people aged 8-18 to take in partnership with their teachers. It encourages young people to further explore the impact climate change is having upon poor people and make their voices heard on this crucial issue. The Wake Up Call encourages participants to act on a global level through a local action.

September 21: Deliver a wake up call on climate change

It is now less than 100 days until the COP15 climate change conference at Copenhagen in December. This meeting of world leaders provides a crucial opportunity for the global community to agree a fair, ambitious and binding treaty on climate change. For more information about the UN COP15 climate change conference see <http://en.cop15.dk/>

Late September sees a flurry of global climate decision-making in advance of the main Copenhagen conference. There's the UN High Level Summit on September 22, the G20 in

Pittsburgh on September 24-25 and the Bangkok Climate Change Intersessional meeting on September 28-October 9.

So this is an ideal time for young people to help influence these global events.

Much citizenship education focuses on young people making their voices heard on a local or national scale. Influencing global events is much more challenging, both for young people and campaigning organisations like Oxfam.

For this reason Oxfam participates in global coalitions aiming to influence worldwide change. Our coalition partners in delivering the wake-up call on climate change is the Global Campaign for Climate Action (<http://gc-ca.org/>) and the Tck Tck Tck campaign (<http://tcktcktck.org/>)



September 21: Ring the bell at 12.18

At 12.18 on September 20 Tck Tck Tck's massive human clock in New York City will deliver a global wake-up call for world leaders to go to Copenhagen and agree an ambitious, fair and binding treaty to prevent catastrophic climate change.

24 hours later, at 12.18 on Monday September 21, Tck Tck Tck, is calling on people around the world to deliver a wake up call to leaders on their mobile phone, watch and clock alarms.

Oxfam in England is asking schools to ring the school bell or design a similar action at 12.18 on Monday 21 September or as soon as possible after this date.

Young People's Participation

Oxfam supports the active participation of young people as global citizens. This is supported by the aims of the new National Curriculum for Secondary Schools and the Every Child Matters Agenda.

Much campaigning aimed at adults asks them to follow a prescribed action, such as signing a petition, completing an action card or, in this case, ringing their mobile phone alarms. Oxfam aims to engage young people in campaigning differently. We believe there is educational value in working with young people as they design and organise their own actions within the broad umbrella of a national or international campaign such as the 'Wake Up Call'.

There are more detailed guidelines to our broad teaching and learning aims in the booklet 'Education for Global Citizenship. A Guide for Schools' at <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/gc/>

The DFES has published a scheme of work for KS4 Citizenship on 'Taking a Part – Planning a Community Event.' Some of the suggested activities may be useful in helping students to plan a campaigning action. The Scheme of Work is at <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/ks4citizenship/cit07/?view=get>

Another useful toolkit for planning participatory learning for young people is provided by Roger Hart (1997) 'Children's Participation: The Theory and Practice of Involving Young Citizens in Community Development and Environmental Care' (UNICEF). Searching online for 'Hart's Ladder of Participation' will yield useful summaries.

In this context we invite young people to participate with their teachers to make a Wake Up Call to world leaders.

Planning the action

The school council or a similar group of students could meet with teachers to discuss their support for the Wake Up Call. They would have to agree their participation in the Wake Up Call and decide how to best organise taking the action at 12.18 on September 21

The main aim of the action is to wake up world leaders. Therefore if schools have an alternative idea to ringing the school bell, such as making some music or reading Shakespeare out loud, then that's fine. It's up to schools to decide what works best. Schools might even decide on different actions for different classes or it may be appropriate for just certain classes to take part – as long as the action will wake our leaders up!

If schools can't take the action on September 21 then it's fine to plan for another day before October 9, when the Bangkok Intersessional Conference closes.

Taking the action

The students organising the campaign should work with teachers to inform the school community of the action. Otherwise the action will have no meaning for students and ringing the bell could even confuse students and teachers about lesson changeover. For people to take a campaign action they need to agree on what the action is, why they're doing it and what the intended results are.

The best ways to do this are through an assembly, lessons and/or the school website or newsletter. Oxfam can help with preparing and delivering assemblies – see the contact details below.

Recording and reporting the action

Next schools should make a count of the number of people taking the action. Maybe a class rep could make a count and all the figures could be added up. Remember to only count people who know about the action and are taking part.

It would be great if schools took photos or videos clips and send them to Oxfam and did a press release for the local papers. We may wish to use these in our own campaigns publications or share them with the press and other media, so please ensure that parents have given their permission for any images of their children to be used in this way. It is our policy not to identify individual young people featured in photographs or video clips we use by name (more information about Oxfam's child protection policy is available from the contact details below).

Then tell Oxfam about your school's action and any press coverage you received at the relevant contact address below. The GCCA coalition partners will be telling world leaders just how many people made the wake-up call, and this will include your school. It would be great if students who helped organise the campaign took responsibility for contacting us, but we'd be happy to hear from teachers too.

Being part of a global movement

Look out in the media for the GCCA coalition partners delivering the wake-up call to the UN and the G20, the presentation of the tck tck tck petition to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the screening of Wake Up Call videos at the UN.

Also get up to date news of the impact of your school's actions from www.oxfam.org.uk, www.gc-ca.org and www.tcktcktck.org.

Oxfam contact details and further support

Oxfam's youth and schools campaigners will help you to plan, deliver and follow up your school's Wake Up Call to world leaders. Please tell us what you decide to do to wake up the world.

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