



# Young people on the global stage: their education and their influence

## Communiqué

*We as young people in the UK, Spain, The Gambia and Kenya welcome the 2030 Development Agenda titled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development’ which defined the Sustainable Development Goals as adopted by the 193 countries of the United Nations General Assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015.*

*We believe that the goals are ambitious and have the potential to transform the lives of millions of people around the world. We recognise that the goals are inter-related, and that solutions depend on collaboration between people and countries.*

*We believe that in addressing these goals we should seek to harness the enthusiasm and creativity of young people in finding solutions and taking action across the world. This communiqué and the activities of young people in its development is a contribution towards goal 4 target 7.*

*After a period of research, discussion and debate, we have identified our priorities for the next 15 years and actions to achieve them. We want to make these a reality, and want your support in achieving that ambition.*



## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Poverty exists in all countries. There are many reasons for it and it is a problem which affects everyone. Poverty means that some people have fewer chances in life: it can lead to hunger and death. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty because gender inequality means that their access to resources such as land or education is restricted. Poverty has an impact on the environment, and in turn is affected by it.

We want:

- ◆ to make sure everyone has equal chances by removing barriers wherever they exist. Projects such as microfinance will help to empower people in making their own lives better.
- ◆ to improve infrastructure so that countries that produce raw materials can also manufacture higher value products and so improve the lives of their populations.
- ◆ to create more sustainable job opportunities.

*In order to achieve this we need to learn more about real global issues in schools, and work with politicians and decision makers to develop and implement new approaches.*



## End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Hunger exists everywhere – including our countries of the UK, Spain, Kenya and The Gambia. There are many reasons for this from lack of money to buy food, to low crop yields because of changing climate or inefficient technology, to choices about land use depending on market pressures, to food distribution locally and globally, to access to resources, and the ability to produce our own food. Inequality between production and consumption of food in countries should be eliminated.

We want:

- ◆ to implement the solutions to hunger that are already available including improving investment in food production, identifying the most appropriate technology to use, and improving access to land in rural and urban areas so that more people can produce food for themselves.
- ◆ to decrease the amount of food wasted in the current production and marketing systems, especially in rich countries.
- ◆ to look at how we can improve our own ability to produce food.
- ◆ to implement better, more equal food distribution systems based on need, which redress the balance between rich and poor countries.
- ◆ to ensure access to water for consumption and food production.

*To achieve this we need to learn more about where food comes from, how we can produce our own food, and take action to improve food distribution locally and globally. One way to do this is to develop and implement school and community approaches that provide food locally.*



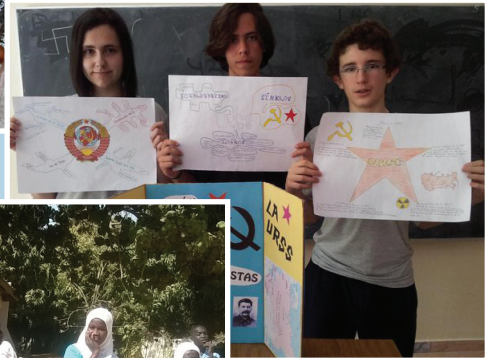
## Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for everyone

Education is a powerful way to change the future and achieve a more just and sustainable world. Without education there is a domino effect – it is harder to get a job and harder to build a future.

We want:

- ◆ education that promotes innovation and creativity.
- ◆ equal access to quality education for all.
- ◆ sustainability and sustainability education to be more prominent in all school curricula.

*Education that meets the needs of all young people now and in the future is the way to achieve the SDG's. We continue to commit ourselves to achieving this goal in our schools.*





## Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender affects income and life opportunities such as access to land and education. Gender inequality within a country and between countries affects everyone. Practices which discriminate against women and girls mean that they are not represented equally in decision making, especially at the top level.

We want:

- ✦ to remove barriers to achievement based on gender wherever they exist.
- ✦ to empower women in political and economic decisions at every level.

*To achieve this we will challenge gender stereotypes wherever they exist by taking positive action, such as in school sports. We will empower women and girls in our communities to become decision makers.*



## Transforming human towns and settlements into safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable places

Good quality buildings which provide housing and spaces to live, work and have fun will make life better for everyone. Things that make us laugh and enjoy ourselves, such as clowns, improve our health and well-being. Using spaces such as the entrance to closed metro stations to hold social and cultural activities will help to make the area safer and bring people together. Places with poor infrastructure, where people are not involved in decision making or communities where there is violent conflict have bigger challenges in achieving this. The way we design and use our buildings requires different approaches in different situations and we need creative solutions to address them.

We want:

- ✦ more social housing with access to basic, sustainable supplies such as clean water and sanitation, energy and waste management systems.
- ✦ strong, inclusive communities with effective policing to keep areas safe.
- ✦ houses and buildings that will stand the test of time and be sustainable socially, economically and environmentally.
- ✦ improved infrastructure to provide healthcare, employment and education.
- ✦ an end to conflict.

*To achieve this we will welcome new people into our area, especially refugees fleeing conflict. We will get involved in our communities and volunteer to help make them friendlier, safer more sustainable places. We will work with others to find creative solutions to problems such as what is needed for a successful composting scheme in the slums in Nairobi.*



## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Globally the process of producing goods to buy in the shops or food and energy makes a lot of waste. When we use raw materials such as trees and don't replant new ones, or use finite resources such as oil, or divert water to manufacturing, we damage the environment. Sustainable production and consumption includes looking the rights and working conditions of workers involved. A global system of production

and consumption needs everyone to take responsibility for ensuring sustainability at each step. This needs creativity and innovation: for example how can mobile phone users support a sustainable production process? Can we power a phone without using electricity? What will happen to the phone once the user has finished with it?

We want:

- ◆ to reduce the amount of waste, and if all else fails, use it in a clean way to generate energy.
- ◆ to find alternative ways of making things from renewable sources rather than oil.
- ◆ to ensure everyone whether producer or consumer takes responsibility to make sure we achieve sustainable production and consumption.

*To achieve this we will improve our understanding of different types of waste – production, food, water, energy, transport – and help individuals and communities to take action to reduce their own waste. We will also develop alternative systems using innovative technology to improve the sustainability of our systems, for example can we produce light without using electricity or the waste products associated with electricity, such as the gravity light?*



## Protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of forests, fighting desertification, stopping and reversing ground degradations and stopping biodiversity loss

Our world has a rich natural environment that sustains all life. Many factors threaten this environment including human encroachment, loss of biodiversity due to poaching wild animals, exploitation of habitats for raw materials, and the damaging effects of climate change.

We want:

- ◆ to implement measures to enhance and protect biodiversity.
- ◆ to end poaching and unnecessary killing of protected wildlife.
- ◆ to find creative solutions so that humans and nature can co-exist without damage to one or the other.
- ◆ to halt global warming and limit the impact of climate change.

*To achieve this we will seek new ways of doing things which limit our impact on the environment such as developing green energy, planting trees, or reducing, repairing, reusing and refusing before we look at recycling.*



## Strengthening and reinforcing alliances for sustainable development and its ways of implementation

Everyone has a responsibility for taking action if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Schools can play an important role in developing sustainable communities. We can use the strength of Initiatives such as eco-schools and social networks to solve local and global crisis.

We need to work in a way which gets rid of anti-development practices, which ensures wide and inclusive participation from the population, which removes discriminatory practices, and respects the fundamental rights of the population working in harmony with the environment,

We want:

- ♦ to work collaboratively with other countries, sharing what we know and learning from them.
- ♦ to use social media and technology to set up networks of people working together for change.

*To achieve this we will continue to work in our schools making local and global connections, learning from each other and collaborating to make the world a better place. We will also encourage others to do the same, now and in the future.*

### ‘Young people on the global stage: their education and influence’

is a three year creative curriculum development project for secondary students, co-funded by the European Union.



Project partners are Tide~ global learning and University of Exeter in the UK, FERE-CECA Madrid in Spain, A Rocha Kenya in Kenya and TANGO in The Gambia.



To find out more about the project and for a full list of those involved in producing this communiqué go to [www.tidegloballearning.net](http://www.tidegloballearning.net)

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