



Global Student Forum 2005

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

www.globalstudentforum.org

What Happened Next?

A Report and Evaluation

September 2006



In July 2005, 1,240 sixth form students from 133 schools attended the first ever Global Student Forum, in London, England. Such was the demand for tickets that the conference had to be repeated on a second day.

The conference was a great success as measured by the feedback from teachers and students at the time – such as...

“It was a brilliant day, me and my friends haven’t shut up about it and everyone else now wishes they came too!”

Anna Smith, Lower Sixth Student, Waddeson C of E School

“The best organised conference I have ever been to”

Georgina Pearson, Head of Sixth Form, Queen Elizabeth Girls’ School, Barnet

But it didn’t stop there; our vision has always been that the Global Student Forum was far more than just a one-day conference. In fact, we saw the conference primarily as a launch-pad that sent the students back to their schools and their local communities motivated, trained and equipped to communicate the issues around the subject they had explored that day.

That certainly has happened. We have heard so many stories of how The Global Student Forum 2005 made a huge impact in the lives of those who attended – and then, through them, on the lives of many others that they reached. This report aims to tell you some of those stories – under four headings...Peer Education, Press, Personal Development and Practical Activity. Then, on the back page, there is some advance information on the results we are already hearing from Global Student Forum 2006.

Nick Pollard
Co-founder of the Global Student Forum



Peer Education

We believe that peer-education is one of the most effective methods of enabling students to explore significant issues around global citizenship on an ongoing basis, and we have been amazed at the scale of encouraging feedback received from teachers about the impact on schools made by students who were inspired and equipped at GSF 2005 to go back as peer-educators.



Some schools found the peer-education sparked by GSF 2005 to be so effective that they have now built it into their curriculum for the future!

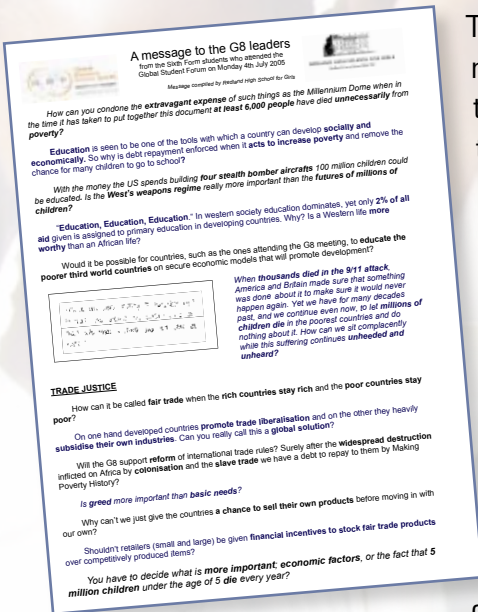
Elizabethan High School invited the students who attended GSF 2005 to train 30 other sixth formers at the school to be peer-educators, using the information and skills they had been taught at the conference. These 40 sixth formers then led PHSE lessons for year 7 and 8 students, between them covering over 100 lessons!

The students from Stokesley School who attended GSF 2005 contributed to the school's Personal Development Curriculum by using skills and material from the conference to develop workshops on Global Aid, Trade and Debt, which they successfully presented to inform and enthuse other students.

Sixth formers from Hillcrest School had a great time delivering PSD lessons to all year 7s as well as conducting 2 weeks of assemblies that included a 'Make Poverty History' film that they edited themselves from the conference material.

Press

The Global Student Forum 2005 received a lot of positive national press coverage, in addition to helping schools to develop good local press contacts for subsequent years.



The students who attended GSF 2005 compiled two written messages and a video message to the G8 Leaders, which they sent to Tony Blair. The Prime Minister advised us that the G8 Presidency team at the Foreign Commonwealth Office would forward these messages to his G8 colleagues and he also wrote a personal reply to the organisers of GSF, congratulating them on providing young people with the 'opportunity to debate and discuss global issues in a lively and meaningful way' and describing students' subsequent interest and involvement as 'highly welcome'.

Global Student Forum 2005 was featured in the *Observer* newspaper and *Church Times* in addition to many online publications, including the Global Village website, World Vision online and Christian Aid online. The conference was

also featured on *BBC South Today* who sent a representative to film it and many schools had their participation flagged up in the local press.

A group of students from St. Francis' College wrote an inspiring review of GSF 2005 that was published in *Teaching Citizenship* magazine, which described the conference as 'a great success'. Another student from the college, Malvika Saraogi, had her reflection on Make Poverty History published in *RE Today*.



Personal Development

Teachers have fed back very encouraging reports of how students developed personally through their experience of GSF 2005 either directly or through contact with students who attended.

Following their peer-educator training at GSF 2005, Julia Payne from Perse School for Girls commented that her students ***'were most impressive in organising and leading assemblies and a citizenship day session. They communicated effectively with younger pupils and showed real leadership.'***

At Hillcrest School, teachers noted that the personal development of students was ***'Excellent'***. They observed that otherwise quiet and unconfident sixth formers found they loved working with Year 7 students and noted that the conference had acted as a ***'general confidence booster'*** - an opinion shared by several other schools. Hillcrest School also found that personal development was not limited to those students who had attended the conference. An interest in Fair Trade was sparked in many students and remains a talking point at the school.



Wadebridge School found that their students developed as confident speakers and became prepared to stand up for issues that matter, highlighted by their eagerness to raise money for charities and pursue their Make Poverty History campaign even after leaving the school.

Practical Activity

We have received many exciting reports of students who attended the conference going back and taking practical action after having been inspired and equipped to make a difference.



Students from Hillcrest Sixth Form organised a Make Poverty History event to coincide with the G8 summit in Edinburgh. Part of this was a graphical representation inviting students to have their bodies traced on the ground with masking tape, each one representing 1,000 children who would die that day due to poverty - 40,000 in total. They also set up a fair trade shop selling Traidcraft items and raised awareness of the Make Poverty History campaign.

Emily Brown from Great Baddow High School went back from GSF 2005 determined to communicate what she had learned about ethical consumerism and buying fair trade clothing.

'I thought not many people from our school would be willing to do that, so we thought we could showcase it in a fashion show...We also thought that it would be a really good platform to raise awareness of the causes of poverty and how to alleviate them...It raised lots of money for a school in Tibet...now the school is really encouraged, they're all continuing the work and are really excited about future projects.' Emily's creativity and ingenuity has won her a nomination for the national 2006 Champions of Respect Awards.

Sixth formers from Budmouth Technology College went back and became involved in lobbying for Fair Trade Status for Weymouth, which was subsequently gained in March 2006, while at Elizabethan High School, even the students from year 7 and 8 who had received peer-education lessons were inspired to organise a Developing World Fundraising Day - proceeds paid for water aid, reuniting families, a camel and several chickens!



**Advance
Information**



**Global
Student
Forum 2006**

stop AIDS

www.globalstudentforum.org

Global Student Forum 2006 Feedback

Since 2005, Global Student Forum 2006 has taken place. This focussed on crucial issues highlighted by the Stop AIDS Campaign, and already feedback is starting to come in.



Students from Stratton Upper School have already put their skills into action:

'A week after the Global forum, we used our new found knowledge for the first time as we taught four fifty minute sessions to the up and coming Year 12s on their induction day into Sixth Form...We presented a collection of activities from the Peer Educator Pack and from our own input and experience of the conference...We got some really positive feedback and some brilliant ideas...We aim to continue to keep active and the issue fresh in everyone's minds to raise people's awareness within our school and wider community. We feel it is our obligation as Global Students to spread the good work and important messages.'



In July, the *Western Mail and Echo* newspaper reported *'Teenagers are demanding better sex education, more awareness of HIV and AIDS and action from the Government to fight the epidemic and save lives'* after interviewing students from Radyr Comprehensive School who attended GSF 2006. Students said: ***'Our aim is to inspire others the way we were inspired. We feel strongly about this issue now'*** and ***'The conference opened our minds to the fact that we have a voice'***.

In addition to delivering assemblies and PSME lessons next term, students from Churston Ferrers Grammar School made a presentation to their MP, which was covered by local press. They are planning to take their peer educator skills to another school's sixth form and have also met with a representative from Christian Aid to arrange visits to support work in primary schools, educating younger pupils about HIV and AIDS.

For more information as this impact continues in the future, please see
www.globalstudentforum.org

