



Global Student Forum  
www.globalstudentforum.org

**Attention: News Editor**

**For immediate release**

**PUPILS-TURNED-PRODUCERS WIN PRAISE OF PROFESSIONALS**

**(LONDON -- 14.6.10) --** A MASTERCLASS in effective peer education.

That's how film director **Debbie Isitt** summed up *Reflection*, an award-winning short film launched in London (Thur 3 June) by nine sixth formers from Grantham.

*Reflection* documents how UK teenagers' day-to-day lifestyles affect some of the poorest children in the world - contrasting a typical morning in a British suburb with a poor village in Africa.

Film: [www.globalstudentforum.org/reflection](http://www.globalstudentforum.org/reflection)

"It's so difficult to make a film," said Debbie, writer/director of *Confetti!* and Christmas hit *Nativity!* "The girls managed it by having a strong message and being really motivated. *Reflection* is beautifully crafted and subtle. My 10-year-old's eyes were wide open."

Isitt was joined by the Minister for International Development, Stephen O'Brien and Channel 4 News broadcaster Jon Snow for the award ceremony held at the Department for International Development in London.

"Sarah, the British suburban girl featured in film, appears moody and self-absorbed," continued Debbie. "Ignoring the state of the world round her, she studies her complexion in the mirror - I did it myself this morning. Children may be dying but my spots, my spots! By contrast and in spite of poverty, the African kids are full of life and joy. I like that!"

Jon Snow, who challenged more than 500 sixth formers at last year's annual Global Student Forum to come up with an idea for a film that would "move their peers' hearts and minds", congratulated the girls. "*Reflection* is poignant and sophisticated," he added.

"The students clearly understand the power of film to affect viewers' hearts and minds," said **Lord David Puttnam**. "I hope that many people see their excellent short film and that it will change, for good, many hearts and minds around the world."

One of the award-winning students, Sophie Duffree, said: "We took up the challenge because we were shocked by what we heard about child mortality. We didn't want to put people on a guilt trip, we wanted them to re-assess their own situation and motivate them to make a difference."

Global Student Forum is a one-day conference which empowers hundreds of sixth formers to return to their schools and become peer educators on international development issues. The film *Reflection* will be another key resource at their disposal in lessons, assemblies and workshops.

The girls also met actor **Martin Freeman**, toured Channel 4 News, were received in the Houses of Parliament by their local MP Nick Boles (Grantham and Stamford) and were given a class in film promotion by **Pathe Pictures**. The next Global Student Forum will be held later this month (Tue 29

June, Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, London) where the theme will be 'Education Beats Poverty'.

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• Release issued for Global Student Forum by Stephen Goddard Associates. More info: 01744 733898 or 07930 198209. GSF website: [www.globalstudentforum.org](http://www.globalstudentforum.org)

### **Notes for editors**

1. The mission of Global Student Forum is to enable school students to critically explore contemporary development issues; and their role as global citizens. In doing so we expect there will be changes in their knowledge, attitudes and actions; and that they will be empowered to work towards a more just and sustainable world for everyone.

2. GSF was started by educational charity Damaris Trust and is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development. GSF is also sponsored by Christian Aid, The Damaris Trust and World Vision.