



Global Student Forum  
www.globalstudentforum.org

## **Attention: News Editor**

### **For immediate release**

#### **AFRICAN SINGER HELPS STUDENTS GET VERSED IN GLOBAL ISSUES**

SUMMER HOLIDAYS may beckon - but local sixth formers went to London this week (Tue 29 June) to learn how going to school can beat poverty.

547 students from 54 schools across the UK attended the annual Global Student Forum (GSF) where they critically explored contemporary development issues and engaged with politicians, development practitioners and campaigners.

They also met the former child soldier, now internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Ben Okafor who wrote and sang a brand new song – and then invited the students to rewrite it!

Ben's song 'One Goal' is part of the international 1GOAL campaign for universal primary education supported by FIFA (see [www.join1goal.org](http://www.join1goal.org)) and luminaries like Gary Lineker, David James and Andy Cole.

In a special competition following the forum GSF students have been challenged to write and record their own verses to the song - the best being used in the final recording.

GSF, founded in 2005 by social entrepreneurs Nick & Carol Pollard, also featured multi-media presentations and workshops plus speakers from around the world. Equipped with a DVD of special educational resources, the students were challenged to return to their schools and become peer educators - by leading assemblies and lessons on the issues raised at the forum.

Among a range of leading speakers at GSF was the Minister for International Development, Stephen O'Brien, who said: "I'd like to thank each of the students for the work they'll be doing to teach others about global poverty. Their efforts will influence so many people to take vital action on the issues facing millions of people across the world blighted by poverty."

*(ends)*

- Release issued by Stephen Goddard Associates (01744 733898 or 07930 198209)

### **Notes for editors**

1. More information on the Global Student Forum is available from the GSF website: [www.globalstudentforum.org](http://www.globalstudentforum.org). A full set of photos of the event is available from [www.globalstudentforum.org/pages/gsfphotos](http://www.globalstudentforum.org/pages/gsfphotos)
2. 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.
3. GSF was started by the social entrepreneurs Nick & Carol Pollard and is funded by UKaid

from the Department for International Development. GSF is also sponsored by Christian Aid, The Damaris Trust and World Vision.

4. Ben Okafor's song, One Goal, can be seen and downloaded at [www.globalstudentforum.org/mediapartnership](http://www.globalstudentforum.org/mediapartnership)..