



student action on world poverty and the environment

Proposal for second campaign theme from 2009/10

DEADLINE for ideas Sunday 6 January 2008

<http://peopleandplanet.org/forum/08>

Your details

Please provide the names of People & Planet group members who are putting this proposal forward (there may be up to 4 proposers but there should be at least 2):

Proposer 1

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Your proposal for second campaign theme from 2009/10

Total word limit for this section: **1000 words**.

Title	Child Poverty
Summary of your proposal for The Forum Guide (no more than 200 words).	<p>What about the kids? This broad theme could lead to a whole range of new and exciting campaign strands focusing on global injustices that have a disproportionate effect on children. A major strength of this proposal is that it can be campaigned on at many levels, from the very local to the international.</p> <p>It can also be incorporated with areas such as arms (child soldiers) and economic justice (child labour). It is especially relevant in the context of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and the UK government's pledge to end domestic child poverty by 2020.</p> <p>This proposal is flexible and has something for all types of P&P groups to campaign on, from inner-city sixth form groups to cosmopolitan universities. Campaigning could be fun and interactive, making links with local schools and youth groups.</p>

Political lobbying would obviously be a key part of any campaigns.

The other theme will (for some time) be climate change. What more complementary theme is there than to campaign on behalf of some younger people to populate our resuscitated planet?

What is the proposed campaign theme?

It is Child Poverty. This could lead to campaigns in group's own backyards (somewhere that P&P is occasionally accused of forgetting) but also on an international level.

To expand briefly on both of those:

UK Child Poverty

Facts from Joseph Rowntree Foundation:

- The proportion of children living in poverty has **doubled** in the past generation.
- The UK has **proportionally more** poor children than most rich countries.
- In 1999, **the Prime Minister committed to ending child poverty** by 2020.
- In 2005, **3.4 million** children were living in poverty.
- **700,000 children** have been lifted out of poverty between 1998 and 2005.
- This is a **reduction of 17%**. The **target was 25%**.

There are important issues of children's health (especially mental) that might be incorporated into campaigns.

What could P&P do about it?

Make links with local charities and other organisations, as well as schools and youth centres, and the Youth Parliament and Council.

Political lobbying on a national and local (council) level.

Hands on actions, such as improving local environments/spaces.

Global issues affecting children

As mentioned, this could cut across pretty much every injustice out there. Particular examples are child soldiers, child labour, AIDS orphans, access to health and educational facilities and of course the impacts of environmental degradation.

Relevant Millennium Development Goals targeted at 2015:

All of them, but especially

- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2) Achieve universal primary education
- 4) Reduce child mortality
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

What could P&P do about it?

Political pressure in the years leading up to 2015, at G8 summits and other set pieces.

Create links between the local and international (such as through twinning programmes, through schools or just P&P groups making solidarity links with activists in the South).

Why are you proposing this campaign theme?

1 . . . is a significant human rights, poverty and/or environmental injustice.

Embodies notions of broken promises, intergenerational responsibility and root causes – thinking about children encompasses the bigger principles across our entire work.

2 . . . is raised by those affected or in solidarity with them.

Speaking up for those with less capacity to make their voice heard. More importantly, working to actually give children themselves more of a voice rather than speaking for them.

3 . . . can be tackled by People & Planet as a student network.

Yes (covered elsewhere)

4 . . . could include a variety of campaign goals and targets developed.

Yes (covered above)

5 . . . is meaningful to students across the People & Planet Network, by age, geography, interest experience and skills.

Yes. As mentioned, this proposal is flexible to all sorts of groups.

6 . . . has opportunities for cooperation with other groups, including those in the Global South.

There are valuable links to be made with other groups, especially those orientated more towards charity than campaigning.

Examples include UNICEF, Save the Children, Barnardos and Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Often 'community action' societies exist on campus, such as Edinburgh's Children's Holiday Venture <http://www.chv.org.uk/>

7 . . . can be contributed to by People & Planet in a unique way and plays on our strengths as a student network.

Having said the above, we think that P&P could add something valuable to the movement. None of the above national groups are especially student specific. Combining international and local campaigns would make us particularly distinctive. We are not afraid of being overtly 'political' and could be a bit more confrontational than others.

8 . . . has a body of research and resources available to us in order to develop the campaign.

Loads!

See the below for starters:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/child-poverty/>

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/resources/research_and_tips/campaign_documents.htm

<http://www.unicef.org/publications/index.html>

<http://www.child-soldiers.org/>

9 . . . fits in with and draws from current and past People & Planet's campaigns.

Our past campaigns have included some element of the particular situation of children, but this hasn't been a central campaign goal (i.e. the crises facing AIDS orphans as a result of insufficient treatment access). The spotlight would be on the political character of these challenges and not just the buying-a-latrine band-aids.

As mentioned, it would also complement the climate change theme well.

If you need any help or advice relating to completing this form please contact your support office contact or Joe in the Forum team joe.greenwood@peopleandplanet.org or call 01865 245678

When completed, please return by email to forum@peopleandplanet.org