



student action on world poverty and the environment

What else do you want to see on the agenda at the Forum 2008?

DEADLINE Monday 26 November 2007
<http://peopleandplanet.org/forum/08>

Your details

Please provide the names of 2 network members who are putting this proposal forward (they can be from the same group):

Proposer 1

Name	Rachel Reid
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Proposer 2

Name	Rhiannon Horsley
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Your proposal

Total word limit for this section: **500 words**.

Categories for proposal: finance and fundraising, present campaign, group support, communications, democracy, network, other, events

Which category does your proposal best fit into? (see http://peopleandplanet.org/forum/08/other_issues/categories)	Communications
Title	People and Planet National Newspaper/Magazine
Summary of your proposal (no more than 30 words). For example, a topic for discussion, a position to debate or suggested course of action (like a motion).	A topic for discussion, then course of action. Discussing how we can provide an alternative media to raise awareness of neglected issues, and improve the image of activism.
What is the proposed agenda item? The Network is full of people knowledgeable about, or at least interested in, issues of human rights, poverty, environmental and development. It is frustrating to see mainstream media running the same old stories whilst we learn of other important and newsworthy issues. For instance, at Shared Planet some of us attended the 'Stop the Trafik' Workshop, about an illegal industry (second only to the Arms Trade) – how often do we hear about this in mainstream media? Darfur is another example. It would be great if groups from across the network could collaborate on an alternative media, possibly but not necessarily a newspaper/magazine, to bring such news to light. Suggested actions to take could be included	

in articles, encouraging campaigning, and we could run campaign success stories too.
(Write about what you would like to see on the Forum agenda in more detail here).

Why is this important for People & Planet?

It would be an exciting way to raise awareness of the issues and campaigns and learn more ourselves. Whilst the Action Updates are useful for members of the network, and the Journal gives people a chance to write about issues important to them, neither reaches the general public or even the general student population; this could. Having a People and Planet magazine or newspaper would allow activists the freedom often denied with student papers and it would reach a wider audience, so that we aren't just informing those who already care enough to do something.

It could also help improve the often negative portrayal of activists in the media by showing that a) campaigners aren't just reacting to the issues at face value but looking into them and b) that activists are a range of intelligent individuals, not just the archetypal anarchist or hippies, and can create change.

Most importantly, it is vital that we speak out and tell as many people as we can about injustices and human rights abuses.

(For example, why is it valuable to discuss or if implemented, how will it make P&P more effective?)

How could it be implemented? *(if applicable)*

The network, with the support of the office, could elect either new people or existing representatives such as Regional Reps or Campaign Advocates to put the magazine together. This could be edited by members of the network or office and distributed nationally in student unions and local towns. Other NGOs, charities or ethical companies could help finance the magazine through advertising in it, and activists in other countries could also submit articles or help us research.

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