

# TAKING ACTION



“ The future depends on what you do today.

Mahatma Gandhi ”



## Purpose

Explore different ideas for taking action, including through existing Trócaire programmes.



## Materials

- Game Changers Educator Guide
- Game Changers Student Workbook
- The Right Focus Educator Guide

Taking action is a key part of global citizenship education (GCE). It is important that we not only engage our head and our heart with global justice issues through the activities included on the Tree of Justice, but that we also look for ways to roll up our sleeves and use our hands to take action and make a difference.

## Different Ways to Take Action

### Awareness Raising

The most important first step is to raise awareness of the global justice issue you are focusing on. There are many different ways to do this:

- Create posters to hang around your school
- Create a noticeboard or display in a specific location in your school
- Create a website or use social media
- Set up a photo exhibition in your school
- Make a short documentary on your chosen global justice issue (See [The Right Focus](#))
- Make a game for younger students to play (See [Game Changers](#))

### Campaigning

Campaigns are a great way to bring about change at different levels, building on awareness raising. There are many different campaigning tools to consider:



Trócaire staff, partners and campaigners join TDs to celebrate the passing through the Dáil of Deputy Thomas Pringle's Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill on 12 July 2018.

Photo credit: Mark Steadman.

- Online petitions
- Speak to people in power (local councillors, TDs, MPs, MEPs), either in person or perhaps by email
- Hold a meeting in your school with local community leaders or politicians
- Join with others working on the same issues (See the [Irish Schools Sustainability Network](#))
- Get your community involved
- Volunteer with an organisation working on global justice issues

## Game Changers

Game Changers is a programme and competition for young people who are interested in investigating and exploring issues of global justice, and are committed to taking action to raise awareness of these issues with others. Using games-based learning (GBL) and game design, young people choose an issue of global justice related to the SDGs and create a game that raises awareness of their chosen issue through the game play.



Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, were winners in the post-primary category as well as overall winners of Game Changers 2021 by popular vote with their game 'The Hunt for Human Rights'.

Photo credit: Garry Walsh.

## The Right Focus

The Right Focus is Trócaire's new documentary film-making programme, exploring global justice issues through the lens of short documentary films. It is aimed at young people in post-primary schools and youth groups throughout Ireland who have a passion for global justice, are interested in documentary film-making and want to make a difference.

Documentary film-making is one of the most powerful ways to raise awareness and communicate with a wide audience on global justice issues, to bring these injustices front and centre in people's minds and hopefully inspire them to take action and make a difference. All you need is a passion for a global justice issue, a smartphone and the techniques you will gain through the programme.



Students from St Dominic's Grammar School, Belfast, with Trócaire's Mary Coogan and Emmet Sheerin celebrating winning an award in The Right Focus competition for their documentary, *Stand Up!*

Photo credit: Peter Houlihan.

Any of the global justice issues explored through the Tree of Justice (the impact of climate change in Somalia; the actions of big business in Guatemala; the Israeli occupation of Palestine) are suitable as the subject for Trócaire's development education programmes explained above. Students can also choose any other global justice issue that they are interested in as the chosen issue for the programmes. For more information, please see the educator guides for Game Changers and The Right Focus on the review branch of the Tree of Justice.