



HANSARD
SOCIETY

HeadsUp Forum

www.headsup.org.uk

'The G8... Who benefits from globalisation' (June 20th - July 8th 2005)

An online platform providing young people with a secure and structured space to discuss their perspectives on the G8 summit and international issues

'The G8... Who benefits from globalisation?' was an online debate where young people could share their perspectives on the 2005 G8 summit and international affairs.

The G8 is the name of an organisation made up of the eight richest and most powerful countries. Every year the leaders of these countries meet up to discuss the major international political and economic issues. In 2005 the UK held the presidency of the G8 and the group met in Scotland from July 6th - 8th.

This Forum was held to promote awareness of how the global economy has developed, how this has had an impact on the lives of British citizens and citizens in countries around the world. In keeping with the objective of HeadsUp, special attention was paid to how British politics has shaped and been shaped by globalisation.

During the debate, students had the opportunity to talk about their perspectives on the world in which they live and how they view the impact of their economic decisions. They put forward suggestions for what they believe should be top of the G8 agenda and set out their aspirations for the future of global trade, politics, culture and citizenship.

The students participating in the debate received written statements of encouragement from Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn MP, and his Conservative counterpart, Andrew Mitchell MP (the Liberal Democrats were also asked to contribute). During the Forum, Oliver Heald MP responded to posts made by students at Highfield School in his constituency, and addressed students from other schools around the UK. These parliamentarians have agreed to respond to the findings of the participants at the close of the Forum.

The objective of the HeadsUp project is not only to facilitate peer-to-peer deliberation on topical political issues, policies or events but also to provide students with a means of informing themselves about the topic. In keeping with the youth participation agenda, a summary report outlining key findings and quotes is disseminated to interested parties, particularly parliamentarians and government, enabling young people's voices to be heard by key decision-makers.

As with every Forum, 'The G8... Who benefits from globalisation?' was supported by detailed, student-centred background notes that included an explanation of the G8, an overview of the key issues at the summit (poverty in Africa and climate change), a comprehensive glossary and summaries of arguments for and against globalisation. These and other relevant facts and figures were presented in a student-centred tone, with a deliberate effort to keep jargon to a minimum.

The debate involved students from five schools around the UK. They were between the ages of 11 and 17. A number of students had participated in previous Forums but most were taking part for the first time. The participants made multiple visits over the duration of the debate and there were 214 posts in total.

This report summarises the debate that took place and includes key posts from students. Conclusions from the debate are to be found at the end of the report. Special care has been taken to ensure that the report is non-partisan and representative of the views expressed by the participants.

The participating young people and the Hansard Society would like to invite interested parties, particularly parliamentarians and government, to respond to the findings.

Responses and requests for further information should be directed to:

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'The G8... Who benefits from globalisation?'

Forum Summary

Messages to G8 leaders/biggest issues

Young people were asked what issue should be top of the G8 agenda and also if they had any messages for the G8 leaders.

Some participants voiced their support for fair trade:

"g8 should first sort out fair trade because when african farmers etc... can gain reasonable amounts of money for there crops e.g coffee beans we will not have to step in and give them provisions because they will be able to provide for themselves."

Others, however, were clear that their main message for the G8 leaders was to be wary about the proliferation of corrupt governments in Africa:

"we should try and steer clear of the goverment's in Africa (as they are notorious for being corrupt e.g. Mugabe) and try to distribute these items straight to the people of Africa."

This student agreed that the African governments must cooperate with each other but felt that the issue that should be pushed to the top of the G8 agenda was tackling poverty:

"I think that if the 54 different governments of Africa started to work together, they would really be able to abolish poverty. However, different tribes in africa might not mix very well."

Nevertheless, some were quick to point out that the simple analysis was that big corporations were at the root of the problems facing the G8 summit:

"tackle the big corporations who started all these problems, make more countries follow the Kyoto Protocol to control the release of emissions into the atmosphere, to make planes less polluting and to invest in poor countries instead of exploit them."

Global warming was the biggest threat according to this HeadsUp Forum participant who pleaded for executives from neighbouring African states to work together:

"We all need to work together as countries to conquer global warming. If one country tries to make a difference, it will be quite small. Everyone must be involved."

Forum participants argued that climate change and poverty are issues that have to be addressed now, and that everybody has a responsibility to affect change.

Still on the theme of collaboration, some students called for much clearer leadership from both the UK Government and Parliament to avoid individual MPs having to take stances on their own:

"I'm sure politicians know about this lack of resources, but for one to tell the people they have to start consuming less and donating more is career-suicide."

Naturally, attention on the HeadsUp Forum turned to the Live 8 concert and a general consensus existed amongst the participants that they felt it gave them an increased awareness about the issues. However, some students perceptively questioned the involvement of certain celebrities; a point later picked up on by certain parts of the national media, but endorsed the appearance of political icons:

"Live 8 was great and I enjoyed it thoroughly. I think it will make issues more obvious to people who don't usually bother. Nelson Mandela made some good points."

One of the main pleas from the Live 8 organiser, Sir Bob Geldof, was for people to travel up to Gleneagles in Scotland to join the peaceful protests to the G8 leaders. The students taking part in this HeadsUp Forum were aware of the media coverage of the G8 summit but worried about the violence that became associated with a minority of protestors. However, despite the sporadic violence, the young people were still keen for the protests to take place:

"I thought that every body involved in the protests in Scotland should be peaceful. Violence only confuses and clouds the mind."

One dynamic HeadsUp participant actually made the trip to Scotland to protest and then used the Forum to report back to the participants and dispute the one-sided media coverage of events:

"I've just come back from Edinburgh, where I've been staying in a designated convergence space with activists from around the world, and have been taking part in the blockades around Gleneagles. I'm shocked at what the press have been saying. Most of it is facts far off the mark of what happened, and some of it is outright lies. None of the violence was started by the activists, and the police brutality was inhumane."

According to the Forum participants Live 8 successfully brought important issues to the fore amongst their age group.

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Forum Summary

Why should we care about poverty?

In 2001, the emergence of the 'Make Poverty History' campaign was a very timely, powerful and well-publicised message. This campaign continues to exist to lobby G8 leaders and continue to fight poverty. The MPH campaign successfully brings together a massive collective of groups dedicated to fighting poverty and the students involved in the G8 Forum on HeadsUp were very aware of the slogan and the underlying motives.

The issue of poverty has been one of the most hotly-debated and topical subjects for the last 20 years, since it came to worldwide prominence at Band Aid in 1985. The young people taking part in this Forum were not born at the time of Band Aid but that does not preclude them from being passionate and opinionated about an issue like poverty.

Once more the subject of Live 8 was raised by the participants but far from watching it from a musical appreciation point of view, some spoke with clarity criticising the role of some of the acts involved in the event:

"i beleive that poverty is bad, and it should be stopped, but what can we do. i myself feel hopeless, and i feel that the acts in live 8 are hipocritical as they arent exactly giving all there money to the poor."

"people in the uk and the other rich countries have no idea about the suffering of the people in third world countries. We say that we feel sorry for them and we give them a few million pounds, but look at the size of africa. I know its better than nothing and its a 'first step' but more action needs to be done. We sometimes build schools and stuff like that for the africans but do you know that we take hundreds of doctors etc. that they have trained."

These students agreed that poverty should be addressed immediately, but that the main thrust of the solution should be through improved education and resources, rather than throwing money at smaller projects.

However the success of the campaign strategy behind 'Make Poverty History' and Live 8, was that participants were picking up on the main messages via the media and quoting them in the Forum:

"Not caring is just an example of the apathy which causes the inequalities we have in this world. If you can say you don't care to some

woman who has just lost her child through extreme poverty (and this happens every three seconds) then you have no heart."

The Zimbabwean government was cited as an example of what can happen when a state leader becomes too dictatorial and wealthy, as a result of keeping the aid from the people who need it most. This participant saw events unravelling on TV:

"As some of you have seen on the news, people in Zimbabwe are having their homes knocked down, 250,000 people are homeless and 3 children have been killed after bulldozers knocked over buildings. The government says it's part of a drive to cut crime, but is that the way to do it, by making people homeless and killing innocent children?"

One participant was quick to point out the potential for fund-raising and problem-solving when the UK focuses its efforts, by highlighting the example of the amount of aid raised for the tsunami victims:

"the impact of the tsunami was incredible. The uk alone raised £400,000,000. If we had a similiar impact like this on poverty, then it would really make a difference."

This group of G8 HeadsUp participants felt that cancelling third world debt in an effort to help the governments put their affairs in order was a possible solution. Some felt that this decision was a lot more complicated than a simple "yes" or "no" answer:

"Instead of just saying 'forget the debt', perhaps the countries should make an agreement - 'We'll only cancel your debt if you use your extra money to do something worthwhile'. Maybe even make provisions for things (so much to be spent on education, so much on health care and so on.) If the G8 do cancel the debt, there will have to be rules about what aomunt of money goes on which thing."

Once more on the subject of debt, this student believed that it was our collective responsibility to help third world farmers, so they can compete for business and trade with their western counterparts:

"we nead desperately to level the playing field in trade so that is posible for poorer people to form sustainable businesses, farms etc. effectively meaning that we would not need to give any more aid eventually."

A collective effort from the UK Parliament and Government was called for by several participants, who felt that this was the perfect opportunity to help the poorer nations:

"I think that we DO need the parliaments leading because though a lot of people want to do something for poorer countries it seems so difficult if you have hardly any contact! With the governments help I feel we could

really give something special and important to the third world countries!"

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Forum Summary

Why does the environment matter?

Like poverty, the environment proved to be of huge importance to this group of HeadsUp participants and both broad issues were inextricably linked. The students argued that poverty and climate change can involve a debate around environmental issues, both are inter-related and pose unique challenges:

"Politicians are too worried about making enough money. They should be concentrating on the world we live in. Like pollution that is causing acid rain and global warming, or the amount of trees we are cutting down. Especially the rain forests. There like the lungs of the earth and people are chopping them down just to make money."

An ongoing theme throughout the Forum was that the celebrities involved in Live 8 should and could do more to help address the big problems that the G8 leaders were discussing. However, not all of the participants thought that the blame should lie completely with the celebrities, but instead we should all shoulder a collective responsibility. These young people were worried about a lack of teamwork on environmental issues from the G8 member states, such as the United States of America:

"stars do not have the largest proportions of money in the world. Governments have the control over all your taxes which is probably trillions of pounds. For example USA can spend billions of pounds on a war more than a star could afford. The common people therefore have a lot of say as together they have a huge amount of money and they are the ones who give governments the authority over taxes. There is a tendency to blame stars and yet we all contribute to problems in the world."

The debate moved on to the issue of recycling in the ongoing protection of the environment. This group of HeadsUp users have grown up in a world where recycling, for their generation at least, is considered a must. However, there is always room for improvement as this well-researched participant states:

"think we really to recycle more. With the average annual consumption is 1.5kg per person or 3.5kg per household, these figures are going up. Did you know that a recycled aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours. So in conclusion if people recycled more, we would have alot more energy than we have now. But im not saying to

waste the energy on watching television all the time but saving it for better things, for the future.”

This group of G8 HeadsUp participants are highly media-literate and look to the TV and internet for political information. The power of effective advertising slogans was shown by a young person who remembered the icon associated with recycle bins, calling for more bins like this to be made available:

“In the re-cycle adverts there is a can re-cycle bin on the pavement. I dont see why this can't be true in real life. If there are bottle and can re-cycle bins on pavements in real-life, then I can't find any!”

The packaging of foodstuffs was deliberated by the participants, some of whom felt that certain products did not need packaging or perhaps could have more minimalist, environmentally-friendly covering:

“Why do bananas and cucumbers need plastic wrapping? They have they're own packaging - it's called skin!!! I bet if we stopped wrapping fruits and packaging them so ridiculously we'd cut down on rubbish and need for re-cycling!”

This participant agreed with the previous users that more could be done around recycling but also underlined the importance of investing in alternative fuel sources to help save the environment:

“I think that people have more influence over environmental issues - they are the people with the most power over recycling and things. Everyone should follow the 3r's, re-use re-cycle and re-pair. They should use their blue boxes and brown bins. Solar and wind power are all very well but they dont process much energy. We should look for alternatives to the alternatives - tidal and nuclear power.”

To demonstrate their understanding of the complexities surrounding the environment debate, this student wanted to provide an interesting and helpful analogy on the Forum to make it easier for his/her peers to understand the impact of recycling:

“Think of the world as a massive bar of chocolate. There is only so much of it, once you've eaten it all, it's gone. This might sound gross, but if we recycle the chocolate(world), we will have more for the future generations to enjoy.”



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Forum Summary

Should you think before you buy?

As with the other key issues addressed in the HeadsUp G8 Forum, participants identified that it is the responsibility of Government and politicians to lead us and provide transparent guidance over complex issues such as fair trade.

General consensus existed amongst this group of young people that fair trade was an important issue to them and something they had a lot to say about. One young person called for more people to buy into the fair trade ethos for the long-term, in order to make a difference:

"I think fair trade is good, but other big companies like nestle are still selling more. If anything about fair trade is going to happen, lots of people will have to participate for a long period of time."

Trade was broken down and analysed by the participants into a wide variety of marketable products, particularly foodstuffs, which they see on the shelves of their local supermarkets. They were acutely aware of the impact on those farmers in the third world, when western nations pay relatively little for their high-quality trade:

"The tea, coffee, chocolate, and sugar trades spread all over the world and we pay low prices for quality goods, that have been slaved over to get to us."

One student called for all trade to be fair trade and that western governments should be responsible for this transition:

"every trade should be fairtrade, and we and the governments of richer, western countries should enforce that."

It was clear from the Forum that young people agreed some western countries were not being fair to their third world trade suppliers in terms of the financial settlement they received for their labour:

"we need to concentrate on the third world countries that sell products to other western countries, that are getting totally ripped off."

This argument was substantiated by other participants who pointed to the development of an inescapable cycle of decline for the third world

countries, once they are forced to accept a reduced amount of money for their products:

“We abuse the trading rights in this country to help us gain money while the 3rd world gets poorer because the products they sell we buy off them for peanuts. We should make trade more fair and not rip off the poorer countries just because they have nobody else to sell their goods too.”

Once more, HeadsUp students showed their willingness to research the topic thoroughly before they started to debate. Other participants used the English national game of football as a simple example of how exploitation of the third world affects our daily lives:

“If you look at the cost of say, a football in the shops, only a minute percent actually went to the stitchers, who probably worked the hardest on it. If they ask for more money, they won't have a job at all, so carry on being totally ripped off. This should be changed, and English traders should offer more money to the hardest working people.”

Overall, it was clear that for young people fair trade and thinking before you buy goods were actions that they considered important and encouraged others to do so more often. Just like the process of recycling, fair trade was a vital component of their generational lifestyle and they really considered it a must:

“i think that we should definitely think before we buy because you never know where the money is going to.”



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Conclusions

Informed choices, transparency and leadership

This forum was marked by the quality of debate and the degree of consensus between participants. The students entered the debate with well-researched arguments. They were careful to ask questions as much as state opinions, and as a result the participants were able to reach overall agreement that the G8 summit was an opportunity to give the global economy strength, promote stability in world politics and prevent and resolve conflict. Overall, the participants demonstrated that they were not only interested in the issues, policies and events taking place but that they were also capable of participating in them and making a positive contribution to the outcomes.

As the young people themselves have emphasised in this Forum, they felt that a more collective approach could be adopted to tackle complex worldwide issues such as poverty and climate change. The students made two main pleas in the Forum; to the G8 leaders to provide leadership for governments particularly those in Africa, on a raft of globalisation issues and to people everywhere to make informed choices before they buy goods, in particular to help spread the fair trade ethos, and to make recycling a part of everyday life.

'The G8' was a crucial Forum for HeadsUp to stage and one that was welcomed by those young people who participated, other NGOs and MPs from across the political spectrum. It provided a secure, structured but non-sanitised platform for young people to voice their perspectives on the G8 summit at what was believed to be a historic opportunity to tackle international problems such as poverty and climate change.

The timing of this Forum was deliberate. Young people have frequently expressed their frustration about the lack of opportunities for them to participate in topical political discussions and events. This HeadsUp Forum was scheduled to tap into the media coverage and general public debate about the G8 and the issues being discussed at the summit.

HeadsUp tackles complex political problems but is not designed to make set recommendations. Like adults, young people have a range of perspectives on political events, issues and policies, and often favour different solutions. This resource was established not to give the 'definitive line'; rather it is about providing a space for people to share their views, challenge those of others and, in turn, be challenged.

It is evident from this Forum that young people were closely following the build-up to the G8, the participants, the issues, associated events such as Live 8, and the summit itself. Based on previous HeadsUp debates, it is clear that young people in the UK are far from being politically apathetic; this G8 debate highlighted that was as true for international issues, as it is local and national issues.

'The G8... Who benefits from globalisation?'

Transcripts

Forum Topic Transcript

The G8...

Your Messages to the G8 leaders (formerly 'What are the biggest issues facing the world?')

20/06/2005 09:32:00

justice

Subject: First post...

Welcome to the G8 debate...

Eight of the richest, most powerful world leaders are preparing to meet and talk about the biggest issues facing the world.

But what should be top of their agenda?

Poverty in Africa? Climate change? Terrorism? Disease? Trade? Something else?

What are the reasons behind your choice?

20/06/2005 12:13:00

Tomo

Subject: Poverty, Trade

I think g8 should first sort out fair trade because when african farmers etc... can gain reasonable amounts of money for there crops e.g coffee beans we will not have to step in and give them provisions

because they will be able to provide for themselves. This may enable Africa to increase there GNP therefore destroying poverty in the poorest parts of Africa.

21/06/2005 18:27:00

Josh

Subject: abolish poverty

I heard (apparently) that if all the money in the world was separated equally between every single person in the world then everyone would each have a great big gold bar's worth of money. Therefore, seeing as that is never going to happen the least we can do is share some of our money with Africa so that they can buy their own tools or alternatively we could buy implements and tools for them. Also I think

that we should try and steer clear of the government's in Africa (as they are notorious for being corrupt e.g. Mugabe) and try to distribute these items straight to the people of Africa.

22/06/2005 14:34:00

dipsy

Subject: government

I think the G8 should discuss global warming, as terrorism is effecting only parts of the countries, but if the whole world warms up to a temperature unbearable for man kind, it will be the end of earth as we know it.

22/06/2005 15:21:00

foilman

Subject: global warming and the end of the

yes but if we do something about global warming then we can save our environment... if we stop faffin around with all the planning of things we're going to do, and actually do it, then we mite get somewhere...

22/06/2005 15:26:00

davsarah

Subject: G8 issues

I think that people should not be so concerned with the state of countries. Take iraq for starts we spent thousands of pounds on that country gettind it up and running. When we as an independant country should be more concerned about what we as a people should be doing to help reduce Global Warming rather that make it worse.

did you knowe that polotitians get payed less than popstars. So why don't they ern there money and acually do something to help the average person, Global Warming and the world

22/06/2005 15:41:00

HotSoupMerangue

Subject: importance

I think the two important issues facing the g8 members are global warming and poverty. In the idea of poverty is one that started digging its way deeply into the ground when the Brittish empire took over most of the world. we used their materials and made them buy them from us for more. The second is global warming, this is somethiing that effects us all, and so it is everyones responsability, though some

may be able to help more than others, we all have a duty towards our own life and our own world. If we

22/06/2005 16:19:00

5thelephant

Subject: my vote for poverty and

I would agree and say enviroment and poverty.

Terrorism is in many cases a result of poverty and inequality and many of the problems of the world could be solved if only there wasn't such tragedies going on in the world.

Note: politicians are in charge of more money than stars and if the 'average person's' all got together nad protested in unison they could change a lot so don't just blame the stars who probably give the same percentage of their income as you: very little.

22/06/2005 16:22:00

5thelephant

Subject: sarahdav

if i had the choice between saving the atmosphere or abolishing poverty I know which one I would choose. A kid dies every three seconds as a result of poverty how many have died from global warming?

Priorities are important in solving the worlds problems

23/06/2005 13:52:00

Dougydude

Subject: Issues

I think the only way we can even start to think about global warming, the world must be at peace, or at least without poverty, as the only to stop global warming is to work together as a world

23/06/2005 14:00:00

Hawkes

Subject: repeating history?

Do you feel that history will eventually repeat itself because we will use all the land up and will be forced to make our own clothing, food and houses... who do you think

23/06/2005 14:05:00

RD3000

Subject: poverty and global warming

I agree with dougy dude. We all need to work together as countrys to conquer global warming. If one country tries to make a difference, it will be quite small. Everyone must be involved. Poverty needs to be conquered first.

23/06/2005 15:32:00

Hawkes

Subject: ways to improve and conquer such

I have made a few suggestions about how to conquer poverty. I really enjoy the fact that there are such things like band aid and children in need, and i feel that everyone should get involved. maybe each school could organise charity evenings or other events, and by doing this ; taking part in helping the world. I would like it if other forum users would say how they felt about this idea and any other ideas on how to improve the world.

23/06/2005 15:58:00

Tomo

Subject: Poverty

I think before we start worrying about global warming and enviromental issues etc. etc. We should first

"make poverty HISTORY " before we worry about global warming. We cant put an issue like global infront of peoples lives. Global warming is a problem we can deal with in the future but we must first destroy the thing which is destroying peoples lives around the world every second, WHICH IS POVERTY!!!!!!!!!!!!

23/06/2005 16:05:00

masterzen

Subject: poverty linked to poor environment?

Does poverty impact on abuse of the environment?

What I'm asking is, is poverty a root-factor in all problems like climate change, terrorism, disease etc?

23/06/2005 21:23:00

Hawkes

Subject: enviroment leads to poverty

i feel that poverty doesn't affect the enviroment but the enviroment affects the poverty. If the african climate was similiar to the uk, then they would get rain for crops and be able to have a better life style. this is my answer, the enviroment is one of the reasons for poverty.

24/06/2005 13:49:00

timster

Subject: The enviroment is changing FAST

we are all saying that we should wait to conquer global warming but the enviroment is changing at a rate of knots and maybe if the poor countries get money they will have to spend it on factories etc. to develop, and that will cause more polution, global polution is a massive issue and we should start major changes NOW as well as trying to conquer poverty

24/06/2005 13:55:00

hanz_9

Subject: global warming

i think that global warming is very important to this world. If everyone does their bit to help it, we can conquer global warming. With air polution on the rise things need to be sorted and quickly. Global warming is effecting our climate, for example heat waves, tornados in England and heavy snow and rain fall which causes flash floods. This is not something we can forget and put it in a box.

24/06/2005 13:57:00

babybunnyangel

Subject: the environment and poverty

I agree with Hawkes, the environment affects poverty. We cannot change the weather, but we can find ways of Africa getting the clean water they desperately need.

24/06/2005 13:57:00

lil_nik

Subject: I partly agree!

I only partly agree Hawkes because whilst you are probably right about poverty and the environment being connected I disagree about the climate for Africa, if Africa was hopeless for growing then no animals or creatures would ever have lived there.

plz reply

x x x

24/06/2005 13:59:00

Hawkes

Subject: headsup survey...

i'd just like to say that i hope the winner of the headsup survey gives the money to charity.

24/06/2005 14:06:00

greendayrox

Subject: You are right

i think that you and hawkes are both right and i think you should ask eachother some questions which would relate to this matter.

i'll ask you a question- see which one of you can answer it better.

How can we fix poverty? and why should we do it in the way that you describe?

24/06/2005 17:55:00

hanz_9

Subject: Climate Changes

Climate change can occur naturally, but what worries many scientists the most is that the fast rate at which the current changes are happening, changes that are being reflected on wildlife and people.

Some effects of global warming are:

- Many fish species are moving northward in search of cooler waters.
- Polar bears today are thinner and less healthy than those of 20 years ago.

We really need to do something about this, to keep the animals and people safe.

24/06/2005 21:06:00

lil_nik

Subject: okay greendayrox

Okay - ill try and answer your question!

I'm afraid my answer is probably not what you are looking for! I don't think povety can EVER be wiped out totally. Not only will people never change their human nature and give without thinking of themselves

but also natural disasters will prevent us ever sinking into peaceful bliss!

However, giving more money to charities, looking past our noses to problems that need sorting and trying to deal with terroists and the like more effectively will help make the world a better place!

24/06/2005 21:08:00

lil_nik

Subject: Questions.

Thanks for your suggestion about asking some questions! I have one for you and Hawkes. I wanted to know what your opinion on the Zimbabwae crisis was! What did you feel when/if you saw the news reports and what do you think we should do?

Should we go to war? Pay money? Ignore or what? It is a difficult question which I have my own theories

on but I want to hear yours first!

24/06/2005 21:29:00

Hawkes

Subject: more on the topic...

thankyou, greedayrox and lil_nik, you guys are very supportive. I would, like to say more things on this topic later and am now going to reaserch into it a bit more. ill have a good load of statements and questions soon.

24/06/2005 21:41:00

Hawkes

Subject: something for timster

Timster , i understand wat you are saying but my idea isn't intending to build factories in the lands of poverty,. Im just saying that one reason for poverty is how the climate/enviroment affect the poor people and their lives....pls reply...

26/06/2005 12:22:00

Dougydude

Subject: Question

I was just wondering if anyone could answer me the question of HOW we are going to stop the diseases in places like africa, and illnesses like aids if there is no known cure? I think this is another point the government is not taking seriously enough.

27/06/2005 11:03:00

Hawkes

Subject: answer to dougydude

sorry dougydude, but seeing as there is no cure for the diseases i have no real answer to your question. I guess in a way that no one on this forum can actually answer that question but at least you made a point.

27/06/2005 11:05:00

RD3000

Subject: aid

To cure the diseases we will probably take cures and aid to their countries an use money to make more hospitals to cure them.

27/06/2005 11:07:00

Hawkes

Subject: global warming, to timster...

i feel what you are saying is true and it is a really good point, but heres an interesting question for you. Do you feel by the time we run out of the un-renewable resources, the global warning would of started?
or do you think it will stop before we can do anything to help?

27/06/2005 11:07:00

RD3000

Subject: we must stop this!

aid is needed!

27/06/2005 15:46:00

HotSoupMerangue

Subject: to Hawkes

you have 2 very good questions there. If we just worry about the now, there will be something further along the line that could lead to another of the same thing. If we don't choose plans for the future as well
it will be our children who suffer as a result

27/06/2005 16:22:00

Hawkes

Subject: this is for ... HotSoupMerangue

Thank you, im glad that you agree with me. I too feel that our children we affected which is why i say that
the public and the goverment should start planing for the future. if we don't act now, what will become of
our children?

27/06/2005 20:30:00

Dougydude

Subject: Poverty

Even if there was a cure made for the diseases, then the people affected wouldn't be able to afford them unless the government do something about poverty

28/06/2005 20:41:00

lil_nik

Subject: Poverty

I think we all realise that poverty is a bad thing but sadly one of the main reasons that a lot of poverty (though not all) is still about is because people like us bother to join a decent thing like this but all we do is say 'we need aid' and stuff like that - what we really need to do is think up some decent ideas together that would work and be effective and then take them to the top (i.e. Downing Street)
COME ON GUYS!

29/06/2005 09:00:00

chilli

Subject: Making the effort

When people bring ideas and suggestions for practical action to the table, decision-makers will listen more carefully. So that's a good thing to keep in mind.

But, even when you don't have the solution it's still worth talking about it. Talking about an issue shows your interest - or support.

Question....

How do international issues affect national issues?

Can you think of any 'UK' issues that are directly influenced by an international events or policies?

29/06/2005 20:04:00

hanz_9

Subject: I agree

I agree HotSoupMerangue. We need to think of something quickly to help our children in the future. If we dont do something to help diseases, global warming and poverty, are children would have to suffer and to think that we done nothing to help them. As we dont want this, people need to help out more and to give the children of the future what they deserve, a world of peace.

30/06/2005 19:06:00

eranny70

Subject: Environment for Poverty

I was recently convinced that to sort out poverty we need to sort out the environment. I'll explain how: Alleviating a person out of poverty, giving him a car, a fridge, a house made out of brick and concrete with a heating system and double-glazing etc., basically bringing one impoverished African to the economic status of a Briton poor, is easy.

Providing these sort of things takes raw resources (ie. oil), and there is not enough raw materials to bring even half of Africans to the level of a poor Briton. Unless we are prepared to radically change our consumer policies (who needs a swimming pool, let alone three, for himself?) and recycle indiscriminately, then there is absolutely no chance of bringing Africa above the poverty line. It's not about money anymore, it's about resources. Money may help buy malaria pills and textbooks, but it can't bring a country to self-sufficiency. Until I see Bono and Geldof (who, by the way, owns a very successful travel company) give a substantial chunk of their wealth, demolish their mansions and recycle all their cars but one, I don't see the point in listening to them preach. Now, I'm sure politicians know about this lack of resources, but for one to tell the people they have to start consuming less and donating more is career-suicide. Why do you think the Green Party don't get voted in?

It's all well and good cancelling African debt, that's easy. That's getting a few weapons and food companies to forgive and forget late payments by African dictators. On the subject of African dictators, guess how many used the money from the 80's LiveAid to buy Lear jets? Three! The best type of personal aircraft of the time. And God knows how many built new palaces while their citizens got paid chickenfeed to wipe the golden toilet seats. And like the majority of illegal dictators, they were installed by the West (The USA, Britain, France etc.).

So the best (only?) way to help poverty is through dealing with environmental issues.

Eran

01/07/2005 12:16:00

timster

Subject: I agree with eranny70

I think that eranny70 has a good point but we need to give aid as well as sort out the environment because people are dying in Africa we need to do what eranny says but we also need to try and sort out poverty by direct means at the same time

01/07/2005 12:21:00

davsarah

Subject: 5thelephant

I think that you fifth elephant should stop complaining about everyone else and just help global warming and other issues that by you should be more concerned about instead of everyone else's problems.

01/07/2005 13:39:00

agowler

Subject: Poverty

The G8 should be more concerned about stopping poverty. I watched this thing on tv 'the girl in the cafe' It told me that once every three seconds a child dies in Africa. People in Africa need more money to stop diseases that are killing them. How would you like it if you watched your children or a loved one die, then knowing that you're next?

01/07/2005 13:58:00

timster

Subject: agowler

i think that agowler has some very strong points but what we are saying is that the environment being better would boost the ability to help poverty that we should concentrate on both problems at the same time

02/07/2005 19:18:00

eranny70

Subject: All Wrong!

that's not what i was saying at all. I'm saying that the way to go is to tackle the big corporations who started all these problems, make more countries follow the Kyoto Protocol to control the release of emissions into the atmosphere, to make planes less polluting and to invest in poor countries instead of exploit them. Sure, giving money to buy malaria pills and polio vaccinations is something that needs to be done, but it's also something that's easy to do. As I said, money will only help these poor guys to a certain extent. It's not gonna buy them all a home with a stove and a fridge and double-glazing and a tv because there's not enough of the things needed to make that stuff to go around. If we recycled, used hemp instead of wood for paper, use soy inks instead of the horrible toxic stuff we use now etc., that would, in the longrun, make things for the 3rd world's poor a lot better.

04/07/2005 09:15:00

chilli

Subject: Rating Live8?

Did you watch Live8?

What did you think? Did you like the performances?

Do you think it helped raise awareness of the issues?

04/07/2005 13:38:00

Dougydude

Subject: Live 8

I think the show brought people to awareness of what is happening in the world, and it should have raised a lot of money, but shouldn't this kind of thing be much more regular if we want to make a difference?

04/07/2005 13:45:00

greendayrox

Subject: Who watched it?

Hey! Who watched live 8 on Saturday? i found it was brilliant! i loved the bit when Green day performed

in Berlin! (greendayrox)

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART?

It's so great that so many people want to take part!

04/07/2005 13:49:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Live 8

Live 8 was great and I enjoyed it thouroughly. I think it will make issues more obvious to people who don't usually bother. Nelson Mandela made some good points as well. My favourite performances were scissorsisters, U2, Coldplay and the Who.

04/07/2005 13:52:00

greendayrox

Subject: Mandela

Flowerfluff.

Nelson Mandela did make some great points and i do respect your points.

I do think he made some points but many people believe that these are just empty words, because they say that because Nelson Mandela WAS a terrorist. WHAT DO YOU THINK???

04/07/2005 13:53:00

chilli

Subject: Next steps?

Do you feel that watching/listening/going to Live8 was a good way of people taking action against poverty?

Do you think it will spur people on to other types of action? Like learning about the issues, signing petitions or contacting MPs?

04/07/2005 13:57:00

hanz_9

Subject: live 8

I think live 8 was great. But the pictures were very emotioal to see all those poor people suffering in Africa. The music was great and many people enjoyed their day. With the money going to Africa it will surely help with the fight to MAKE POVERTY HISTORY. The meeting is coming up and many people are anxious to see the result. What do you think of the live 8 concert. By the way Razorlight, green day and the killers were great :).(and U2, courtsey of babybunnyangel!)

04/07/2005 14:01:00

Dougydude

Subject: live 8

I think it sort of worked, it made people think, and give money, but other than that no real communication or action was really taken

04/07/2005 14:05:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Live 8

Live 8 has alerted people about the terrible issues that ae going on in the world :)

04/07/2005 14:07:00

greendayrox

Subject: you are wrong

on the concert the people and the celebrities clearly said that they didn't want your money or your charity. you just said it helped to raise money. YOU ARE WRONG DOUGYDUDE!

05/07/2005 13:23:00

Dougydude

Subject: I am right

It may not be official, but the purpose behind these things is to END POVERTY, and lets face it, the best way to do that is to give money. The celebrities may deny it, but they have enough money anyway. Live 8 is a good cause, and even if they say they aren't, they need the money to give to people in Poverty

05/07/2005 13:33:00

Dougydude

Subject: Live 8 (again, but a different

Its all very well celebrities performing and donations coming in, but the celebrities have the money to make a difference, so if they donate at the same proportion as us, say 10% of their monthly income, then together they would be giving a hefty sum of money.

05/07/2005 13:34:00

greendayrox

Subject: but

even though the concert wasn't about money, i do agree with you dougydude, in the respect that the money WILL go to people suffering from poverty.

I saw something on the news this morning which was horrible. the government in africa spend the money on themselves by buying nice cars, while others are suffering from starvation. i don't think the money from live 8 should go to thier government, but should go to the charities. THIS MUST BE DONE

NOW OTHERWISE THE NICE CARS WILL BE BOUGHT AGAIN! :(

05/07/2005 13:40:00

Dougydude

Subject: Nice Cars

I think if this is true, then the people in africa should vote for a new government, and the people suffering should know about these sort of things

05/07/2005 13:46:00

Sparkylb

Subject: Corrupt government

I think that until the poorer countries get a grip of thier financial problems. The people in charge shouldn't be spending the money given on themselves. Instead the money should really be given to charities to help the poorer people who actually need the aid.

05/07/2005 13:47:00

biced

Subject: 54 in 1

Don't forget that Africa is a continent and there are 880 million people living there.

There are 54 countries each with its own government.

Do you get a sense that the African governments work together? Could this help them? What obstacles might be in their way?

05/07/2005 13:55:00

greendayrox

Subject: wow
what a lot of questions! :)

05/07/2005 13:56:00

Sparkylb

Subject: Governments working together

I think that if the 54 different governments of Africa started to work together, they would really be able to abolish poverty. However, different tribes in africa might not mix very well. Also, the different governments might not want to join together as this would mean that they would get so much money for themselves.

05/07/2005 13:57:00

greendayrox

Subject: who else?
who else thinks that the government in africa is in control too much than they should be?

05/07/2005 14:00:00

Dougydude

Subject: I agree

Its not just one government in africa suffering, its just about all the country, i am not sure if equal money should be handed out to government, i think the required amount of money should be given to a government, or someone responsible to use it, so no part is given to much or to less.

05/07/2005 14:01:00

chilli

Subject: Edinburgh Protests

What are your reactions to the poverty protests in Edinburgh this week?

What do you think of the violence that occurred?

Was it justified to show frustration or could it do damage to support for tackling poverty?

05/07/2005 14:06:00

greendayrox

Subject: i don't know
i hope someone will help me with this. what is going on in edinburgh?

05/07/2005 14:12:00

biged

Subject: Edinburgh

There have been protests in Edinburgh surrounding the upcoming G8 summit.

Lots of different people have been involved, from school students to [Hilary Benn MP](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s80_1), who is Minister for International Development (you can read his statement of support in the BackUp section).

But there have been clashes between the police and protesters. You can read about it on the

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4650343.stm> target="_blank">BBC.

And then come back and share your thoughts.

05/07/2005 14:16:00

davsarah

Subject: Edinburgh

In Edinburgh there was a march to help people and politicians become aware of the G8 what they do and who they are

05/07/2005 14:19:00

davsarah

Subject: live8

i think that live8 rocked .it was really cool especially cool when madonna was on and dido played in london then flew to the eden project.

06/07/2005 13:34:00

greendayrox

Subject: thanks

thanks davsarah for helping me with my question :)

06/07/2005 13:41:00

Sparkylb

Subject: What happens next?

But what happens after live 8 ends?

06/07/2005 13:41:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Protests

You may have noticed that the protesters who seem to be causing most of the trouble are anti globalisation. Do you agree with their point of view, even if you disagree with their methods? (Check out Backup and other information if you are not clear about what they believe.)

06/07/2005 13:44:00

chilli

Subject: This is it...

The G8 Summit started today.

Over the next few days, the world leaders there will be discussing the big international issues, particularly poverty in Africa and climate change.

As to what will happen we'll need to wait and see.

It could be instant change or a gradual process.

If you were there at the summit, would you have a message for the leaders to motivate them?

06/07/2005 14:02:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Poverty

I would remind them of poverty and how we could help stop it.

06/07/2005 15:29:00

davsarah

Subject: flowerfluff

i totally and completely agree with flowerfluff

06/07/2005 15:35:00

HotSoupMerangue

Subject: g8

i thought that every body involved in the protests in scotland should be peaceful. violence only confuses and clouds the mind.

07/07/2005 12:19:00

lil_nik

Subject: My Message

My message would be that they need to think carefully because their actions - however much or little they do - will effect the entire WORLD from this moment.
They need to think about all the issues, the environment, poverty and terrorism.

07/07/2005 18:48:00

Selkie

Subject: C'mon G8!

I know that if everyone works together, including america, we can make a big difference to people's lives. Why not set up an agreement with the governments - we'll cancel your debt but only if you spend this much on education, this much on healthcare and so on. Keep it up, I'm sure you can do a great job

07/07/2005 20:01:00

greendayrox

Subject: london

who heard about what happened today in london!
everyone was really upset at our school today - we had to have a whole school announcement

how do you think this will affect us?
does anyone think that this had anything to do with the G8 summit?

plz tell me your views, greendayrox :p

08/07/2005 10:00:00

Rhiannon

Subject: london

as i expect you to have heard london was bombed however i was much ashamed that the pupil in my school jumped to the conclusions the french were to blame. i would have thought with the G8 here and the fact we are on a level with france would have helped dampen these rumors. why do we blame suspicion and not facts. i am here to ask no bed tony blair to make an announcement to the world to help clear up this mess

08/07/2005 15:28:00

hanz_9

Subject: bomb attack in london

I think that the bomb attack in london will stay with everyone, just like september 11th 2001, when the twin towers was hit. In london the death toll is going up, and may not stop for a while.

how do you think this will affect our younger generation and us now ?

plz reply

hanz_9

08/07/2005 16:01:00

eranny70

Subject: Replies

I've just come back from Edinburgh, where I've been staying in a designated convergence space with activists from around the world, and have been taking part in the blockades around Gleneagles. I'm shocked at what the press have been saying. Most of it is facts far off the mark of what happened, and some of it is outright lies. None of the violence was started by the activists, and the police brutality was inhumane. On Tuesday there was a carnival in Edinburgh just for fun, with samba bands and dancing etc., not a demonstration. The riot-police arrived and attacked the revellers, and when people came out of their houses to see what's happening, they attacked them too! In an environment like that, you have no choice but to attack back. Police tactics are to corner and cut off little groups, so we couldn't run. All the pictures I saw on TV and the newspapers were so bizarre and showy that it's reasonable to believe they're just policemen growling at the camera.

On Wednesday, the blockades on the A9, M9 and the various roads around the Gleneagles area worked wonderfully. A few hypocrites cut some trees into the road, but the rest went on as planned. If you look up something called Section 60, you'll see that it lets the police turn a whole area into a fascist state. They could (and did) stop and search us whenever they wanted, and the beurocracy was unbelievable. We were constantly photographed and had our details written down. When we tried wearing masks and scarves to protect our anonimity, they were confiscated by the police, again under Section 60.

Now, to the replies:

Davsarah: There were two events in Edinburgh, one was a march organized by 'Saint Bob' for people to show their support for the G8 tackling poverty, the other was a protest organized by various activist groups demanding the G8 be shut down.

Greendayrox: I don't think the issue is how much the despots in Africa are controlling, I think the issue is how much Blair, Bush and the rest of the hypocrites who make up the G8 control.

Dougydude: I'd just like to repeat this;

Money will not make the poor in Africa self-sufficient. Money will buy them vaccinations and food, it won't help them make their own food. So in case you didn't get it last time, MONEY WILL NOT HELP POVERTY!

Greendayrox(again): The only people who say that Nelson Mandela is a terrorist are those he was fighting against. Nelson Mandela is one of the greatest men alive, and one of the greatest men of the 20th century. Google him and you'll see.

Hawkes: Without wanting to seem like a conspiracy theorist, I think if you look at the signs you'll realize that governments ARE preparing for the future, just not in the way we'd hoped. The oil supply isn't going to last forever, and right now the whole world is dependent on oil. He who controls the world's oil, controls the world's money. He who controls the world's money, controls the world. When the oil runs out, who'll have all the resources to survive, the public, or the oil tycoons such as George Bush the Senior etc.?

Lil_Nik: You don't know how right you are. Currently, we live in an economical system called capitalism. The concept of capitalism is for the few to have all the power and the rest have nothing. The rich have all the power, and there are even corporations who can directly influence a government. Us, the other 99% of the world's population, are exploited by the rich 1% so they can have more money. The gap between the rich and poor has increased dramatically since 1921. So as long as capitalism exists, there is no way poverty can be effectively wiped out. The way to go is communism. You should read up about Marxism.

Hawkes: The African climate, for example the massive drought in Ethiopia 10-15 years ago was because of countries like us. As we release pollution into the air, it affects weather across the world. The African climate is different to ours, but it is still highly fertile and highly farmable. But when companies like Coca-Cola and Shell build bottling and oil-processing plants (respectively) it ruins the soil and damages the land. Well, I think this is it. Oh, and by the way, right now there is a big police blockade outside of Hori-Zone eco-village in Stirling, and they are not letting anyone out. Anyone heard of the Geneva Conventin and something called THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO PROTEST?

Hope you all enjoy this week's beurocracy and hypocracy from our so-called democractic government.

08/07/2005 16:48:00

justice

Subject: Thank you

It's seems a shame to close this Forum but that's the way it goes unfortunately.

But what a debate it has been!

You should all be proud of yourselves. You made your points, used evidence, asked questions, tried different viewpoints and came up with practical solutions - all around a set of very difficult and controversial issues. That's no small achievement!

Those MPs who agreed to provide feedback afterwards have certainly got a lot to chew over. Watch this space!

The next Forum begins on September 19th, after the Summer holidays. Hope to see you there...

Forum Topic Transcript

The G8...

Why should we care about poverty?

20/06/2005 09:44:00

justice

Subject: Welcome to the G8 debate...

Eight of the richest, most powerful world leaders are preparing to meet and talk about the biggest issues facing the world.

More than 1.2 billion people in the world live in poverty.

But what does poverty mean to people living in the UK? Should it concern us?

Can we have an impact on poverty? Can we make the situation better? Can we make it worse?

What's your take on it?

22/06/2005 09:49:00

tellytubby

Subject: what can we do?

i beleive that poverty is bad, and it should be stopped, but what can we do. i myself feel hopeless, and i feel that the acts in live 8 are hipocritical as they arent exactly giving all there money to the poor, as bono from U2 went to america and rememberd he left his hat in engaland, so he paid someone to fly back to england to get it for him on concorde, now that money could of been given to a african farmer, and bono should of been able to survive with out his hat.

22/06/2005 09:57:00

lozop

Subject: Why should we care?

There seems to be a lot of pressure these days for us to feel guilty about our lifestyles, Adverts for live 8 tend to suggest that the fault lies with us the public to do all the work. many of the celebrities involved in live 8 seem to be accusing us of not doing enough but what are they doing. these people hold considerable financial and persuasive power yet they spend a vast amount of their wealth on self

indulgent activities, a vast amount of their influence is engaged in getting us to buy their records.
There's
nothing wrong with a bit of Entrepreneurship (yes it is a word) but it's hypocritical to tell us to do more
when these celebrities are only doing a fraction of what they could be doing.

22/06/2005 10:00:00

tellytubby

Subject: we need to stand together?

the world is so hypocritical, why do we all blame each other yet we can't open our stubborn eyes and
see
that we are just as much to blame, we need a united front that will help us build away from poverty.

22/06/2005 10:00:00

gruff

Subject: Government

Celebrities have got financial power and cred with the public.

But governments have got even more money and they're officially responsible for helping people in
their
own countries and abroad.

Isn't this their call?

Or can the celebrities work with the public to put some heavy pressure on Government to take action?

22/06/2005 10:03:00

lozop

Subject: Is live 8 really an effective way of

Why aren't they selling tickets to live 8 at huge prices. people will happily pay vast sums of money to
go
to a concert, where all the money goes to the artists. Thousands of people will attend the concerts but
they're only going to raise a fraction of the money that they could.

22/06/2005 10:04:00

simplicity

Subject: poverty

people in the UK and the other rich countries have no idea about the suffering of the people in third
world countries. We say that we feel sorry for them and we give them a few million pounds, but look at
the size of Africa. I know it's better than nothing and it's a 'first step' but more action needs to be done.
We sometimes build schools and stuff like that for the Africans but do you know that we take hundreds
of doctors etc. that they have trained. We do nothing for the Africans etc. we take more money out than
we put in to Africa we are useless really.

22/06/2005 10:05:00

5thelephant

Subject: Caring

Not caring is just an example of the apathy which causes the inequalities we have in this world. If you
can say you don't care to some woman who has just lost her child through extreme poverty (and this
happens every three seconds) then you have no heart.

I think this attitude in general is sick in the extreme

22/06/2005 10:06:00

chilli

Subject: These are all strong points

Why do you think that the Live8 promoters decided not to charge big bucks for tickets?

Do you think they just missed a trick? Or were they trying to create awareness of the issues?

Do you think that tickets should have been auctioned off on eBay? What if the cash was then given to charity?

22/06/2005 15:28:00

timster

Subject: Pop Stars get paid more than

As the pop stars get paid more than the politicians they should have more responsibility than the politicians because they can personally give more

22/06/2005 15:33:00

davsarah

Subject: poverty

I think that the poverty in Africa is shocking and that we need to do more now rather than later because people are dying. I mean would we like it if we had been through a war and our families and friends were dying and nobody was helping us. Well then that's how they feel now.

So let's help and get the politicians to get off their backside and do something to help these poor people

22/06/2005 15:39:00

dipsy

Subject: we have a responsibility

We are the 4th richest country in the world, and yet we take advantage of countries like Africa, Brazil etc.

Soon a lot of other countries will not like us and we might be titled "the selfish nation". I think we should give a small amount, 10 percent of our income to poor countries, because we've been made rich by selfishness.

22/06/2005 15:44:00

biged

Subject: GDP

10% of GDP would work out as about £100 billion pounds.

How does that compare with the money that's currently been given in aid by the UK?

Does that strike you as a lot or not enough?

22/06/2005 16:09:00

5thelephant

Subject: my opinions

Firstly politicians may get paid less but they have the potential (in theory) of giving all of our taxes - far more than the wages of an average star's wages. However you are right in saying they should be paying more to charity so should we though. Blaming the stars is just trying to create a scapegoat as if every household gave enough as they should then the money would outweigh the money stars earn.

However I think giving is not the answer in many cases... Africa gives more back to us in debt

payments

than we give in aid so it makes more sense to cancel out the debt. More importantly even we need desperately to level the playing field in trade so that is possible for poorer people to form sustainable businesses, farms etc. effectively meaning that we would not need to give any more aid eventually.

Unfortunately, as tellytuby said, we are just too selfish. Yes you can count yourself there unless you buy

everything fairtrade, send of a large amount of your income, avoid logos with a reputation for badly treating their workers in 3rd world countries and just generally exercise your apathy

23/06/2005 14:04:00

greendayrox

Subject: Starving

Everybody in the world make protests about everyone having to be treated fairly. why should one continent in the world have to suffer?

There's enough people in the world that are morbidly obese, so there must be enough food for everyone. Even poor people in Africa.

23/06/2005 14:06:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Live 8

I think that Live 8 IS a good idea, and will help a lot. It should help people realise what is happening in the continent of Africa. Last time it took place it helped greatly. A lot of money will be put towards it, however we can't just give it to them, as they will not know what to do with it. We need to set up schools

and hospitals and places for them to get food to actually help them.

23/06/2005 14:06:00

chilli

Subject: What's the problem?

Why do you think there is such a gulf in the wealth between a developed country like Britain and a developing country like Sudan?

That's a big question but what are some of your ideas?

23/06/2005 15:48:00

Tomo

Subject: Wealth

The reason there is such a big difference with our economy and economies of the 3rd world is because of the sectors and tools we use. America is rich because they have all the tools to make products like chemicals which make the big bucks and tv's etc... They are able to buy the resources off the 3rd world for very cheap prices. By abusing these trading regulations they are able to make these materials. America doesn't have the raw materials so they have to buy them off the other countries.

The 3rd world countries have the same problem but their problem is they don't have the finance to gain this technology therefore they can only sell their raw materials meaning they are staying in a primary trade and unable to get out of it because they never had the tools in the first place. if they got these tools they could change their trade to a secondary type of trade like Italy therefore gaining more capital when it comes to selling their products!

23/06/2005 15:51:00

masterzen

Subject: Knock-on

What are the affects of poverty in other countries on life in the UK?

Are we affected by it? In what sorts of ways?

24/06/2005 10:46:00

greendayrox

Subject: Well Masterzen

Masterzen, i can easily answer your simple question. poverty affects us all. Comic relief is a classic example of The British helping others. We can't be selfish. we must give but not take. does that answer

your question?

please reply,

Greendayrox

24/06/2005 10:47:00

masterzen

Subject: Keeping Up

A good point, young debater. Another question for you and your fellows...

Do you think that the Government and MPs make enough of an effort to match the effort made by the British public?

And what makes you think the way you do?

24/06/2005 13:35:00

greendayrox

Subject: Thanks For Replying

Thanks for replying to my post Masterzen!

Your question is a very good one and i'm glad that you thought my other points were good.

i'll try my best to answer your question.

I think that the British try thier best to help poverty but they could do more charity events world round instead of the odd month (e.g. red nose day)

What about You?

Please reply- Greendayrox

24/06/2005 13:37:00

Hawkes

Subject: answer to masterzen

i feel that everyone including the government all play a part in making the world a better place. like i've sed before, i feel that we all could do something extra by making more fetes at schoold and other charity events. The more help we get, the more to defeat of poverty!

24/06/2005 13:43:00

Dougydude

Subject: Poverty

If the turnout for the Tsunami was so big, why can't the world treat the ongoing problems the same way?

If people raised as much money as the Tsunami, then im sure that if we work together as a world, we will make a big difference.

24/06/2005 13:50:00

lil_nik

Subject: Yes I do.

I do think people should do more! Poverty needs to be blocked out because it isn't helping anyone - obviously! We need to help all countries around the world and politicians - as our representatives - need to do more.

I think there should be LOADS more charity events! More people should want to give and maybe the lottery or rich film/pop stars could give regular sums of money? This could help.

24/06/2005 13:58:00

greendayrox

Subject: i think your points are great

thanks for replying Masterzen!

i'll try my best to answer your question. i believe that the British are trying their best but they could do better. for example, they could do more red nose days. instead of every other year, they would make more money by doing it every year.

What about you?

please reply,
Greendayrox

24/06/2005 14:03:00

timster

Subject: reply to masterzen

i know i am not greendayrox but i think i can give a ok answer:

My example is the tsunami, when that happened the victims were effectively in poverty. The British Public

gave millions to the aid and there are still public organisations and events going on. But parliament just encouraged us slightly and gave lots of nice speeches but they did not donate much compared to the total of what the public gave and they look like they have completely forgotten about it now.

24/06/2005 14:05:00

Hawkes

Subject: DOUGYDUDE IS RIGHT!

I TOTALLY agree with dougydude as the impact of the tsunami was incredible. The uk alone raised £400,000,000. If we had a similar impact like this on poverty, then it would really make a difference.

Any opinions on this?...

24/06/2005 14:06:00

Dougydude

Subject: Tsunami

I agree totally with timster, we gave so much towards the tsunami, this is still an ongoing problem, why doesn't the country still react in the same way?

24/06/2005 14:09:00

greendayrox

Subject: thank you

thanks timster!

i totally agree with your statement!

24/06/2005 14:10:00

masterzen

Subject: questions for one, questions for all

I feel a lot of the HeadsUp debaters are saying that a team effort between Parliament, Government and the public is what is needed to tackle poverty.

Do you - as a member of the public part of that team - feel you know what Parliament and Government want to do to tackle poverty?

Is their strategy clear?

Does the public need leadership from MPs and government ministers on this?

24/06/2005 21:00:00

lil_nik

Subject: Masterzen

I think that we DO need the parliaments leading because though a lot of people want to do something for poorer countries it seems so difficult if you have hardly any contact! With the governments help I feel

we could really give something special and important to the third world countries!

25/06/2005 14:35:00

hanz_9

Subject: Poverty

As some of you have seen on the news, people in Zimbabwe are having their homes knocked down, 250,000 people are homeless and 3 children have been killed after bulldozers knocked over buildings. The government says it's part of a drive to cut crime, but is that the way to do it, by making people homeless and killing innocent children?

28/06/2005 20:47:00

lil_nik

Subject: I agree!

I totally agree with Hanz who has bought up a brilliant point about the poverty going on in Zimbabwe as

we speak! We NEED to do something about Robert Magarby who needs to be kicked out. We did it to Iraq so why not to somewhere that needs it more then ANY other place. The government are scared to do anything 'drastic' incase Africa cut ties with us but where do you draw the line between minding your

own business and bluntly ignoring poverty and pain that is right under your nose.

Anyone who doesn't want to do anything about the Zimbabwe situation should be kicked out of civilisation and be made to live in that awful place. The African leaders who are ignoring the pain arent worthy of respect!

01/07/2005 12:29:00

timster

Subject: are you saying thet the iraq war

before you say the iraq war was a good thing think about the fact that the US spaent 180,000,000,000 dollars that could have canceled AID for 18 years and canceled world hunger for 7 years. Go to <http://costofwar.com> for a full list of costs. The fact is this war has got totaly out of control and is costing

our economy loads of money. should we start another war?

02/07/2005 19:39:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Poverty

I don't think another war should be started!! I think it is silly to spend that much money on fighting and killing when it could be put towards something that could SAVE lives - MAKE POVERTY HISTORY!! Live 8 is successful (so far, it is still going on as I type this!), and I hope that all the money raised will be put to the best use possible.

04/07/2005 09:26:00

chilli

Subject: Rating Live8?

Did you watch Live8?

What did you think? Did you like the performances?

Do you think it helped raise awareness of the issues?

04/07/2005 13:42:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Live 8

Yes I DID watch Live 8 - all of it!!! I thought that the performances (mainly) were good. I saw the bit when

a african lady was bought on. She had been saved from poverty when she was 10 MINUTES AWAY FROM DYING and she was saved. She is now healthy and is taking a degree (i think)

04/07/2005 13:43:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Live 8

Also it was so big that the 8 world leaders just CAN'T ignore it!! MAKE POVERTY HISTORY!!!

04/07/2005 14:01:00

greendayrox

Subject: yes

I LOVED LIVE 8

DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD DO IT MORE? WHY? WHEN?

04/07/2005 14:08:00

hanz_9

Subject: Oil

Now, oil. Everyone wants it to make money. The americans would do anything to get their hands on oil.

At the moment, i think the americans are only in Iraq for the oil. Just think whats more important, oil or people's lives. I know oil is important but can we find other ways that avoids oil. :):(?? what do you think?

04/07/2005 14:08:00

Selkie

Subject: Live 8

I think that live 8 and the whole idea of getting together to raise money for charity is great. What I ask you (referring to everyone who uses this site) is: are these people, who earn hundreds of thousands of pounds every year, giving any money to the cause they are singing for? Do they even want to do this for

charity, or are they doing it for themselves. Do they really want to earn money for the children who die

unnecessarily every three seconds of extreme poverty, or do they want to sell more records world-wide and earn more money for their own pockets? Surely they could raise more money for charity if they gave a percentage of their own earnings to the cause?
What do you think?

04/07/2005 15:02:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Live 8

I thoroughly enjoyed many of the performances in Live 8 on Saturday, the highlight for me being the appearance of Pink Floyd. However, I do wonder if it achieved its aim of increasing awareness of the issues as so many people seem to think that it was about raising money. And what about the impact on

G8? What do you think?

What was the purpose of the concert?

Why are so many people in Africa so poor? Is everyone there poor?

Can we actually resolve the problems?

04/07/2005 20:49:00

Selkie

Subject: In reply to TheHighfield

Wow! What a lot of questions! Ok, now for answers:

The live8 concert was to raise awareness about the poverty in Africa, but to justify my rant earlier, as far

as I know (but I could be wrong) the money raised from ticket sales went to an aid fund, and if they didn't, they jolly well should have done!!!

The cause of poverty in Africa, is firstly very difficult to find on the web (and I speak from personal experience) and secondly down to a whole load of things: Corrupt governments, constant war, famine (although this is also an outcome) and drought to name but a few. I'm sure there are plenty more - does

anyone else have any ideas?

Not everyone in Africa is poor - some of the governments are quite well off and some are quite poor - it varies from country to country.

You could almost call it a country of two halves, because, like in England at the time of the Jarrow March, there is a big difference between the very rich and the very poor.

I feel that these problems can be resolved, but with much team-work from other countries. I also feel that

it would be no good invading and getting rid of Mugabe, if only to put one of our own people in charge.

The solution has to come from within. In the end the only country that can really help Africa is Africa, and

they cannot do this with Mugabe and his like in charge. Other countries need to find a solution to this problem, and cancel the debt to help Africa get back on it's feet.

Do you agree?

05/07/2005 13:44:00

greendayrox

Subject: exactly!

selkie you have raised some great points selkie!

i totally agree. the government in africa shouldn't be spending the money given to them on nice cars.

instead the money should go to the charities so that the money will be spent properly. :D

05/07/2005 14:08:00

RD3000

Subject: exactly

selkie you have raised some great points selkie!

i totally agree. the government in africa shouldn't be spending the money given to them on nice cars.

instead the money should go to the charities so that the money will be spent properly.

06/07/2005 14:05:00

hanz_9

Subject: Money

I think that money needs to be spent on more important things such as schools, houses in Africa. The money doesn't need to be spent on cars or fancy houses. Africans need the money to get a better life and education. We already have these things. Help Africans. Give money to charity.

06/07/2005 14:34:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Solutions?

If the debts are cancelled for the African countries included in the classification of "heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), what then? How could we be sure that these countries simply do not build up more debts? What would you do if each time you owed someone money, they simply said, "OK, forget it!" What else needs to be done?

06/07/2005 17:31:00

Selkie

Subject: In reply to TheHighfield

Instead of just saying 'forget the debt', perhaps the countries should make an agreement - 'We'll only cancel your debt if you use your extra money to do something worthwhile'. Maybe even make provisions

for things (so much to be spent on education, so much on health care and so on.)

If the G8 do cancel the debt, there will have to be rules about what amount of money goes on which thing.

07/07/2005 12:12:00

lil_nik

Subject: My Ideas For Selkie

Whilst this seems a good idea at first I believe that this would not work.

Surely telling someone how to spend their money is sticking your nose in? Personally I think I'd rather have debt than except being pushed around by other countries around the world!!

07/07/2005 18:51:00

Selkie

Subject: Good point

You have a good point, lil_nik, but although it seems like sticking our noses in, would we rather be accused of being nosey or helping to remove debt from Africa?

As TheHighfield said a little while ago, how can we be sure that the country won't get it's self back into debt? I feel that the only way we can be sure, is by making an agreement about how they will spend their money.

Nosey in the short term perhaps, but as far as I can see, better in the long run.

07/07/2005 18:55:00

Selkie

Subject: Charity starts at home

Perhaps we should look at our own country and resolve poverty here, rather than looking at Africa's problems.

To change the world you must start with yourself, and this is true for countries too.

If they can find a way to solve debt and poverty in this country, then they (referring to the government) can start looking at other countries. If they use the same technique as they would in our country,

maybe
they will be closer to solving the problem.
What do you think?

08/07/2005 16:48:00

justice

Subject: Thank you

It's seems a shame to close this Forum but that's the way it goes unfortunately.

But what a debate it has been!

You should all be proud of yourselves. You made your points, used evidence, asked questions, tried different viewpoints and came up with practical solutions - all around a set of very difficult and controversial issues. That's no small achievement!

Those MPs who agreed to provide feedback afterwards have certainly got a lot to chew over. Watch this space!

The next Forum begins on September 19th, after the Summer holidays. Hope to see you there..

Forum Topic Transcript

The G8...

Why does the environment matter?

20/06/2005 09:44:00

justice

Subject: Welcome to the G8 debate...

Eight of the richest, most powerful world leaders are preparing to meet and talk about the biggest issues facing the world.

Climate change is a major environmental issue that will be looked into at the G8.

Who should be taking responsibility for environmental issues? Is it average citizens? Politicians and governments?

Which countries should be tackling environmental problems?

20/06/2005 12:39:00

Tomo

Subject: The Enviroment

The Politicians in this country could do hundreds of things about the enviroment but they are to scared about losing there votes. We use fossil fuels instead of nucleur power. Nucleur Power uses 1kg of fossil fuels while oil stations use 100's of kg's every day. The only reason the goverment dosnt change there source of energy is because it would scare the people due to nucleur explosions. This would mean Tony Blair would losevotes. The goverment should be implementing ideas like these before it is too late!

22/06/2005 12:25:00

peter2

Subject: what about renewable sorces

what about using renewabhle sorces of enenergy such as wind power which are perfectly clean and don't make any waste products

22/06/2005 15:25:00

dipsy

Subject: not good

I think the politicians and the pop stars should all give money towards the world using something like electricity to fuel cars.

Come on Mr.B, you have a say in what one of the most powerful countries in the world does, start helping the future generations!

22/06/2005 15:31:00

clock

Subject: politions

Politions are too worried about making enough money. They should be concentrating on the world we live in. Like polution that is cuasing acid rain and globe warming, or the amount of trees we are cutting down. Especialy the rain forests. There like the lungs of the earth and people are chopping them down just to make money.

andypandy

Subject: Enviroment

why have the G8 only decided that now is the best time to discuss global warming why not six years ago ,some scientist beleive it too late.

22/06/2005 15:37:00

davsarah

Subject: polution

I think that we should just help each other to help the enviromnt that way we will reduce global poverty and global warming

22/06/2005 15:38:00

gruff

Subject: Who's calling the shots?

Do you think that the inaction of governments on environmental issues is a result of their own self-interest?

Or is it the lack of action on the part of 'everyday' people that's holding back progress on these matters?

22/06/2005 15:39:00

andypandy

Subject: money

In this world money obviously means power and if the celebs have the most of it then why arent they in charge .

22/06/2005 16:13:00

5thelephant

Subject: re andy pandy

stars do not have the largest proportions of money in the world. Governments have the control over all your taxes which is probably trillions of pounds. For example USA can spend billions of pounds on a war more than a star could afford. The common people therefore have a lot of say as together they have a huge amount of money and they are the ones who give governments the authority over taxes. There is a tendency to blame stars and yet we all contribute to problems in the world.

23/06/2005 14:08:00

Hawkes

Subject: what is your opinion about the end

Many people try and explain how the world will end. Global warming is already taking affect and we must do something about it! the ozone layer is vanishing and nwe renewable sources are being made..any ideas that people can think of wuld be great. What do you think we should do?

23/06/2005 14:09:00

Selkie

Subject: Global Warming

I think that people have more influence over environmental issues - they are the people with the most power over recycling and things. Everyone should follow the 3r's, re-use re-cycle and re-pair. They should use their blue boxes and brown bins. Solar and wind power are all very well but they dont process much energy. We should look for alternatives to the alternatives - tidal and nuclear power.

23/06/2005 15:30:00

Tomo

Subject: Energy

I agree with the point of stopping global warming etc.. but i disagree with the point of using renewable sources because there is NO such thing. There are only ways to decrease the amount of waste. The only way of using renewable energy is methane which is given off from rotting vegetables; this can be then used as compost by being absorbed into the ground. Its ways like these that could help the electricity system. Ist that right Barry!

23/06/2005 15:33:00

Tomo

Subject: USA

Oh yeah by the way Americas budget on there ministry of defence is around £300,000,000,000 on average that depends on each year.

23/06/2005 21:32:00

Hawkes

Subject: Going back on myself...

tomo, i totally agree but surely if we make renewable resources it would prevent it from going any further?...

24/06/2005 11:00:00

RD3000

Subject: renewable resources

There is such a thing as renewable resources, but they are expensive and can be damaging themselves.

24/06/2005 11:04:00

Hawkes

Subject: rd3000 is right!

there is such thing as renewable resources and we must act now! tomo, i understand wat u r trying to say but there is energy sources out there that can help!

24/06/2005 13:46:00

Dougydude

Subject: Environment

I think stopping global warming and helping the environment is a big priority, but if we are going to make a significant difference, then we will have to work together, and to do that then we have to get rid of poverty.

24/06/2005 13:48:00

greendayrox

Subject: You Are Right Hawkes

Hawkes, i understand what you are trying to say, but the sources like coal have nearly already been used up!

let me ask you a question.

What should we do about the sources we have now? and how should we act to improve them?

24/06/2005 14:04:00

Dougydude

Subject: Answer to Greendayrox

I think the answer to your question is quite a tough one, greendayrox. I think the way of improving the fossilfuels would be to either use the remaining fuels we have to start concentrating on making sources for renewable energy, and start to use fossil fuels to a minimum

24/06/2005 18:04:00

hanz_9

Subject: environment

I think that we really to recycle more. With the average annual consumption is 1.5kg per person or 3.5kg per household, these figures are going up. Did you know that a recycled aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours. So in conclusion if people recycled more, we would have alot more energy than we have now. But im not saying to waste the energy on watching television all the time but saving it for better things, for the future.

24/06/2005 21:14:00

lil_nik

Subject: More Ideas

I think one really simple way of saving energy would be to street lights. They are a COMPLETE waste of eletricity and if we would only turn off our lights we would save thousands of volts per month!!! We could have a rule saying that street lights were turned on between 8:00 and 11:00 giving enough time for people to go out partying and etc without making them feel unsafe!

What are your ideas on my thoughts?

25/06/2005 09:41:00

lil_nik

Subject: Another Question

I've got a point about renewable sources guys!

Windfarms are so big and ugly that they cause not only sound but also sight pollution! They change the look of our beautiful countryside - is that what we want for our future generations???

What are your ideas?

25/06/2005 11:46:00

lil_nik

Subject: Whats wrong?

I have a question! Lets see if you can answer it Hawkes or Greendayrox or anyone else!
How come the greenhouse effect has been going on long before we started poluting much? How come every little thing that happens is 'warming the world' when in fact science shows that the world gets warmer all the time anyway and if global warming was actually a really bad problem then the world would infact be growing cooler! So what's going on guys? Lets see if you can answer!

27/06/2005 17:01:00

Hawkes

Subject: answer to lil_nik

If you really want to know why the greenhouse effect is making the UK cooler, it is because of the gulf stream. (It really makes it hotter but you will see my point in a minute). The gulf stream is a long current of water that starts around costa rica and goes north towards the UK. If you look at a map of the world, you may notice that the UK is lined up with Canada, and if you know the cold temperature and all the snow of Canada, then you will realise that without the gulfstream, the UK will be freezing cold. However, when the fresh water melts into the gulfstream, it will block the warm current, making the uk as cold as Canada. (The warmth is blocked and turned into the cold) As by this answer, i state that without the gulfstream, the UK would be as cold as Canada. I hope this has answered your question lil_nik,and if it hasn't, then pls tell me.

28/06/2005 13:39:00

greendayrox

Subject: yes

the environment matters!

who agrees?

28/06/2005 18:48:00

Hawkes

Subject: answer to greendayrox

i agree!

28/06/2005 20:50:00

lil_nik

Subject: Um... well...

Sorry Hawkes but that hasn't really answered my question.
Everything on Earth that is strange is blamed on humans but to tell the truth (though I am dead against global warming and poluting too) it doesn't have as much to do with us as everyone thinks! Global warming has been going on for MILLIONS of years! The main area of world heating came after the Ice Age when all the snow melted into the sea!

29/06/2005 16:59:00

Hawkes

Subject: reply to lil_nik

but having read what i have said, do you agree that we will go into anothere ice age?

01/07/2005 12:26:00

HayleyG

Subject: Pollution!

I totally agree with what Davsarah with what she said about pollution. If we cut down on pollution and recycle more we wouldnt have the problems we have.

02/07/2005 11:39:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Recycling

On the topic of recycling, what are our aims in doing this?

To recycle costs both money and energy. Use of energy for this purpose contributes further to carbon emissions.

Are there any ways in which we could cut both the need for so much recycling and our carbon emissions?

04/07/2005 13:51:00

Selkie

Subject: In answer to TheHighfield

Your question is an interesting one. The only way I can think of to reduce carbon emissions and the need to recycle is to stop making things!!!

I know that it seems an obvious answer, but it is possible. Why not make things that we can re-use and re-pair, instead of re-cycle.

Another point is that it's great to re-cycle (even though this also uses energy) but is it so great to use our

cars to get to these plants? In the re-cycle adverts there is a can re-cycle bin on the pavement. I dont see why this can't be true in real life. If there are bottle and can re-cycle bins on pavements in real-life, then I can't find any! Does anyone know where I can find some???!

04/07/2005 13:57:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Recycling

Maybe people should just be less greedy, so that less resources have to be used in the first place.

Also, people should put more money in to renewable energy resources, so that when the un-renewable

energy resources run out, people don't go in to a panic.

05/07/2005 13:54:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Recycling and energy

You have made some interesting points, flowerfluff and Selkie. You mention greed and the fact that many goods today are not meant to last but are intended to fail after a certain period of time and be disposed of. Perhaps these two are not unconnected?

I have also noticed that it is not that convenient to recycle here in Letchworth compared to some other places, Selkie. Not sure that I would like to see massive bins at the roadside around the town though.

I have been wondering how many things are produced that people do not really want? For instance, why

do supermarkets have bananas in plastic bags (Parrot, Fair Trade etc.)? Not only do I end up paying

for (in every sense) the plastic bag but also for its manufacture, its transport and its disposal. There is also further cost to me and my descendents in the effects on the environment of the above.

Any comments or further thoughts on these issues? Please do not send in mass mailings via my real-life letter box as I already dispose of one large box full every week, unread!

Can anything be done? If so how? Does the role of the ordinary person count?

05/07/2005 14:03:00

greendayrox

Subject: thehighfield

good question.

i'll try my best to answer it. there is a lot of conflict in africa, so many people have different views on things, which is why so many problems are raised. i think that recycling would affect the ordinary day-to-day life person, because if we were to stop making things, it could affect lots of jobs and therefore lots of families. i hoped i helped answer your question anyway! :D

05/07/2005 14:09:00

Selkie

Subject: In reply to TheHighfield

About big re-cycle bins at the side of the road - surely something could be done to make them attractive? Blend them into the surrounding scenery or make them into giant shapes (Daleks and trees are two 'wacky' solutions!).

I agree with you're packaging attack though!

Why do bananas and cucumbers need plastic wrapping? They have they're own packaging - it's called skin!!! I bet if we stopped wrapping fruits and packaging them so ridiculously we'd cut down on rubbish and need for re-cycling!

HEY EVERYBODY! YOU CAN HELP! PERSUADE YOUR PARENTS (OR IF YOU'RE A TEACHER DO IT YOURSELF) TO BUY POTATOES AND THE LIKE SEPERATELY! DON'T BUY THE PACKAGED STUFF!

I think that everyone can make a diffrence, but it needs to be lots of individuals! Don't leave it to someone else, saying that my little bit of rubbish won't make a difference, because if everyone says that it will! Do something!!!

05/07/2005 14:09:00

dipsy

Subject: recycling answer

Think of the world as a massive bar of chocolate. There is only so much of it, once you've eaten it all, it's

gone. This might sound gross, but if we recycle the chocolate(world), we will have more for the future generations to enjoy.

05/07/2005 14:32:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Recycling

I love the bar of chocolate image, dipsy.

Do you think that the ordinary people of the world will be altruistic enough individually to do what needs to be done? Do we need governments, politicians and world bodies to force us to make the hard decisions, or is it the other way round?

06/07/2005 13:54:00

greendayrox

Subject: hmm

i think that if we didn't have some kind of ruler in our countries, i think that since everyone has lots of different views, lots of which are quite controverisal wouldn't be sorted out if we didn't have someone to rule our country- but in africa i think that many people are ruling other peoples' LIVES and not thier country.

06/07/2005 15:25:00

dipsy

Subject: answer to teacher

I do not think the individual can make a difference, but a party has a chance, and protesters almost have a 100% chance of sucess, as it is not every day you see people numbered in the 100's, carrying banners around and screaming at the top of their voices. Then again, if the individual post's forward a good idea that everybody vote's on, it might be considered.

06/07/2005 15:35:00

peter2

Subject: energy

what about renewable sorces of energy such as wind , solar and tidle power these are sorces of energy that are hardly used

07/07/2005 11:05:00

RD3000

Subject:

We don't use renewable sources much because they are expensive to make/ produce and do not produce enough energy as non-renewable sources. To sort this, maybe we need to create a cheaper and more efficiant source of energy.
:p :D :(:)

07/07/2005 19:03:00

Selkie

Subject: In reply to RD3000

Perhaps we could look into other, new energy resources, or what might be a better idea, is to look into nuclear power.

Wind power causes, as someone has said before, not only sound but sight pollution. It doesn't work unless it's windy, and even then it produces hardly any power. As an alternative to this, off-shore wind farms are better, butstill cause the same problems.

Solar Power only works when it's sunny, and like the wind power doesn't produce much energy.

Tidal Power has not been harnessed copletely sucessfully yet, as I understand, and I suspect that like the other two it won't produce much power.

The only other alternatives are other re-newable resources with the same problems as the ones I listed here, and possibly more, or Nuclear.

If we are going to switch completely to re-newable energy resources, the power will have to come from not one, but all the different types of resource, as no single resource cna power the globe.

I know that people are afraid of nuclear power, but after all, nobody (hopefully) would start to use it until it was completely safe and tested. Wouldn't they?

08/07/2005 15:15:00

hanz_9

Subject: Reply to Selkie

i agree about the other ways of making energy, but nuclear power can have its disadvantages, for

example it can scatter tons of radioactive dust into the atmosphere, Spent fuel from nuclear power plants is toxic, and, as yet, there is no safe, permanent storage facility for it and transporting nuclear can be dangerous to. But i suppose if you used it carefully it might work, but i think these issues might stop some people using nuclear power. If we find other ways of making energy, without any harm, that would be the best option to take.

08/07/2005 16:49:00

justice

Subject: Thank you

It's seems a shame to close this Forum but that's the way it goes unfortunately.

But what a debate it has been!

You should all be proud of yourselves. You made your points, used evidence, asked questions, tried different viewpoints and came up with practical solutions - all around a set of very difficult and controversial issues. That's no small achievement!

Those MPs who agreed to provide feedback afterwards have certainly got a lot to chew over. Watch this space!

The next Forum begins on September 19th, after the Summer holidays. Hope to see you there...

08/07/2005 19:10:00

RD3000

Subject: AAAAAAAAH!

THE FORUMS CLOSING!!!!!!!!!!!!

Forum Topic Transcript

The G8...

Should you think before you buy?

28/06/2005 09:25:00

justice

Subject: Citizen consumer

We all buy goods and services and we are all directly or indirectly involved in producing goods and services.

International trade influences politics, culture and the make up of society. International trade is an everyday reality. It's worth \$US7 trillion each year.

But, where do we fit in?

What rights and responsibilities does a consumer have? Do you think about the impact your pound has when you spend it?

Is international trade are force for good or bad in the world?

28/06/2005 13:20:00

greendayrox

Subject: well of course

of course you have to think before you buy!
you can't just walk into a shop, totally brain-dead, and come out with something totally random which you find out later that you don't even want!
who else agrees with me?

28/06/2005 13:35:00

Dougydude

Subject: Fair Trade

I think fair trade is good, but other big companies like nestle are still selling more. If anything about fair trade is going to happen, lots of people will have to participate for a long period of time.

28/06/2005 15:28:00

HotSoupMerangue

Subject: agree

I am a long term supporter of fairtrade, and I agree with dougydude that we need a large influx of long term supporters for it to truly make a big difference. The reason large companies such as nestle are making more is because they are sponsored by large companies so they can pay more for the goods than fair trade and then sell them for a lot less because none of it is organic or anything like that. what would be a good way of getting this to happen?

28/06/2005 15:32:00

foilman

Subject: Fair trade

Yes, fair trade is good, however we need to concentrate on the third world countries that sell products to other western countries, that are getting totally ripped off.

The tea, coffee, chocolate, and sugar trades spread all over the world and we pay low prices for quality goods, that have been slaved over to get to us.

every trade should be fairtrade, and we and the governments of richer, western countries should enforce that.

Foilman

28/06/2005 20:43:00

lil_nik

Subject: Not Just About Us

Trade is not just about england or the people we trade with, it affects all sorts of people in sorts of habitats and life styles. When we buy goods at cut prices or cheat people out of a good deal we need to think of others in places like africa that suffer under the hand of unfair deals!

30/06/2005 13:54:00

Tomo

Subject: good point lil_nick

We abuse the trading rights in this country to help us gain money while the 3rd world gets poorer because the products they sell we buy off them for peanuts. We should make trade more fair and not rip

off the poorer countries just because they have nobody else to sell their goods too. example...

Nescafe instead of supporting companies like this one we should support the co-ops like Sunkist etc...

01/07/2005 12:26:00

foilman

Subject: 3rd world countries and trade.

in one of the other forums it was said that we could be labled, "the selfish Nation" (britain) if we gave the same percentage of GDP to third world countries, which is less than 1%!!! we shoud give more than that, and trade fairly with all 3rd world countries around the world.

it is an issue that can be resolved simply by just doing something about it, rather than just sitting and talking, thinking about it, not mentioning any names, ...TONY BLAIR!!!...

%^foilman^%

04/07/2005 14:01:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Fair Trade

I think that fair trade is very important because it makes sure that African Farmers get a fair price for their goods. This could help to reduce poverty as well.

05/07/2005 13:45:00

babybunnyangel

Subject: money given

If you look at the cost of say, a football in the shops, only a minute percent actually went to the stichers, who probably worked the hardest on it. If they ask for more money, they won't have a job at all, so carry on being totally ripped off. This should be changed, and English traders should offer more money to the hardest working people.

05/07/2005 13:58:00

greendayrox

Subject: yh

exactly

05/07/2005 13:59:00

greendayrox

Subject: FOILMAN

foilman you said you wouldn't mention any names!
mentioning tony blair is a very controversial subject....

06/07/2005 13:58:00

greendayrox

Subject: we should

i think that we should definately think before we buy because you never know where the money is going to...

06/07/2005 15:30:00

foilman

Subject: oops...

yer i did say i wouldnt mention any names, but i did... this is an issue we must tackle, by sending the right messages to people in high places in government, that care about what the kidz think!!

^%foilman%^

07/07/2005 10:58:00

RD3000

Subject: I agree
yeah :D

07/07/2005 19:23:00

Selkie

Subject: Fair Trade - could be fairer

I'm all for fair trade and giving farmers a fair price for their goods, but I think that the so-called fair trade could be fairer. I mean, I know that companies such as nestle are not good for cocoa farms, but are the

companies that supposedly give farmers a fair amount of money for their goods holding back? What do

you think?

I wonder if anyone saw the shortchange program on cbbc recently about the fake wristbands?

I thought that it was disgraceful of companies to even think about cheating charities out of money by selling fake wristbands for their own pocket.

Always check that the money from your purchase is going to the right harity, what colour it's supposed to be and any logos it's supposed to have.

If you are at all unsure whether the wristband you are buying is not making money for charity, the best advice anyone can give, is NOT TO BUY IT!

If it's not doing what it was made for originally , it can't be of any use to anyone.

08/07/2005 16:49:00

justice

Subject: Thank you

It's seems a shame to close this Forum but that's the way it goes unfortunately.

But what a debate it has been!

You should all be proud of yourselves. You made your points, used evidence, asked questions, tried different viewpoints and came up with practical solutions - all around a set of very difficult and controversial issues. That's no small achievement!

Those MPs who agreed to provide feedback afterwards have certainly got a lot to chew over. Watch this space!

The next Forum begins on September 19th, after the Summer holidays. Hope to see you there..

Forum Topic Transcript

The G8...

MP Responses

05/07/2005 15:11:00

OliverHealdMP

Subject: G8 and Live 8

It was brilliant to hear Pink Floyd back together and particularly "Wish You Were Here." Live 8 will put the issue of poverty in Africa at the top of the agenda for politicians. Climate change matters too. It is one of the biggest problems that the world faces. I hope we can get an agreement at Gleneagles. The

measures taken so far across the G8 are welcome but have not achieved a deep and lasting change. Indeed, most countries will miss their targets on carbon emissions.

In Africa, we must help countries to be self-sufficient, not just aid recipients. Poverty reduction needs good government and respectful human rights. We need extra money which can save millions of lives, but we must make sure that the support is not siphoned off in to Swiss bank accounts by corrupt governments.

I congratulate Sir Bob and all involved with Live 8. The Who and U2 were fantastic too.

Oliver Heald MP
(North East Hertfordshire, Conservative)

06/07/2005 13:26:00

Dougydude

Subject: MPs

I think its good that MPs are looking at the headsup forum. As you can see, we have contacted our MP and advised him to look at this website, if you are reading this, you should do the same.

06/07/2005 13:30:00

greendayrox

Subject: yep

hi oliver heald!

thanks for replying on the message boards- it's great that MP's are getting involved- even when the forum is closed! :(

Please write again Oliver Heald,

Greendayrox :)

06/07/2005 13:33:00

flowerfluff

Subject: Thankyou

Thankyou for replying to our email Mr.Heald and tellingus what you think about this whole situation. Fingers crossed that the leaders in G8 will try to do something about poverty. :)

06/07/2005 13:38:00

greendayrox

Subject: Sorry!

Sorry for the last message i posted before, i heard that the forum was going to close, and i thought that it was already closed but it isn't yet! :D
sorry!

06/07/2005 13:39:00

RD3000

Subject: OLIVER HEALD

OH WOW! OLIVER HEALD IS ON HEADS UP! WE SHOULD START A FAN CLUB!

OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER! OLIVER!
HEALD! HEALD! HEALD! HEALD! HEALD!
HEALD! HEALD! HEALD! HEALD! HEALD!

06/07/2005 13:41:00

greendayrox

Subject: ok...

erm....RD3000 how has that got to do with the g8???

06/07/2005 13:44:00

RD3000

Subject: This is the mp forum

ok, so i exagerated a bit. I am glad to see an mp on the heads up forum. You don't have to be so serious about everything.:)

06/07/2005 13:44:00

Dougydude

Subject: Reply

Ok maybe its not completely relevent, but this isn't the g8 forum, its the mp forum, so it has slight relevance.

06/07/2005 13:49:00

greendayrox

Subject: hey!

stop ganaging up on me!

i just wanted to know what your comment had to do with the G8 since the whole of this websites is what it's all about. on every forum on this messgae board, the G8 has been mentioned somewhere. i'm not being serious, but curious!

06/07/2005 13:51:00

flowerfluff

Subject: ?

errrrrrrrrr..... this is weird :D

06/07/2005 14:40:00

TheHighfield

Subject: Welcome to Mr Heald!

I very much appreciate that at least one MP has taken the time to join this young people's forum. Thank you very much, Mr. Heald. Now you have a captive MP, students, perhaps you would like to ask him some relevant questions directly? This is a marvellous opportunity for you.

07/07/2005 12:17:00

lil_nik

Subject: The Time Is Here.

Today is the day.

This is the moment.

As the G8 conference gathers today and we hear about the latest terrorist attacks in London, I think it's a great time to talk. We HAVE to do something to stop terrorism and to help the issues in the G8.

This is the right time. We can all act and speak out now.

Mr Heald. What do you think should be done to help stamp out terrorism???

07/07/2005 19:14:00

Selkie

Subject: To Mr.Heald

Thankyou so much for your kind reply to our e-mail. We all think it's great that our local MP is taking such an interest in our views.

Are there any plans to become more environmentally-friendly in your constituency? Especially in Letchworth.

What do you think about poverty? Can it be helped or stopped in any way?

I completely agree with your view on self-sufficiency, the only country that can help Africa is Africa - the power must come from within.

The only thing that other countries can and should do, is help it to get back on it's feet adn, like you said, become more self sufficient. I think that we could cancel the debt in Africa, but only if we made agreements with them on what they should spend on what, instead of spiriting the extra money away to Swiss Bank Accounts. Do you agree? Or do you think it's too much like sticking our communal nose in?
