

# MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

## Spread the Word: write a speech!

Contact groups in your area to see if they would be interested in having a local speaker talk about the issues connected with **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** and how to get involved. Below is a sample talk – you can adapt it or use it as it is.

Unless you are used to public speaking, you may be nervous but don't worry. Your audience won't mind if you read out your speech. Practice reading it aloud before hand, then give it with gusto, – don't worry about blank expressions – your audience will be taking it in!

Top tips for a talk:

- Grab the audience's attention with a punchy opening.

- Outline what the issues are and why it's important to do something about them.

- Explain that joining the campaign will really make a difference.

- Take along campaign information for those who want to find out more. Have a sign up sheet so you can get in touch with those who are keen to get involved.

## A Sample Talk

Hello, my name is ..... And I'm here to talk to you about the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** campaign.

You may already have heard about the campaign or seen celebrities wearing the white band around their wrist. Well, I'm here to tell you what it's all about and how you can play your part.

*[Wave a piece of paper]* I have here a message to you from a great man, Nelson Mandela. He has something very important that he wants to tell you.

He says: "Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our time, that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as massive social evils. Poverty is not natural, it is man made and can be overcome by the actions of human being. While poverty persists, there is not true freedom. Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Make Poverty History in 2005. Make history in 2005. Then we can all stand with our heads high."

Wouldn't it be great, to make poverty history? Do you think it's possible? Imagine if global poverty was something that children learnt about in history lessons. '800 million people were allowed to go hungry' the teacher would tell them. 'Every hour 1200 children died from preventable diseases'.

Do you think the children would be able to believe it or comprehend the scale? They would probably ask, 'What was being done about this terrible suffering?'

Good question. Because there are things that can be done. As Nelson Mandela said,

poverty is man-made and it can be overcome. How? By canceling poor countries' debts, by giving more and better aid and by achieving real and lasting trade justice – not free trade.

That's drop the debt, more and better aid and trade justice. We believe that with enough political, these things can be done.

Every time you see someone wearing a white armband, it means they have pledged their support to make this happen.

This year, people all over the world have come together to speak out about the fact that a child dies every 3 seconds, simply because they were born poor. This year has provided us with a real chance to help people across the world that are suffering and dying because of poverty. We must grab it with both hands for the sake of the millions of people who need our help to survive.

2005 has already been such an important year.

In July millions of people across the globe watched as Live8 concerts took place in 10 countries around the world in the lead up to the G8 meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland. The response to these concerts was phenomenal. In September, once again millions of people around the globe mobilised as governments from around the world met up to discuss the progress of the Millennium Development Goals – goals that were meant to halve world poverty by 2015 – that we are now drastically behind in reaching.

Still to come is December 10, the third global mobilisation for the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** campaign in 2005. This will take place in the lead up to the World Trade Organisation meeting in Hong Kong to make it heard that the outcome of these talks must be trade justice for the world's poorest people. We must use this opportunity to once again make our voices heard.

And there is no doubt that this year our voices have already been heard loud and clear. Countries all across the world – 82 countries to date – have mobilised and have been making the most of this opportunity to demand an end to extreme poverty.

If you want to be a part of this campaign, wear a white band. Go to the Make Poverty History website, [www.makepovertyhistory.org.nz](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org.nz), join the campaign, and send an e-mail to Helen Clark to ask that she takes action. Get your friends to do the same. Ask local celebrities, community leaders, and your local sports team to wear a band. Take action! Download a copy of the Action Kit off the website and check out how you can get involved on December 10.

2005 offers us an opportunity to make history, to make poverty history. To be, as Nelson Mandela says, "a great generation". It's an opportunity we must take.

Thank you for listening.