

SPEAK, ACT, DO



Guide for Educators

Speak Act Do is a programme to support students and teachers to take action on global issues that impact on our world.

This is a step by step guide to run Speak Act Do in your school and support students in becoming active global citizens.



AIM: To enable students to gain a deeper level of understanding about a problem that impacts on people all over the world (both at a local level and global level), and for them to take meaningful action to become Active Citizens in their school and community



WHO: Suitable for 1st to 6th year, and for as many students as you want to sign up - from one student to a whole school!



HOW: Supported by a teacher/the school, students will organise two 'actions' around a single topic of their choosing from the **action menu**.

1. A local action to engage the community/school and help them to understand how this issue relates to them
2. A Concern action to show solidarity with Concern's partner countries facing challenges as a result of the chosen topic

An action is something that students do to get people thinking about an issue or to change people's attitudes. From peer workshops with other year groups to writing to your TD. No action is too big or too small!



SUPPORT: The Concern schools team will support you in school through workshops, resources and ongoing support via email/phone



SHOWCASE: Groups will showcase their project at our annual Agents of Change event which takes place in April each year.

STEP ONE: Introduction

Homework/preparation activity

- Ask students to research ten facts about Concern



- Introduce Concern Worldwide. Share the video '**We are Concern Worldwide**' on YouTube which shows a range of our work around the world
- Introduce the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Find information and activities in our **SDG education resource**
- Using the SDGs as a guide, brainstorm problems that are making people's lives challenging both here in Ireland and in countries that **Concern are working in**
- What is the impact of these problems on individuals and communities in Ireland and in other places around the world?



Students at Agents of Change event 2019 in Croke Park. Photo: Ruth Medjber/2019

STEP TWO: Decision time

- Decide which topic will be the area of focus for your Speak Act Do project
Note: for Speak Act Do, students can choose from the following topics - hunger, gender equality, poverty, climate change or conflict
- You may wish to plan a lesson to introduce the topic before students begin their research. Find activity ideas and information for this in our **education resources**
- Delegate research tasks between students who are taking part. For example, half the group could research how this problem impacts Ireland and the other half research how it impacts a country/countries that Concern are working in
- Find out how Concern are taking action on this issue in the communities that we work in

Top tip: Invite our school speaker in to run a free introduction session to Speak Act Do or the theme area for your students!



STEP THREE: Research

- Continue researching so that students understand the topic with depth. Ask the group to consider how their topic links to other global issues that they are aware of

Research statistics, case studies and the impact on people's lives using credible sources.

Check out our guide to researching for more tips!



- Finally, now is the time to choose a specific issue in your topic to take action on. This should be based on your research. For example, if you have been researching climate change you might have found that food waste or fast fashion has come up as something focus in on

Remember: Check that your project links to Ireland and at least one of Concern's programme countries!

Projects presented at Agents of Change will be in the running to win prizes for best secondary project, best primary project and best fundraising project!



STEP FOUR: Action planning

- Brainstorm ideas for taking action. Check out our action menu for inspiration!
- What do you want your outcome to be? How can you make a change/impact? Consider these questions when choosing your actions
- Decide on two actions:
 - A local action - to engage the community/school and demonstrate how this issue relates to them
 - A Concern action - to spread awareness, get people thinking and show support for others in the world who are denied rights and opportunities because of your focus issue

Top tip: Do you want people to do something, change something in their life, share something, or donate to a fundraiser?



STEP FIVE: Take Action

- Make a detailed task list

Use our action planner resource to help you to plan your actions!



- Delegate tasks to utilise people's strengths, gifts and talents
- Decide how the actions will be communicated to people- will you share this on social media, the school website, local newspapers?
- Make the **local and global link** clear to whoever your audience is so that they understand why this issue is important!
- Remember to tell us about your actions! Tag us on Twitter and Instagram - @concernactive!

STEP SIX: Evaluation

- What went well?
- How many people were reached?
- What would be done differently next time?
- What was learnt?

STEP SEVEN: Get in touch!

- Email **schools@concern.net** to register your student's action project for our **Agents of Change** event by February 28th to showcase their project and meet likeminded peers!
- Find more information: **www.concern.net/schools-and-youth/secondary-education-programmes**

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EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER
IT TAKES