

Glossary of Language



Development Education = Education for a just and sustainable world. Development education aims to support young people to increase their awareness and understanding of the interdependent and unequal world in which we live, through a process of interactive learning, debate, action and reflection. Development Education challenges perceptions of the world and encourages young people to act for a more just and equal society at a personal, local, national and global level.

According to DevelopmentEducation.ie, some of the areas Development Education explores include;

- The basic shape of our (unequal 80:20) world
- International development and underdevelopment
- Human rights (and human wrongs)
- (in)Justice and (in)equality issues
- Race and interculturalism
- Views and perspectives on a variety of development issues including poverty, exclusion, women's rights, HIV and AIDS, discrimination, aid, etc.
- Development and human rights education

Active Citizenship = Active citizenship means citizens taking opportunities to become actively involved in defining and tackling the problems of their communities and the wider world. Within Concern Worldwide Ireland, the Active Citizenship team seeks to raise awareness of current international humanitarian issues and to empower people living in Ireland to take meaningful action.

NGO = Non-Governmental Organisation. NGOs are completely independent of government control and operate on a not-for-profit basis. They can run at the community, national or international level for a range of social or political goals e.g., the environment, conservation of wildlife or humanitarian causes.

Charity = A charity is a not-for-profit organisation which has to be established exclusively for what is known as public benefit. Some examples of these include relieving poverty, advancing the arts, helping people with diseases such as cancer, or other publicly beneficial activities. Charities goals have to fall into categories that are deemed charitable by the law in order to be registered as a charity.

Charities also have to produce annual reports to show how they are meeting their charitable objectives.

Not-For-Profit Organisation = A not-for-profit organisation is simply one where the operations are not for the financial benefit of an individual or board of directors. What makes a not-for-profit organisation different from a charity is that it is not eligible to register as a charity with The Charity Regulator of Ireland.

Social Enterprise = Social enterprises are very similar to traditional businesses in that they aim to make a profit, but it is what they do with their profits which makes them different. Profits are reinvested in their business or donated with the goal being to create a positive social or environmental change

Humanitarian = Concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare. Pertaining to the saving of human lives or to the alleviation of suffering e.g. a humanitarian crisis.



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UN = United Nations. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization aiming to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

MDGs = The Millennium Development Goals - the predecessor to the SDGs. The Millennium Development Goals were eight international development goals for the year of 2015 that focused on the Global South exclusively. They were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000.

SDGs = The Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all” set by the UN in 2015. In contrast to the MDGs which were directed at countries in the Global South, the SDGs are universal and applicable to every country in the world.

The Sustainable Development Goals;



1. No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



2. Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture



3. Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages



4. Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



5. Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all



9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation



10. Reduced Inequalities: Reduce inequality within and among countries



11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



13. Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



14. Life below Water: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



15. Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss



16. Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



17. Partnership for the Goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development



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WHO = World Health Organisation. The WHO was established in 1948 “for the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible levels of health”. One of the functions of the WHO is to prepare for local and global health emergencies by identifying, mitigating and managing risks.

Displaced Person = According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a displaced person is a “person or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”

Refugee = A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country of origin because of “a well-founded fear of persecution because of reasons including their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Asylum Seeker = An asylum seeker is a person seeking to be granted protection as a refugee outside their country of origin and is awaiting the determination of their status.

Migrant = An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons.

** The terms asylum-seeker and refugee are often confused: an asylum-seeker is someone who claims he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been evaluated by the authorities in the country in which they apply.*

Global Warming = Global warming is the long-term heating of Earth’s climate system observed since the pre-industrial period (between 1850 and 1900) due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth’s atmosphere.



Climate Change = Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth’s local, regional and global climates.

** These terms are frequently used interchangeably though the latter refers to both human- and naturally produced warming and the effects it has on our planet.*

Climate Action = SDG 13. Urgent action to combat climate change including reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts.

Globalisation = The process of interaction and integration among people, companies, and governments worldwide.

Boycott = An act of nonviolent, voluntary and intentional abstention from using or buying a product, or dealing with a person, organization, or country as an expression of protest, usually for moral, social, political, or environmental reasons.



Global South = First coined by progressive social activist Carl Oglesby in 1969, the Global South is a synonym for terms such as developing countries, least-developed countries, underdeveloped countries, low-income economies, or the out-of-favor, disregarded phrase ‘third world countries’. Like these related terms, Global South is used to describe countries whose economies are not yet fully developed and which face challenges such as low per capita income, excessive unemployment, and a lack of valuable capital.

Global North = The countries, located primarily in the northern hemisphere, that have historically been identified as “the West” or “first world” due to perceptions of their relative wealth, technology, and global dominance.



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Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

= changing the DNA of a plant or animal whose cells have been inserted into an unrelated species in order to take on a specific characteristic e.g. crops can be genetically engineered to develop a resistance against insects or weeds.

HIV and AIDS = HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)

is a virus that attacks the body's immune system by destroying important cells that fight disease and infection. There is currently no effective cure for HIV. But with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to **AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)**. Once people get HIV, they have it for life.

Activism = The practice of taking direct action to achieve political or social goals.

Activism can involve supporting a particular cause (or range of causes) or opposing it. Activism uses direct (and continued) actions, such as protests, lawsuits, lobbying, petitions, and strikes.



The Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages

= Images and messages can tell a story that's not true. They are open to interpretation and can sometimes reinforce stereotypes and perceive people as helpless and powerless. Images and messages should be carefully selected so as not to reinforce harmful narratives and misinterpretations. The Dochas Code encourages NGOs and educators to follow their guidelines, so that a simplified understanding of global justice issues does not do more harm than good. It can be found here: <https://www.dochas.ie/resources/communications-pe/code-of-conduct-on-images-and-messages/>

This document was compiled with the input of Irish Aid, DevelopmentEducation.ie, Trocaire, United Nations Resources e.g. UNHCR, Sustainable Development Goals, and NYCI.



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