

## KNOCK OUT ROUND 1 MOTION:

# The TikTok generation cares about ending global poverty

Between the years 2006 and 2008, Concern challenged students to debate the motion “The BEBO generation cares little for the developing world”. The motion encouraged teams to look within, and question whether they or their peers really cared about global issues, or whether the excitement of new technology and the promise of an increasingly wide social network meant their attention was being pulled elsewhere.

Since then, the world has become increasingly interconnected. Accessing news about emerging crises is easier than ever before, with interviews and live streams beamed through young people’s smart phones from across the globe. Hashtags like #EndPoverty and #GlobalGoals help spread messages about important initiatives and allow young people to publicise their personal standpoints. Influencers and activists use their platforms to inspire and mobilise young people to take action. Whether it’s raising funds for disaster relief or advocating for policy reforms to address inequality, today’s digital landscape offers countless opportunities for young people to connect, educate themselves and act in solidarity. This generation is arguably not only better informed, but has a greater capacity to voice their concerns and push for change than any generation before them.

However, critics question whether the TikTok generation genuinely *cares* about global issues. Does the constant bombardment of information desensitise them to the harrowing realities of current crises? And while a simple like or share online might signal a young person’s values, does it truly translate into meaningful, tangible change? Ending global poverty demands sustained effort and real-world action, not fleeting trends or superficial engagement. The entertainment-driven nature of social media encourages a low-effort, performative approach which many dismiss as *virtue-signalling* or *slacktivism*. Perhaps, instead of relying on social media as a force for good, the solution lies in a move away from the fast-paced consumerism of the twenty-first century. By disconnecting from their devices and critically examining their lifestyles, young people might bring the goal of ending global poverty closer to reality.

So although they have shown a unique ability to amplify global issues, is their online presence enough to prove that **the TikTok generation cares about ending global poverty?**

***Debate it!***

