

KNOCK OUT ROUND 1 MOTION:

Gen Z has the power to end global poverty

Global poverty remains one of the world's most pressing challenges, with millions of people experiencing extreme insecurity and limited opportunity. Poverty is driven not only by lack of income, but by deeper structural forces such as conflict, climate change and global economic inequality. As the most digitally connected and socially aware generation in history, Generation Z has increasingly positioned itself at the forefront of activism, raising the question: does Gen Z have the power to end global poverty?

Supporters of the motion could argue that Gen Z has unprecedented access to tools for change. For example, technology opens up networks of people around the world meaning young people can mobilise support, expose injustice and hold governments and corporations accountable. Through protest, voting and online campaigning, Gen Z has already influenced debates on climate change, workers' rights and inequality. As consumers, they can use their spending power to support fair trade and ethical businesses, challenging exploitation and promoting global justice. By leading movements against climate change and conflict, Gen Z can stand up against issues that exacerbate poverty globally.

On the other hand, critics question whether Gen Z truly holds meaningful power. While young people may raise awareness, real decision-making power often lies with governments, corporations and financial institutions dominated by older generations. Although Gen Z is often portrayed as politically engaged, levels of awareness and commitment vary widely, which limits sustained action. Protests are not always listened to, and ethical shopping may be constrained by affordability. Global poverty is sustained by complex forces, including political and economic interests, which cannot be changed by one generation alone. Placing the burden on Gen Z may risk shifting responsibility away from those with real institutional power.

So, is Gen Z a transformative force able to reshape the systems that sustain global poverty, or a generation full of potential but limited by factors beyond its control? Does digital influence translate into real power, or does ending poverty require deeper institutional change? **Does Gen Z have the power to end global poverty?**

Debate it!

