

Some suggestions and resources for event organisers on the 2015 theme:

"HOPE IN ACTION" Inspiring a culture of hope to build a more equal and peaceful world

Our theme stems from the concerns of our colleagues in the European Global Education Week Network that much of the conflict we see around us in the world today arises from inequality. We need to come together to tackle inequality before resentment and anger spill over into violence. There is no true peace without justice.

2015 Context

This year at the UN in September the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be adopted as part of the post 2015 development agenda. Later our leaders will come together to take crucial decisions about climate change. 2015 has also been declared the Year of the Soil to draw attention to our need to protect this rapidly degrading resource that underpins life on earth. This is certainly a time when we need to inspire Hope in Action alongside our partners in the European Development Education Network and in solidarity with the vulnerable worldwide.

SUMMARY

Whatever kind of event/s you organise it would be good to include these 4 elements:

1. Explain why hope is important for action to happen
2. Show how people acting together have brought about change
3. Choose inequalities to focus on and offer examples of campaigns to support.
4. Aim for participants at events to commit to a campaign for global justice

1. Why 'hope' matters

One of the things that holds people back from getting involved (in voting or campaigning or challenging injustice) is a feeling of hopeless despair. They feel that their views are not listened to or that they cannot make a difference.

This year in OWW we want to inspire people with the hope that by acting together with others we can challenge injustice and inequality.

This kind of hope is very different from the blind optimism of those who reckon that everything will turn out alright in the end whether they do anything about it or not. The kind of hope we need to inspire is hope that empowers people to act. This quotation sums it up:

"Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are. Courage to make them the way they ought to be."

(St Augustine of Hippo, 354–430 AD)

We are seeking to show that each of us can make a difference when we speak and act **together** by demonstrating that this has happened in the past (e.g. the Chartists and the Suffragettes) and is happening

now all around the world in local communities and in world-wide actions and movements. We need to inspire people with the **hope** that we can make a difference. We can work with others in non-violent ways and stand together with those harmed by injustice to challenge the perpetrators and fundamental causes of inequality.

2. Challenging inequality and injustice works

First, we can remind ourselves that social injustice and inequality are manmade and temporary and, therefore, we can do something about them, so we have reason for hope. And hope can lead to action.

*"Injustice is temporary, it's transient, it can be removed by enough determination, by enough courage, with enough resources. **Injustice can always be overcome because it's created by people and thus can be removed by people as well.**"*

[Owen Jones, writer, commentator and activist, Portsmouth Cathedral Lenten Lecture, 5th March 2015](#)

- **Historical (UK)**

You could remind people of historical examples of challenges to the status quo that eventually reduced inequalities.

Our history is full of the struggle for everyone to have an equal vote in parliamentary elections; for workers' rights and women's rights and it is still going on.

- 2015 is the 800th anniversary of the [Magna Carta](#) : it was not immediately successful in achieving peace between the rebel barons and the despotic King John, but it laid what the distinguished judge, Lord Denning, described as "... *the foundation of the freedom of the individual against the arbitrary authority of the despot*".
 - We can look to the challenges of the [Tolpuddle Martyrs](#),
 - the [Chartists](#), (you might be able to make a link between your town or locality and the Chartists)
 - examples of positive community action such as the [Edinburgh Co-op](#),
 - the [Suffragettes](#)



Resources from the internet:

The Tolpuddle Martyrs story is well told in the Museum to their memory

<http://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/index.php?page=martyr-s-story>

History of Britain - Rulers & Ruled – a series of 17 short videos:

No 13 - The Chartists - <http://timelines.tv/index.php?t=1&e=13>

No 14 - The Dawn of Democracy (Ch. 2 and 3 covers the Edinburgh Co-operative Building Co.

<http://timelines.tv/index.php?t=1&e=14>

No 16 - Votes for Women <http://timelines.tv/index.php?t=1&e=16>

- **Historical examples from around the world**

- The [Civil Rights Movement](#) in the USA
- The [Anti Apartheid Movement](#) in South Africa which seemed unwinnable but prevailed.
- Local issues from around the world

- **Recent examples of Campaigning successes:**
 - [Christian Aid: Stories of Hope](#) – lots from CA’s partners around the world including: [Ekta Parishad which organised the Jan Satyagraha march, India’s March for Justice.](#)
 - [Global Justice Now](#) – over 35 years of campaigning including some significant wins.

- **International examples today:**
 - The “[pink tide](#)” (growth of more pro-poor governments) in Latin America
 - The rise of anti -austerity parties in Europe: [Syriza](#) in Greece and [Podemos](#) in Spain;
 - International Peasants Movement , [La Via Campesina](#) for [food sovereignty](#),
 - Numerous local community initiatives to address local situations and issues.
 - The international [Fairtrade Movement](#)
 - The international campaign to [Stop the TTIP](#) (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) and similar trade deals around the world, which threaten to oppress ordinary people.
 - Social media campaigns that mobilise thousands of people to take action together



3. Choose inequalities with a global dimension to focus on.

You could focus on one or several from inequalities relating to wealth, power, work, gender, faith, ethnicity, culture, disability. You could explore the inequalities relating to climate change. Many inequalities are interlinked. Be sure to include examples of global inequalities in your programme.

Here are a few examples that **OWW’s partners** and others are engaged in currently

- **Economic inequality**
 There is a debate about whether inequality is growing or reducing: globally there are fewer people in absolute poverty; evidence based on average national incomes suggests reduced global inequality; within many individual countries inequalities are growing especially in the UK and USA, China and India. Then there is the growing concentration of global wealth and power in the hands of a very few super-rich individuals.

Useful references include:

- a special report by Oxfam, [Even it Up: Time to end extreme inequality](#) (140pp. 2014)
- The always entertaining Hans Rosling demonstrates graphically [The changing patterns of global income distribution](#) (short video and text Nov 2013)

The following

- **The Equality Trust**, “Because more equal societies work better for everyone”, focuses mainly on the UK, but a very useful introduction to the discussion about the impact of inequality more widely. [The Equality Trust website](#) has: information and statistics; details of speakers and recommended books (including “*The Spirit Level*” a book by Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson, which changed the way we understand and view inequality, and inspired the creation of The Equality Trust.)

- **Oxfam** is running a campaign, "[Even it up](#)". It is focussing on tax justice to begin to redress the balance between the 80 richest individuals in the world whose wealth is equal to that of the poorest half of the world's population.
- **Action Aid** and **Christian Aid** are both campaigning to make tax fair with a Tax Dodging Bill.
- **Global Justice Now** focusses on social and economic justice. They believe that inequality of wealth and power is growing but that another world is possible. They have links with Southern NGOs so plenty of inspiring examples of action in the South as well as the North.

Their [3 current campaigns](#) are:

- energy injustice;
 - Trans National Corporate take-over of food resources in Africa (in particular the use of UK Aid money to help the multinationals) and
 - unjust trade agreements including the TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership).
- **Quakers** in Manchester and Warrington held an equality week in March 2014 designed to [highlight the need to tackle inequality](#). They have an excellent resources on their website:
 - briefing paper ([downloadable here](#));
 - a [call for action here](#) and
 - ideas of [what else we can do to tackle inequality, here](#).
- **Church Action on Poverty**. Their "*vision, ['It's time to close the gap'](#) is of a fairer society with a narrower gap between rich and poor.*" They discuss "*how, together, we can build hope and transformation.*" Their primary focus is on poverty in the UK but some of the excellent resources for worship on their [website](#) could be adapted and incorporated appropriately into a service for One World Week. They also have suggestions for [action](#)



- **Equal rights in law**

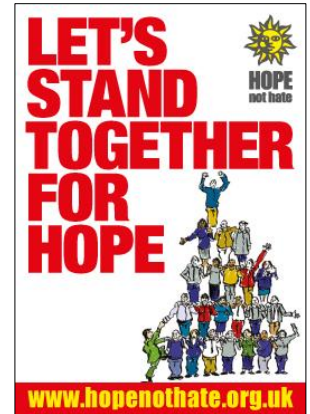
- **Traidcraft's Justice Campaign** is working for people in developing countries who've been harmed by UK companies to be able to get justice, in the UK if necessary, just as people in Britain can do. [Excellent campaign resources available](#) including [worship resources with video for use in churches](#). A shorter video for use on [social media here](#).
- **Workers' rights**. The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) addresses a range of issues such as Trafficking (with a 10 minute video of a conference report on how global supply chains could and are beginning take steps to stop forced labour) (see also section on Trafficking below)
- **Human rights** – the website, [Equally Ours](#), has individual stories, some presented in videos, about how individuals (in the UK) have used the Human Rights Act to gain better treatment for themselves and others like them in a wide range of situations. It also includes a facility for uploading your own story.

- **Trafficking –Global Seesaw** operates in the UK as a social enterprise with the aim of creating sustainable employment for women who have been trafficked into prostitution. If you are in the South of England they might be able to provide your event with a speaker and/or a stall selling fair trade products made by these women using environmentally friendly materials: [check out their website here](#)

- **Racism, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia**

Our partner, **The Interfaith Network**, has drawn our attention to the [Equality and Diversity Forum](#) which has a range of resources and links to relevant campaigning organisations.

- **HOPE not Hate** has been campaigning directly against racism with considerable electoral success and has [branches around the country](#). With this slogan and our 2015 theme it would be a great opportunity to involve them with this year's OWW.
- [The European Network Against Racism](#) has some useful resources including a [Q and A sheet about Muslims in Europe](#) which clarifies some misconceptions and answers some of the most frequent questions about Muslims in Europe.



- **Gender**

- **Christian Aid** has developed a [Gender Justice strategy](#) and stories that inspire hope from their Christian Aid Week material.
- **Action Aid** has a new campaign on gender from June, 2015.

- **Climate Change**

A good illustration of inequality: it is the high levels of consumption of energy by the industrialised world that initially produced the pollution which is causing climate change; the impacts fall most heavily on the poor and vulnerable who did not cause the problem but lack the resources to adapt.

Cafod's "One Climate, One World" campaign has some good stories of adaptation in Kenya that can inspire hope; excellent resources including videos to use in discussion and worship. They are working with the [Climate Coalition](#), which includes most of our partners and many other NGOs and community organisations in the run up to the UN climate meeting in Paris this autumn.

- **Disability**

In the UK progress is ongoing but challenged by austerity measures.

- [Equally Ours](#), has individual stories (see Human Rights section above)

In many poorer parts of the world much needs to be done:

- One international group that inspires hope is **Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA)**.

It has two key objectives:

- The development of strong disability groups, effectively advocating for, and supporting, their members' needs.
- The development of mainstream communities with the capacity to respond to the needs of their disabled members.

[More on their website here](#)

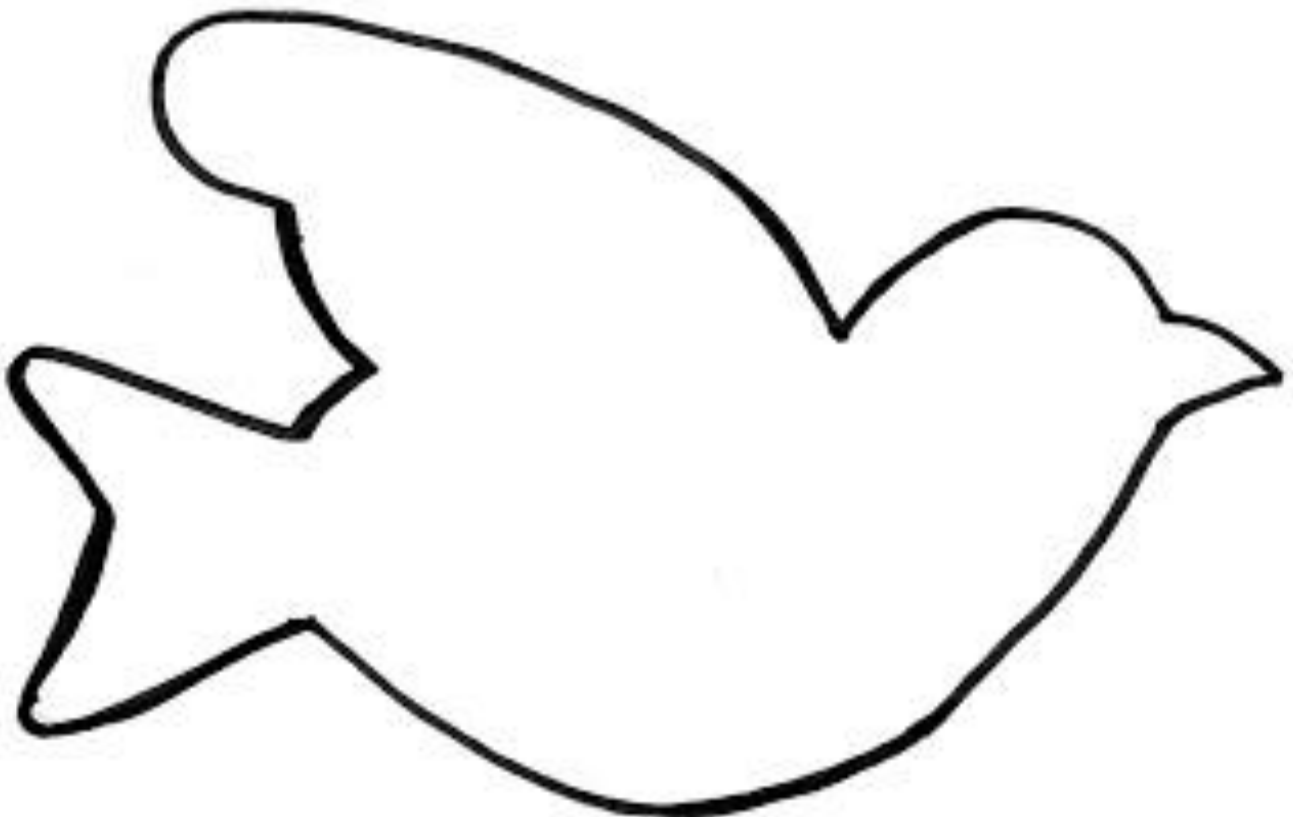


- **BasicNeeds** is a UK NGO which works to bring about a lasting change in the lives of mentally ill people around the world. About 450 million people in the world suffer from mental disorders and, in the developing world; up to 85% of them have no access to treatment (WHO). In the poorest countries in the world, mental illness is a taboo topic. By working in partnership with mentally ill people, rather than just for them, Basic Needs has built an innovative approach known as the Model for Mental Health and Development that addresses both people's illnesses and their economic and social well-being. [More here](#)

4. Campaign together for a fairer world

A worthy **aim** would be to get everyone at your event to commit to joining an organisation or campaign working for a fairer world. Invite them to say which and why.

You might consider getting people to write their pledge on a Dove cut-out and make your own flock of doves to inspire further action!



Here's a template to copy or download:

SJH 2015-05-13