



# WorldWise Global Schools Annual Conference Report

*Thomond Park, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016*



**Thomond Park, Limerick**  
**“Global Goals – Taking Action”**  
**14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

The WorldWide Global Schools Annual Conference 2016 was a learning, capacity building and showcasing event for the work that has been achieved by schools, school networks and NGOs engaging with the WorldWide Global Schools Programme in the 2015/16 school year. The event brought together over 330 students, 115 teachers and 70 professionals from 30 DE related organisations to explore the conference theme of ‘The Global Goals - Taking Action!’

The conference aimed to facilitate the sharing of good practice Development Education and develop participant’s capacity to undertake positive and relevant action on the Global Goals. The conferences key aims were to:

- Familiarise participants with the Global Goals and explore practical actions that can be taken to achieve them
- Inspire students to be active global citizens by showcasing examples of actions taken by their peers and grassroots people on global issues
- Link teachers with NGO’s that can support them to deliver quality Development Education in their schools
- Strengthen teachers understanding of ‘DE and Action’ so as they can facilitate students to take appropriate and meaningful local to global action projects.

The conference was rich with learning and invited students and teachers to engage in a variety of activities and workshops. The day opened with a daytime T.V. themed panel discussion - ‘Good Morning WorldWide’. Exceptionally globally active and engaged young people were invited to share their experiences of taking DE from learning to action. Students went on to participate in one of the 18 workshops running in parallel – each focusing on a different global goal and one on leadership for change. Students were tasked with the role of creating a strong key message to take back from their workshop, which they later shared with the rest of the participants in the afternoon session. Meanwhile teachers were engaged in a plenary session with Maria Barry, a leader in the field of DE, who explored the way in which DE can facilitate students transform learning into action. Teachers went on to share their experiences of DE with their colleagues in other schools.

The afternoon began with an exhibition showcasing school DE projects and NGO DE programmes; we heard feedback from the earlier workshops and closed with a Global Passport Award ceremony, which saw 50 schools receive an award for their DE engagement.



## AGENDA

- 10.00:** **Welcome and Introductions:** Mary McCarthy, WorldWide Global Schools Director
- 10.10:** **Good Morning WorldWide!** MC Michael Doorly, Head of Active Citizenship, Concern Worldwide. Youth Panel: Sally O'Moore, University College Cork (UCC); Charlotte Toner, UCC; Ellen O'Driscoll, National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and Anna Trojanowska, Challenging the Crisis
- 10.30:** **Students Workshops – Taking Action on the Global Goals:** 18 Workshops on each of the Global Goals and one on Leadership
- 10.30:** **Teacher Workshop – The Active Citizen, from Theory to Practice:** Maria Barry, Doctoral Fellow of Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education, DCU
- 13.00:** **Lunch**
- 13.30:** **Exhibition:** 20 schools exhibited their DE projects along with 18 NGO exhibition stands
- 13.30:** **Youth Voices – Communicating Action:** Two representatives from each workshop presented back a key message of learning from their workshop
- 3:00:** **Global Passport Awards Ceremony:** MC Mary McCarthy, awards presented by Julian Clare of Irish Aid
- 3.30:** **Conference Summary and Close:** Mary McCarthy



## 'Good Morning WorldWise Global Schools' YOUTH PANEL

With the aim of the WWGS Annual Conference to empower young people to be active global citizens around the SDG framework, it was important that young people took a center stage. Michael Doorly of Concern hosted a 'chat-show style' session allowing each of the young people to share their experiences of taking action for local and global justice. The aim was that students, through seeing clear examples of actions undertaken to address issues, the students would be inspired to take action themselves.



One of our panelists Hasham Abu Sham'a was unable to attend so he shared his message to the young people via Skype. His message can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/162772646>

Sally O'Moore and Charlotte Toner from University College Cork shared their experience of taking actions in school through Concern Debates and Campaign Academy; Amnesty Society and volunteering abroad. They both went on to study in the field of International Development and Food Policy. Throughout their four years in Cork, they have led the Amnesty International Society mobilizing students on campus and the wider community to campaign for human rights. In the last 2 years, they have been heavily involved in providing support for and speaking out on behalf of people living in direct provision in the Cork area.

Anna Trojanowska one of the founding members of Challenging the Crisis discussed how they work to encourage young people across 7 countries to take action and engage with the an alternative way of understanding the economy. They promote the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) that puts people and environment in the centre. Anna explained that these means seeing beyond our own back garden and considering wider global issues putting the core values of Human Rights,

democracy, solidarity, inclusiveness, diversity, sustainable development, equality, equity and justice for all at the heart of how we work and live.

Ellen O'Driscoll is 17 and attends Schull Community School and represented NYCI on the panel. She is involved with the YMCA and has been active in her local community during One World Weeks over the years. She represented Ireland in Brussels to talk to European leaders about the Global Goals and it's importance to young people.

It was a lively discussion amongst the panel. All of the young people on the panel-who work tirelessly on a voluntary basis-recommended that people should 'just do it' if they feel passionately about something. They also recommended using the strengths and skills they have and find creative and fun ways to engage people without compromising the serious nature of some of the global issues that we face.

## STUDENTS WORKSHOPS – TAKING ACTION ON THE GLOBAL GOALS:

There were 18 student workshops going on in tandem. Each one focused on one of the 17 Global Goals and one explored leadership for change. Facilitators were chosen based on their knowledge and experience in the area of a specific goal and we were delighted to have a wonderful array of experts

While each of the Global Goals they explored were different, facilitators were asked to follow the same format in engaging their student participants:

- **Global Goal Overview:** An overview of the global goal, why it is an important issue in the world and it's impact.
- **Example of a Practical Action:** An example of how a specific grassroots practical action has been undertaken to address/ raise awareness on the issue (from own experience where relevant)
- **Explore Student Practical Actions:** Explore actions students may undertake in their school on this goal.
- **Create a key message:** Assist the group to develop a very short key message from your workshop to take back and share with their peers in the larger group.

Each workshop explored their goal using different methodologies e.g. group work, idea storming, art, drama, song, film etc. Below are the photos of each of the workshops:

### GOAL- 1 No Poverty



Vicky from Galway One World Centre

### GOAL – 2 No Hunger



Claire from Concern

### GOAL – 10 Reduced Inequalities



Aaron and Nuri from Mind the Gap

### GOAL – 13 Climate Action



Deirdre from Trocaire

### GOAL – 15 Life on Land



Nicola from Sonairte

### GOAL – 16 Peace and Justice



Keiran from Glencrea

### List of Facilitators

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>THEME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FACILITATOR</b>
1	No Poverty	Galway One World Centre	Vicky Donnelly
2	No Hunger	Concern	Claire Marshall
3	Good Health	Concern	Breda Gahan
4	Education	Plan Ireland	Rebecca O'Halloran
5	Gender Equality	Gorta Self Help Africa	Mary Sweeney
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Gorta Self Help Africa	Dorothy Jacob
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Independent	Gavin Harte
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	Challenging the Crisis	Eleferia Papamichali
9	Innovation and infrastructure	Rothar	Anne Bedos
10	Reduced Inequality	Mind the Gap	Arran Towers & Nura Hagi
11	Sustainable Cities & Communities	Cloughjordan EcoVillage	Davie Phillips
12	Responsible Consumerism	Gorta Self Help Africa	Patsy Toland
13	Climate Action/Protect the Planet	Trocaire	Deirdre Walsh
14	Life below Water	EcoUnesco	Jenna Cains
15	Life on Land	Sonairte	Nicola Winters
16	Peace and Justice	Glencrea	Keiran Allen
17	Partnership for the goals	Irish Aid	Winifred Akinyemi
18	Leadership	Independent	Alan Hayes

### GOAL – 17 Partnerships for the Goals



Winifred from the Irish Aid Centre



Participants in an Irish Aid activity

# TEACHER WORKSHOP - DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND ACTION

WWGS invited Maria Barry from the Centre for Human Rights & Citizenship Education, DCU to run the workshop with the 110 teachers attending the conference. The session was split in two – A plenary in the Thormond Suite to explore DE in the context of actions within schools. This was to create the foundation for the discussions to take place in the second session – an interactive workshop held in the presidents suite. The workshop explored the following:

## 1. The Plenary: Development Education - What, Why and How.

Maria began by exploring different definitions of Development Education and their transformative agenda. DE was brought back to Freire's idea of praxis and Maria drew out why action is a core component of DE. She explored the value and purpose of DE from a practical learning, as well as broader policy perspective (international and national). Bringing this information down to a practical school level, Maria discussed the findings of some DE research by Bryan & Bracken (2011) & Gleeson et al, 2007 in relation to the status of DE in schools and ongoing challenges at the coalface of GCE. Referring to the work of David Hicks, Maria closed the plenary by exploring the idea of Futures education - what it is, why we might think about it and how it is linked to action. Focussing in how action can play a positive role in as yet an undetermined future (and on the students who take on the role!)



## 1. The Workshop: Development Education and Action

For the workshop part of this session, Maria facilitated teachers to sit together in groups of roughly 10 and answer key questions and sharing their experiences. Based on these discussions, the teachers were invited to write or draw some key words or ideas on a flipchart and nominate one from the group to share with the full group.

### **Questions:**

- How would you describe action in your school as it is currently practised?
- What would you keep the same?
- What would you like to do differently?
- What challenges do you face?



The questions brought some fruitful discussions which continued well on into lunch time.



## NGO AND STUDENT EXHIBITION

The Exhibition space was open for 30 minutes with teachers and students invited to visit stands and get more information and ideas for DE action. The student exhibition, which took place in Desmond and Munster Suites, saw 26 schools exhibit the projects they undertook over the year. Students visited each other's stands and shared their own experiences of learning about DE. The NGO exhibition, which took place in the main Thomond Suite, invited 18 exhibitors to share:

**With Teachers** - Resources/information about the DE programme they offer in schools; and teaching and learning material for them to take away.

**With students:** Information about how they can take action on the Global Goals.

Many of the stands were very interactive, with the aim that teachers and students will go away feeling empowered that they can take some small/big actions!



Sport Against Racism



National Youth Council of Ireland



Action From Ireland (AFRI)



ECO-UNESCO



ActionAid



Irish Aid



Trocaire



Gorta Self Help Africa



Re-dress



Show Racism the Red Card (SARI)



Concern



GOAL



Plan Ireland



An Taisce - Green Schools



DevelopmentEducation.ie

Other exhibitors not shown here include Challenging the Crisis, Mind the Gap and Friends of Londiani.

## YOUTH VOICES – COMMUNICATING ACTION:

As part of the earlier students workshops – each group was tasked with developing a message, which summarizes their key learning from the workshop. This could be a major learning or a call for action from their peers on the goal. Tasked with doing this in only 140 Characters (the same as a tweet), they were challenged to synthesize their learning and communicate it in a simple but catchy way to engage their fellow students. Two groups got very creative and developed a video message to share with the group.



Following the lunch and exhibition participants were called back into Thomond suite where a representative from each of the groups presented back to all. Each had a laminated image of the Global Goal they did in their workshop. One member of the group held this up while the other shared the message with the group. Michael Doorly, our MC coordinated this, calling them in order of their goal number. Here are some of the tweets that they developed:

**Global Goal 4: Education:**  
Educate to Include not  
Exclude@ in relation to  
boys, girls and people with  
disabilities.

**Global Goal 8: Decent Work and  
Economic Growth-**  
"Take action, don't be a part of an  
uninvolved fraction!

**Global Goal 16: Peace and  
Justice:**  
"True peace can be established  
through dialogue and will include  
equal access to justice as one.  
#SpreadThePeace"

**Global Goal 5: Gender Equality:**  
"A life of equality and dignity for  
all women and men by the year  
2030".



**Global goal 15: Life on  
Land** "When we try to pick  
out anything by itself we find  
it hitched to everything else in  
the Universe"

**Global Goal 9: Innovation and infrastructure-**  
"Push the pedal for a cheaper, more equal and more  
sustainable transport for the students in my school by  
creating a bicycle repair shop in my school #rotharforever"

**Global Goal 7: Affordable and Clean  
Energy -**  
"A new energy world needs education,  
investment and equity. We cannot change  
the past, but we can change the future.  
#creativeideasolutions"

**Global Goal 1 @ - NO HUNGER**  
#hungerheroes – Spread awareness of SDG2  
#thinkfreezesave –Focusing on food waste in Ireland and  
it's link to hunger in developing countries

## GLOBAL PASSPORT AWARD CEREMONY

WWGS awarded 62 Global Passport Awards in 2015/16. The conference Awards Ceremony awarded 50 of those schools with representatives in attendance.

Based on the WWGS appraisal of applications, each of the successful schools were awarded a Citizen's / Diplomatic / Special Passport for demonstrating an emerging / established / exceptional engagement with Development Education.

WWGS Director Mary McCarthy called each school to the stage while Julian Clare of Irish Aid was on hand to present the awards. To assist all winners with promoting this significant achievement, WWGS coordinated national and regional media releases and photo-calls on behalf of each of the schools, which appeared in the press in the weeks after the conference. This generated 39 regional press articles.



### Conference Summary and Close

The Conference closed with Mary McCarthy providing concluding remarks on the purpose and value of the event for each of the participants involved. She thanked the students for their energy, commitment and participation, and in particular the teachers who had enabled their students' engagement with DE, providing much needed structure and support. She reminded the audience that this was the first major event that WWGS had organised since the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals at the end of 2015, which provided the focus of the conference – in particular how we can all take action to make these goals a reality. Finally, Mary acknowledged particularly the work and commitment of the WWGS team in organising the conference, as well as all the facilitators who contributed to the day's workshops, sharing their experience and expertise with participants on such a wide range of critical global issues:

*“All of us have come here to the conference because we share a commitment towards making our world more just and sustainable for all. We know that we live in a world that is unjust and unequal – and we are not prepared to accept that as inevitable... Poverty and inequality are constructed and result from the action – and indeed inaction – of those who hold power and privilege...”*

*You are representatives of Ireland's young population, and today's conference has been designed to be a vehicle for your voices and views. Part of the value of today is coming into contact with your peers, with other teachers and young people who share your passion and commitment to making the world a better place. So, let's remember after we leave the conference today: development education is, at its heart, education for transformation and positive change. Nothing less.”*