We want every child
to go to school!

A booklet to help you
speak up and change things
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What this booklet is about

Lots of boys and girls around the world cannot go to school.

This is bad.

These children do not have the chance to learn things and do well in their lives.

In the year 2000 lots of countries said they will make sure all children can go to school.

They said this would happen by the end of the year 2015.

But there are still lots of children who cannot go to school.
Every girl and boy should be able to go to school.

You can help make this happen.

Lots of children around the world are already speaking up.

They are telling the people in charge to make sure all children can go to school.

You can help with this too. You can work with other young people to make this happen.

This booklet will give you some ideas.

It will help you speak up and make the people in charge listen.
The main things you can do

- Decide what you want to change
- Decide who you need to speak to
- Get information to show why your work is important
- Plan what you are going to do
- Do it and see how it works!

There is a form to help you plan on page 18.
You can write down any ideas there if you like.
Part 1:
Decide what you want to change

1. Decide what to change

You need to decide what you want to change about the problems that children have going to school.

You cannot change everything. So decide what you most want to change.

It is best to choose something that:
• you think can be changed
• you really believe in
Some ideas

You could:

• think about the problems that children have going to school

• talk about what you want to change

• talk about any good ideas you have

• write down some ideas or use pictures

• find out if anyone else is already doing work like this and see if you can join them
Good information

It really helps to have good information about the problem you want to change.

It will help other people see why the change is important.

Think about what information you can get.

This could be things like:

- the number of children who have a problem going to school
- how things could be better in the future
- stories people tell you about the problem

Things you need to decide

✓ What is the thing you most want to change?
✓ What do you want to happen at the end?
✓ What information can you get about it?
2. Decide who to speak to

There are lots of people it may be good to speak to or work with.

Choose the ones you think will help the most.

This could be other people who want the same thing as you.

Or people who make decisions about schools.

Some ideas of people to speak to

 Teachers

 Children and young people

 The Government and other people in charge

 Parents

 The media. Things like TV, radio and newspapers

 Groups that speak up for young people
You may want to speak to people to:
• find out more
• ask them to work with you
• get them to make the changes you want

Think about what you want them to do.

3. How to speak to people

You could do lots of things like:
• have a meeting

• speak to people or interview them to find out more information

• ask them to fill out a survey with some questions to answer

Things you need to decide
✓ Who you need to speak to
✓ How you are going to speak to them
✓ What you want them to do
Part 2: Plan what to do

You need to decide what to do to make the change you want happen.

It can be good to work with all of these people:

- People who make big decisions. You can try to get them to make the change

- People from your local area can join you and work to change things together

- The media. This is things like TV, newspapers and radio. They can help you tell more people about your work
Some ideas of things to do

Work with people who make big decisions
Do a campaign. Get other people to do things too
Write a song or put on a play

Work with other groups of young people
Use the media or the internet to get more people to join in

Things you need to decide

✓ What you can do to make the change happen
✓ How you are going to do it
✓ How will you check if your plan is working?
✓ Will there be any problems?
Part 3: Do it!

Now you can do the things you have planned. Here is some more information to help you.

1. How can I make people listen?

You may work with lots of people with different ideas.

It is important to listen to everyone.

Some ideas

It is best to plan some things before you meet people like:

• what you want to say
• what you want to agree with them

Think about what is important to the people you are meeting.
You can show them:
• why your work is important
• what they can do to help you

You could practice having a meeting first.

2. Working with people who make decisions

You could do things like:

• look at new plans these people want to make and say what you think of them

• have meetings with the people who make big decisions

3. Doing a campaign

This is when you get other people to do things as well.

Together you can help make the change happen.
Some ideas for your campaign

You could:

• get lots of people to go on a big walk called a march

• set up a stall where you can talk to people and give them information

• have an event or meeting

• get people to sign something to say they agree with your change. This is called a petition

• use things like mobile phones, Twitter and Facebook to get lots of people to join in
4. Working with the media

The media can help you tell lots of people about your work.

**Some ideas**

You can think about:

**What you want to say to media people.**

They like new and interesting stories.

**How you want to talk to them.**

You could ask them to an event.

You could phone them.

You could write a news story for them to use.

You could have an interview with them. This is where media people ask you questions. It is a good idea to practice first.
A story about young people who changed things

There was a war in an African country called Burundi.

Things were very hard.

Some children had no parents because they died in the war.

The children could not go to school because they had no money.

But some children decided to change things.

They did things like:

• get together with other children like them
• ask people for money
• talk on the radio.

This worked really well.

The person in charge of schools said all these children could now go to school for free!
Your plan:

What do you want to change?
What do you want to happen?

Who do you need to work with?
What will you do and when will you do it?

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