

AUCKLAND JUST FOCUS FIRST MEETINGS

Date: Saturday 14 May & Sunday 15 May

Location: Freeman's Bay Community Centre & random cafes on K road.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Understand JF

Express ideas for project direction

Connect up

Sort out website categories

Key learning: connection of the global to the local

CENTRAL ISSUES

Gender	Equality	Race relations	Debt	HIV/AIDS
Education	Political freedom		Trade – fair/unfair	
Money – economics		Human Rights	Sustainability	Poverty
Arms – personal and government			Corporate globalisation	
Our perceptions - the way we think reflects and creates the world				

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN GLOBAL ISSUES

- Lack of understanding – in depth
- Perception that can't change anything – it's just the way it is
- Don't know what to do
- The problems are too dire – you feel bad so you don't think about it
- Distance – it's not in your face
- The structure of society – disconnection, consumerism
- It doesn't affect me (not true!)
- I just don't care – no desire to bring about change
- Ambulance at the bottom of cliff – it's all reactive

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS TO ADDRESS

Target group: broadly 12-30, specifically 16-20

How do you get people involved in the project/ aware of global issues?

1) Important note: The Just Focus project has a couple of target groups of young people. One group is the members – these are people who are interested in global issues and want to learn more, discuss them and take action. This is not everyone in NZ in the youth demographic – JF will have a membership of 200-300. This group will receive training, organize events and control the project (there is likely to be a much smaller key coordinating group within the membership throughout NZA). The other group is all young people, this is the

group that will find out info from the website or various events, increase their understanding but not be key members in the project.

2) Need for training on how to teach other people about issues

3) Promo for project: currently thru Tearaway magazine, youth worker networks, will send info to schools.

Issue: many people that choose to be a part of this project will have some concern and understanding about global issues already. In order to get other people involved there need to be broader methods.

4) Providing info about issues:

The website is one way for people to learn about the issues (if they know about it!)

Providing info thru regular speakers

Organise an event eg a youth conference with workshops and speakers about global issues

How do you maintain sustainability?

This is a difficult question that needs further discussion. The aim is that the three parts of the project (website, regional groups and national hui/camps) will complement each other and ensure sustainability.

One of the keys is that people can meet on a regular basis to discuss stuff and work on projects.

Are there specific areas of focus?

Answer: no. The project has a global focus while directly being connected to NZ, the issues within this are up to the members of Just Focus. The aim is that people will select issues of interest and work to become educated, inform others and create change on that/those particular issues. We can of course choose areas that are important (see list above) to focus on for articles or workshops etc.

Does JF have particular political leanings?

No. Just Focus will not be affiliated with any particular party, but of course members may be! In writing for Just Focus, comments regarding particular politicians or parties will need to be put in context, supported by examples, stats, quotes and also express the opposing opinion. While the author may have a specific opinion or leaning, and may express this, it must be done in a way that makes clear what is reporting of 'fact' and what is opinion.

IDEAS FOR ARTICLES/WEBSITE

- Each article has an action (empowering) eg like Greenpeace does
- Shocking stats – really interesting but use carefully so not de-sensitising
- Have a list of products/consumer guide (maybe put in the 'Take Action Toolkit' section of website)

- Facts need to be accurate – writers provide links for references, others need to fact check – people need to be trained to do this (can't just be Eva and Kim!)
- Who will write? Possibility of following YETI model (youth editorial team incorporated – used by Tearaway Magazine): Small team who write regularly; they receive lots of training and support but they also have to commit to deadlines. Others who want to write are still able to but they won't be given as much training nor have as much expectation to produce.
- There was discussion about whether to go for constant build up of articles or magazine publication style where they all go up on a specific day. For now we will probably just get them on the site as soon as they are ready.
- There needs to be a newsletter/editorial that gets sent out monthly or so.
- Stories of how action works – inspiration
- Info about sustainable action – and what to do if it doesn't work straight away
- Articles need to cover the 'why' and 'how to' stuff, they need to enlighten and be in-depth
- We create this world: explore people's motive, understand what is going on, question self

CAMP

Calling it 'camp' is not accurate – call it a hui or conference – but it will have fun stuff too.

DOING STUFF LOCALLY

- Get in speakers
- Have people go and speak at schools to get those not normally involved aware focus on year 9 and 10
- Hold a one day conference
- Mentoring: members who are involved and have a good understanding of issues can do training to be able to pass on info to others.

- It is a good idea to have a core group of coordinators who can then network with coordinators in other areas – 2 from Auckland can attend the coordinators national hui in Wellington in October (*who will it be?*)

- Just Focus needs to be locally relevant and related to the New Zealand culture/s.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

What are we?

The people who have attended the meetings and signed up are the current Just Focus members group in Auckland

Keep in touch

- Everyone's names will be put on a group email list and sent out to everyone so they can keep in touch.

Meetings

- From here the group will have regular meetings eg once a month to work out what they want to do and support each other eg in reading each others articles, editing, designing an event.
- At time that suits everyone to attend eg Sunday afternoons – that is easiest cos after school/uni is difficult, lots of people work Saturday and Sunday afternoons are less likely to get in the way of church commitments).
- At a central venue – so everyone can come along and not have to sit in a café and buy (fair-trade ☺) coffees
- Eva will attend some meetings but not all

What you need:

- Training: how to do workshops/present info, Workshops on specific issues eg: sweatshops, war, linking global to local,
- Being informed - Eva will keep doing updates
- A central venue – Eva to organise.

Members' Interests

Different members have different interests – eg writing articles, educating others, website moderation.

This includes but is not exhaustive (I took some notes but no doubt missed stuff – e)

Ilai: promo, advocacy, website consultation

Andrew: informing others, writing articles

Heather: write, edit

Geoff: research, articles

Cameron: writing - re politics, freetrade, inequalities

Rima: writing re politics, military, interest in mediation and anti-bullying

Carina: interested in being kept updated

Sophie: keep updated

Everyone: Website critique

BITS AND PIECES

Things to check out – suggested links:

Rising tide: <http://risingtide.org.nz>

Black cat: <http://blackcat.enzyme.org.nz/>