

A letter to the prime minister

We know that your groups are all very busy this month finalising plans for your 'They Go To Die' screenings, so, to make life a little easier, we are including a letter outline with some key points to include in your letters to the Prime Minister. Feel free to follow our steps or ignore them completely! We are using the EPIC format for this letter:

Engage, state the Problem, Information on the solution, Call to action.

Dear Prime Minister

RE: ensuring tackling inequality is at the heart of any new global development framework.

E- Engage

You should always start your letter with a powerful and bold statement that will catch the reader's eye. This can be a personal connection or a worrying statistic.

"As a co-chair of the UN High Level panel on the Post MDGs, you will be aware that inequality has been a major barrier to achieving the current goals and that –despite broad success across several goals- many of the world's poorest or most vulnerable have made little or no development progress over the past fifteen years"

It is now also worth making a personal connection, to let the PM know that you are a concerned and informed section of the electorate. This will be very personal to your group, but may look something like this.

"We are writing to you as RESULTS (your group). We are a small group of passionate and concerned citizens who have been campaigning on issues of health, education and access to finance for over two years. We are doctors, mums and teachers who care deeply about the inequalities and injustices faced by the world's poorest people all over the globe and are passionately committed to helping realise a brighter future for all. We believe strongly in the UK's world leading role in helping to bring about that change.

We have seen the world change unrecognisably for the better since the inception of the MDGs however we are concerned that –as we mentioned above- too many people have been left behind.

P- inform of the Problem

You should now bring in some of the key facts from the Background sheet on the disparities of achievement of the MDGs. You may choose to focus on one of these groups, or try and cover them all!

"For example:

- Despite significant progress towards MDG 2 on Universal Primary Education, UNESCO estimate that there are still around 61 million children excluded from school worldwide. The Global Campaign for Education state that one third of all of those out of school children are living with a disability; and that huge numbers of children living in remote areas, those that are ethnic minorities; or living in conflict affected states make up a large proportion of the rest. So whilst many 'easy to reach' children are now in school, the most vulnerable continue to be excluded.
- Huge progress has been made towards achieving MDG 4 on reducing child mortality. For example, by 2010 85% of the world's children were vaccinated with three doses of a diphtheria-, tetanus-and pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP3), compared with 75% two decades earlier. However one fifth of all children remain at risk of these deadly childhood diseases which take the lives of millions. According to Save the Children, this bottom fifth is almost exclusively made up of the hardest to reach: the very poorest, those living in rural

areas, ethnic and linguistic minorities. So whilst progress has been steady, there is a quintile which remains alienated and vulnerable.

There are other goals you could focus on and by all means consider financial services, access to sanitation or the internet, maternal mortality or many more. If you'd like some info on these other factors, let us know.

I –Inform of the solution

“Clearly there is much work still needed to be done if the poorest and most marginalised are to be reached in all of the different areas on which the goals have focused. It is absolutely crucial that tackling inequality has the highest political priority in shaping the new goals. Tackling inequality needs to become a cross cutting theme central to all goals (including education health and access to finance...or which ever you have referenced)

The new goals must build on the good work of the MDGs in terms of strengthening gender equality and should look to consider other forms of inequality such as income, disability and ethnicity.

In order to effectively tackle the myriad factors which influence inequality of development outcomes, any new goals should have disaggregated targets attached to them which prevent countries from aiming their efforts at those populations who might be considered “low hanging fruit” in order to reach aggregated targets. Post-2015, the targets and indicators for measuring progress must go beyond the national level, and specifically monitor progress for key sub-groups and aspects of inequality, such as gender, age, wealth, disability and location.

The new framework should be made up of absolute, not relative goals. “Getting to zero” on hunger and poverty, or conversely “getting to 100%” on provision of quality education and healthcare will implicitly mean addressing inequalities and would be in line with international treaties on universal human rights that say that every child and adult everywhere, no matter what their income, gender or ethnicity, should enjoy education, health and freedom.

You do not have to feature all of the above points and it is fine to choose those which you feel have the most resonance with you and your group.

C- Call to action

You should now call on the PM to make these changes a reality

As the Co-Chair of the UN High Level Panel, we are calling on you to use your influential role to ensure that these issues are at the heart of the discussion on the post MDGs. There are many members of the British public who care passionately and deeply about the future of international development and you have a unique opportunity to influence this process.

Systematically addressing inequality throughout any new framework is absolutely vital if we are to see a world free from hunger and poverty, as no other factor is more dominant in hindering the realisation of development.

I hope that we can trust that you will represent our views on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Your names