



# COMMUNIQUÉ TO THE G8 LEADERS



**LOUGH ERNE  
15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013**





## FOREWORD

Our young people are one of our greatest assets. They are passionate about creating genuine change to make the world a better place and influence the future for the greater good. Recognising the unique opportunity of the G8 Youth Summit being held in June 2013, Fermanagh Trust facilitated the bringing together of 100 young people from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and gave them the chance to genuinely have their voices heard.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, a unique and creative process, facilitated by Professor Sandra Janoff from the Future Search Network, created a positive space at the actual venue of the G8 for the delegates to have their views represented on critical international issues. The participants had the privilege of hearing Caroline Casey and Kanak Mani Dixit, who inspired them to be ambitious in their thinking. From the outset, they recognised their responsibility to speak on behalf of those who don't have a voice. The maturity of the debate was exceptional.

The young people, in the first instance, considered the agenda of the G8 itself, namely the issues of **TRADE, TAX AND TRANSPARENCY**. From first principles, they outlined the context, in which the 8 world leaders would have to take account of these priorities globally. Working together, the participants identified Common Ground, and through a process of prioritisation, the four key issues of **EQUALITY, POVERTY, HEALTH AND PEACE** were identified. They presented the interim communiqué to representatives from the G8 countries, including Secretary of State Theresa Villiers on behalf of Prime Minister Cameron, and the U.S. Consul General Greg Burton, along with representatives from the EU and the Irish Government and local political, civic and church leaders. All those present recognised the importance of the process the young adults had come through and their passion for their message to be heard. The Secretary of State, U.S. Consul General and Representative of the Taoiseach's office, who currently holds the EU Presidency, promised to forward to communiqué to their respective leaders to inform those present at the Summit.

The G8 Youth Summit has inspired all those who took part, and there was a real sense that we were witnessing the emergence of a wonderful group of young leaders. Fermanagh Trust has committed to keeping the 'flame alive', supporting over 60 young people to take part in international aid opportunities, and hosting a Reunion Summit in 2014. It was a privilege to have been part of this exercise, and what follows records the outcome of this significant event. All the young adults ask is that their voices are heard, but most important of all, they should be listened to.



**This communiqué outlines the key global issues identified at the G8 Youth Summit.**

This was a two-day gathering held at the Lough Erne Golf Resort in Fermanagh in May 2013. It involved 100 young people aged 16 to 25 from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and was an opportunity for us to build common ground on the issues that we, as young adults, think are the most crucial and urgent in our world today.

**We want the G8 leaders to hear our voice.**

We began the summit by creating our own agenda. We understand this year G8 summit focus is on **Trade, Tax and Transparency** and the importance of these issues. However, we looked beyond the current economic crisis, and acknowledged our world of inequality, starvation, unnecessary death, and injustice. We did this by reflecting on the past, recognising the present and envisaging the future. Together, we made a mind map to visualise our world, interlinking the global trends and issues. We then imagined how the world could be in ten years time if our issues were addressed.

In groups, we creatively portrayed our desired world. Through challenging but respectful discussion, we agreed on the four most important, critical

issues:

**EQUALITY**

**POVERTY**

**HEALTH**

**PEACE**



## EQUALITY



We want a world where everyone is equal regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, age, and ability or disability.

Too often, the world's media focuses on difference, creating tension.

We want greater commitment from our governments, our media and our societies to seek out and promote common ground in our differences.

People should be able to be themselves without fear of prejudice or persecution.



## POVERTY

We want to see much greater commitment from our governments to the even distribution of wealth, both locally and globally.

All people have a basic human right to adequate food, clean water, shelter and clothing.

Education is critical, enabling children to grow and flourish as individuals contributing to their community and their economy.

We believe in fair trade to create a world in which justice and sustainable development are at the heart of trade structures and practices, so that everyone though their work can maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full potential.





## HEALTH



We believe in universal health care that is free and accessible to all people around the world. It should not be dependent upon where we live or how much money we have.

We want to see greater commitment from our governments to ensure that health care is not seen as a money-making industry, but as a basic human right.

It is crucial that mental health should have the same importance as physical health.

We want to see greater efforts around the world to provide mental health services and reduce associated stigma.



## PEACE

We want all governments to show much greater commitment to negotiation and dialogue as a way of resolving conflict. We want military intervention to be the very last resort and not the first response.

We want a world that is free from the threat of nuclear and chemical warfare, meaning all governments will decommission these capabilities.

We want greater efforts to resolve long-standing conflicts and liberate child soldiers. We are concerned at the de-humanising of warfare through the use of drones, and the indiscriminate killing of civilians.

We want governments to demonstrate greater value for human life, creating a safer world for generations to come.





“Now, it is up to you. We want you, the leaders of the G8, to listen to us. We want you to see that we care about the world you run, and we want you to do everything in your power to create the world we envision. After all, we are the future, and the future is in your hands.”

*– G8 Youth Summit Delegates*



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