

SEE



Seeing the reality of UK Poverty

Three quarters of the population think that the gap between rich and poor has grown too large. It's now our time to speak out!



Over the past two decades Britain has become richer, but not any fairer. The UK is the fifth richest country on the planet, yet the gap between rich and poor is still enormous. Get Fair is a new umbrella campaign, supported by over 50 organisations; refugees and disabled groups, housing groups, faith and community groups. YCW Impact are part of the Get Fair campaign. We've come together around one simple message: **It's time to Get Fair.** We want you to see how fair your local neighbourhood actually is, judge it and then act to do something about it, so as to make our country a fairer place for young people to live in.

SEE - Read the story below and discuss the questions in your group



Angelina was thinking about the cost of putting these tea-lights around the room. The huge bag cost her only a pound. Ok, so she couldn't afford to put the lights on and watch the telly, but with these she would not feel so afraid in this room, even with the horrible noises coming from next door and upstairs.

She remembered how she used to feel about her mum. At twelve Angelina thought her mum was stupid and pathetic, worrying so much about every penny; being mean with the money; never giving Angelina what she really needed. She had hated and resented her mum so much! Thinking about it now as a mum herself, trying to scrape by with so little, it scares her to think that she ever was that mean, selfish kid. Sitting down with the blanket wrapped around her, and little baby Jack sleeping soundly in the buggy next to her, she thinks about seeing her mum in a couple of days. Will she say sorry to her? The things you do when you are young! She thinks about her own age - eighteen years old and with a little boy rapidly heading for his first birthday! Young is a relative thing. When I'm 29 Jack will be 12. How will I deal with him at that age?

She looks at her mobile and sees that it's almost time for her TV programme. She takes a quick look at the tea light candles, pleased with herself for saving some money. She notices what seems like a shining pool around one of the tea lights. Looking at another she notices the same effect. Then it dawns on her that the things are leaking melted wax over everything!

She begins to panic, not sure whether to blow them out or leave them. She runs around, tears streaming down her face, frightened to put the light on. Finally she switches on the TV and goes around blowing all the candles out.

Sitting in the dim light of the TV she wonders how she is ever going to get the wax off everything! Saving money might have cost her a lot more in damage than she would ever be able to afford. She watches her programme, hardly taking notice of the story, tears running down her face, feeling very alone with no credit on her phone and dreading what she will find in the morning when the sun rises.

- What strikes you from the story?
- Can you believe this is a true story?
- How might lack of money and support affect people?



Poor is...

In small groups, on a piece of flip chart write down different words that you think explain what poverty is and the kinds of people that might be poor.

- Share your thoughts with the whole group.



Think about these questions:

- Do you think there is a type of person who is poor, or can it happen to anyone?
- Do you know anyone, especially young people, who don't get a fair chance in life?
- Are there any new-comers to your area (perhaps from another country) who might be struggling to make ends meet?
- Do you know any young people without a place they can call home?
- Anything to add to your flip charts?
- Are there any organisations you can link with to find out more?

Taking it further:

Poverty is: "Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities, and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies to which they belong." Peter Townsend.

- What does Peter Townsend say shows that someone is living in poverty in the UK?
- Get a map of your local area. Mark on the different types of housing in the area. Do you need to walk round and see how fair things are in your area?

Find out:

From your local council the income statistics for the area.

How many young people are entitled to free school meals in your school?

How many looked after children are there in the area or your school?

- Do you know anyone who might be struggling because their life isn't fair? Is there someone who doesn't have the same as you?
- Why? What happened? What caused it? What are the consequences? Do you need to invite someone in to talk to you about problems young people face that means they don't have a fair chance in life?

JUDGE:

- What do you think about what you have found out?

Read Luke 2:22-40

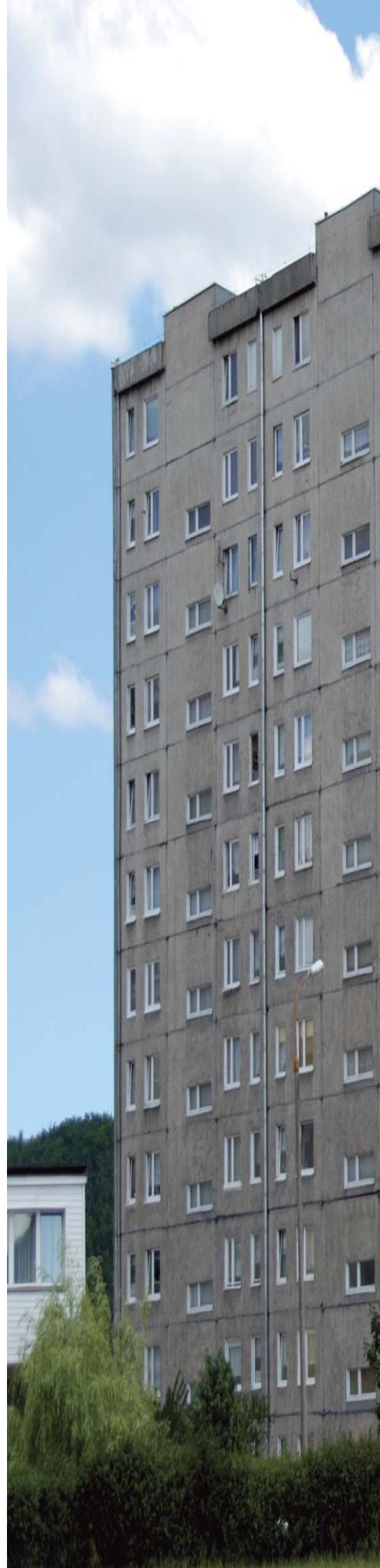
- Jesus was just a baby, but people saw great things in him. Can we recognise something special in the 'least' of the people we meet?

ACT:

Get involved in "Get Fair" by taking part in the national campaign.

- Use the 'JUDGE' sheet to consider what you think, as a group, about poverty in the UK.
- Use the 'ACT' sheet to help you decide what your group can do to make a real difference.
- Email us at getfair@ycwimpact.com to register your participation in the campaign

YCW, St Joseph's, off St Joseph's Grove, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY
Tel 020 8203 6290 Fax 020 8203 6291
Email info@ycwimpact.com Website www.ycwimpact.com
Registered Charity Number 306149



JUDGE

GET FAIR

What do we think about UK poverty?

SEE:



Over the past two decades Britain has become richer - but not any fairer. The UK is the fifth richest country on the planet - yet the gap between rich and poor is still very large.

- 32% of children in the UK live in poverty - half in working families
- 40% of part-time workers in the UK, mostly women, earn less than £6.50 an hour
- Two-thirds of young workers (aged 18-21) are earning less than £7 an hour
- Unemployment among young people is four times higher than that of older workers and rising
- 20% of all 16-24 year olds are in poverty
- 43% of all UK adults are worried about their lack of money
- 66% of the public think asylum seekers should be allowed to work - but they aren't
- A quarter of all 19 year olds leave school in the UK with less than 5 good GCSE's or equivalent
- 30% of disabled adults live in poverty - double the rate for non-disabled adults
- 14% of homeless households have been in temporary housing for 2 years or more
- 61% of young people don't go to university
- London has a higher proportion of people living in poverty than any other region in the UK
- The UK has a higher proportion of its population living in relative poverty than most other EU countries: of the 27 EU countries, only 6 have a higher rate than the UK.

Do you know anyone who is facing these situations? How are the young people affected by them? What happened? What are the causes? What are the consequences?

JUDGE:

Put four signs up around the room:

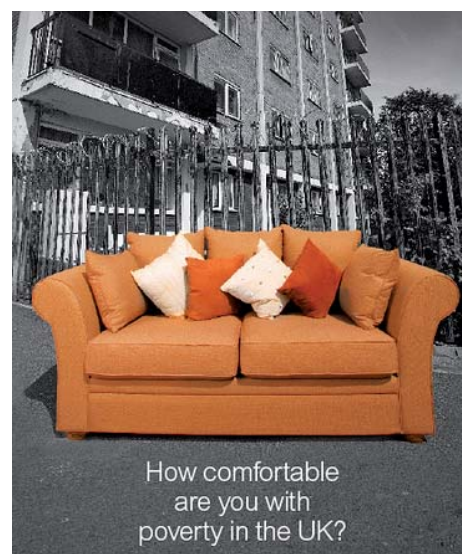
- Strongly agree -
- Agree -
- Disagree -
- Strongly disagree -

Read out the statements and then invite everyone to move to the sign they agree with. Briefly agree the reason for your groups agreement and share it with the rest of the group.

- "People in poverty could work harder to get out of it."
- "It's better to be poor and happy than to be rich and unhappy."
- "Government has a duty to help people in poverty."
- "It is possible for everyone to have enough money to live comfortably."
- "It is easy to get a good job, even if you come from a poor family."
- "Your future is decided by how much money your parents have."
- "We all have a responsibility for tackling poverty."
- "Wealthy people should help those less well off."

What did your group think of these statements?

Do you think you all have a duty to help make the UK a fairer place?



Impact!
young people making a difference

Fair or unfair? What do you think?

Look back at the statistics on the front page (under SEE):

- What do you think about these statistics?
- How do you think they are reflected in your local area?
- Is it right that some people have so much more money than others?
- Is it right that people have more opportunity or access to services than others?

The Last Judgement Matthew 25:31-45

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me”.

Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me”.

- What happened in the story Jesus told?
- Why were some people rewarded and some people punished?
- Do you know anyone facing one of the situations Jesus talks about?
- What has happened? What caused it? What are the consequences?
- How is Jesus calling us to live, within our own local communities, in this passage?

ACT:

What can you do as an individual to help someone facing one of the situations that Jesus talked about in the passage?

What can you do as a group? Commit as a group to taking action in the “Get Fair” campaign - use the ‘ACT’ sheet next time you meet.

ACT



Acting together against poverty

SEE:

Another example... Child poverty - like any other form of poverty - isn't just about a lack of money, it is also about unequal life chances.

Children in poverty are often unable to fully take part in school life, for example by taking part in out-of-school activities or having the right uniform.

“School trips are expensive - I had to pay £26 for one recently.
I also had to pay £18 for a sweatshirt with a logo on it for PE”
A parent

- Do you know anyone facing these sort of situations?
- What has happened? What are the causes? What are the consequences?

Look back at your SEE and JUDGE.

- What issue which you have seen can you take action on?
- How does God call you to respond?

JUDGE:

Parable of the two sons Matthew 21:28-31

Jesus said to his disciples, “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today”. He answered, “I will not go”, but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir”, but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?” “The first” they said.”

- What happened in the story Jesus told?
- What is the message Jesus is telling us?

It's not about what we promise to do; it's about what we actually do. Jesus was teaching that what we do is the important thing and not the conversation that takes place before it.

- What does this call us to do to make the UK a fairer place?



ACT:

The best way to get involved in the Get Fair Campaign is to use the **Take Out** resource available from YCW HQ (see advert, right). Discover more about what's not fair in your local area, and involve other young people in making a real difference.

You can also use the 'slim line' version developed for the Livesimply Community Challenge (see www.ycwimpact.com).

Other ideas

How are you going to help, tell it or stand up for people who don't have a fair deal in life? Remember you don't necessarily have to use any of these suggestions ... but you do have to do something.

Help:

- Link with your other organisations such as your local SVP group to find out if you can help support families who might be in need in your area.
- Create welcome packs of items such as toiletries, cleaning products and other essential items that asylum seekers might find useful if they arrive in your area. How will you get them to the people who need them?
- What can you do to help other young people who might not get a fair chance in life?

Tell it:

- Hold an evening to tell people about how fair your area is. Invite your local councillors and your MP to come along. Could you invite anyone else who could help explain the situation?
- Write to your local paper and tell them your findings.
- Use the "Ambassadors for the young" resource (available from www.ycwimpact.com/mobile) to use your mobile phone to make a video of your findings then send it to local newspapers.
- Host a "Voices from the Edge" event during Poverty and Homelessness Action Week (31st Jan - 7th Feb 2009). Find out more at www.actionweek.org.uk

Stand up for:

- **Register your support as individuals for the Get Fair campaign at www.getfair.org.uk.**
- Lobby your MP, to get them to put Get Fair on the agenda in Parliament. You can do this by writing to them to tell them what you have found out about your local area. Or you could make an appointment to see them. *You will need to be clear about what you have to say and what you are asking them to do. The more you talk about your local situations the more likely they are to take up the issues.* *After you have seen them make sure you write to them, restating your key points and reminding them of the action they have agreed to take. Keep up the letter writing and ask them to take action in parliament and their own political parties.*
- Find out about the Get Fair Campaign rally in the summer and come and join with thousands of others in London to stand up for young people in unfair situations to say you want a fairer Britain.

Whatever you do, don't forget to tell us how your campaign is going. Keep us up to date with what you are doing. Let us know what you decide to do at getfair@ycwimpact.com send us your stories and pictures. Let the local press know what you are doing.

YCW, St Joseph's, off St Joseph's Grove, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY
Tel 020 8203 6290 Fax 020 8203 6291
Email info@ycwimpact.com Website www.ycwimpact.com
Registered Charity Number 306149



Take Out – everything you need in a Take Out pizza box to 'take out' an action and transform your local community.

The resource includes a training DVD and material for your group to plan an action using See-Judge-Act.

Use Take Out with an existing group of young people, or with just two or three to help call more young people together.

It contains practical methods to identify, invite and involve others.

Discover the real issues that concern young people in their daily life.

Help them to reflect on faith (including a Scripture reflection on the DVD) and plan an action to make a difference.

Just £10 plus P&P

HOW TO ORDER
Send a cheque for £14.00 (including p&p) payable to 'YCW' or contact YCW using the details below and request a copy of Take Out with an invoice.
YCW & Impact, St Joseph's, Off St Joseph's Grove, London, NW4 4TY
info@ycwimpact.com www.ycwimpact.com 020 8203 6290