



Galway One World Centre
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Galway One World Centre

The GOWC is a Development Education Centre based in the West of Ireland. It offers training to educators, youth and community workers as well as working directly with students, youth and community groups and the general public to provide in depth and up to date information on global development issues through workshops and resources in our centre. The centre also facilitates people to get in touch with similar organisations in Ireland and abroad.

Strategy 2009 - 2012

Why Development Education?

The launch of the Government White Paper on Aid in September 2006 has brought a welcome increase in levels of public awareness of aid issues in Ireland; however, while the Irish public is now better informed about aid, there is still a need for increased understanding among people in Ireland of the broader issues that underlie international development and aid policies. With the establishment of the Irish Aid Public Information and Volunteering Centre in Dublin, and the profusion of NGOs and justice organisations in Dublin City, it is relatively easy for people in Dublin to access different viewpoints on a wide variety of development issues. However, within the regions, accessibility to development education is more difficult as recognised in Irish Aid's Development Education Strategy 2007-2011 which specifically mentions the need to redress possible regional imbalances in development education. Development Education Centres (DECs) such as the Galway One World Centre are excellently placed to enhance and complement the work of Irish Aid in raising public awareness and educating people about international development.

While encouraging the public's critical engagement with national development agendas at a local level falls within the remit of a development education centre, this area constitutes only a 'top-down' demand. In Galway, demand for development education from the 'bottom-up' takes on many different forms such as:

- teachers looking at ways to incorporate different nationalities within the classroom and asking specifically for background information on specific countries & cultures;
- students doing projects on developing countries or wishing to volunteer overseas
- members of the general public / local media in response to global issues as they arise
- migrant communities seeing DE as a way to tackle stereotypes

In the majority of cases, people are unfamiliar with the term 'development education' and they are therefore most often looking for related issues / specific topics. However, as development education aims to tackle the underlying causes of inequality and injustice, it enables people to link their specific issue / interest with a wider global picture.

'We want the Irish public to have the opportunity to be more deeply informed about development and global justice issues, the role of government and civil society, and to be more critically engaged with the Irish Aid programme' (Irish Aid, 2007).

Why Galway?



Is there a need for Development Education?

It can be argued that, today, the world is more connected than it has ever been before. At the same time, people's feelings of isolation and helplessness vis-à-vis global challenges (eg Climate Change, Terrorism, etc.) has increased. In our opinion this is partly due to a misrepresentation and / or oversimplification of global challenges in the past which has led to a lack of understanding regarding global problems and certainly a disconnection from our own role within the global community. In short, by previously focusing largely on the symptoms of injustice, we have to some extent neglected to tackle the underlying causes.

Furthermore, we have un-connected ourselves to the extent that we see aid and development only in terms of benefiting poor people in the developing world rather than as something which benefits us as members of a global community.

We believe that DE is not just a tool for raising awareness of poverty in the Global South and of the North's role in maintaining global injustices. It should rather become a 'power house of ideas, creativity and new thinking about how people in society can be better equipped to create a world which is more just and equal' for all of us. Herein then lies the need for Development Education – it is excellently placed to connect issues and people locally and globally; and, if carried out properly, it equips people to engage with the world as a whole rather than with separate compartments.

Why Galway?

Galway is an ideal location for a development education centre. As our history shows, the GOWC has its roots within the community with an ongoing interest in its development by people from other countries. The city itself has a long history of a vibrant cultural scene, and it has long been a choice location for people from other countries to settle here. The 3rd level institutions within the city have contributed to the relatively young make-up of the city; furthermore, specific third level organisations (Irish Centre for Human Rights, DERN, Huston School of Film & Digital Media) actively contribute towards strengthening a social justice culture. A number of social justice organisations and activists contribute to this debate. We have developed links and worked in partnership with the above mentioned institutions and organisations and continue doing so as appropriate. These partnerships have included conferences, film festivals, development education courses etc.

Equally important in Galway's cultural calendar are the various Arts Festivals which offer a unique opportunity to bring social issues to wider audiences.

However, we have found that what is lacking is a global perspective within this culture – links between local social justice activity and either other issues or experiences in other countries are often absent. We strongly believe that a development education centre offers the most potential in providing this much needed perspective.

Strategy 2009 - 2012

To refocus the development education work of the Galway One World Centre through the development of key strategic educational programmes in the formal and non formal sectors.

Goal 1: Inform the thinking & work of current & future educators

- o Strengthen relationship with appropriate educators' training institutions
- o Develop modules for use in HDipEd, MEd and Community Diploma courses
- o Research appropriate support structures for existing educators
- o Support schools which are incorporating development education in their overall programmes

Indicators:

- o By 2012 Development Education will be an integral part of teacher education courses at NUI Galway
- o By 2012 at least two schools will have made Development Education an integral part of their programmes.

Goal 2: Strengthen and develop the capacity of community organisations to deliver development education

- o Develop a 'Training of Trainers' Module for volunteers to use with a variety of groups
- o Establish strong relationships with community organisations
- o Develop and carry out appropriate development education programmes with community groups

Indicators:

- o By 2011 five community groups will be involved in development education projects
- o By 2011 fifteen people will be trained to carry out basic development education projects within the community

Vision & Aim:

Galway One World Centre's vision is to work towards creating an inclusive society:

- o that is no longer damaged by injustice, oppression and exploitation.
- o where power and resources are justly shared.
- o where people live with dignity, freedom and self-determination.

Working in partnership with organisations, groups and individuals, Galway One World Centre's mission is to create educational opportunities in Galway that develop a critical analysis of the unequal power relationships that historically and currently exist between diverse groups, both locally and globally.

Galway One World Centre's purpose is to empower and influence people through education to create a world where all people have equality of rights, opportunities and respect.

To develop strategic partnerships with arts and social justice organisations and actively contribute to local, national and international networks.

- o Work with selected arts organisations within Galway City to include a development education component in their annual programme
- o Organise a number of events aimed at the mainstream public
- o Engage with the local media to highlight our work

**Goal 1:
Widen the appeal and support for development education within the broader public**

Indicators:

- o By 2010 global issues will be reflected within at least two arts organisations
- o Increased coverage of Development Education events within local media
- o Increase in GOWC membership / E-mail list

- o Continue to strengthen relationships with Development Education Centres regionally, nationally and internationally
- o Contribute to submissions regarding development education
- o Actively participate in networks and organisations that focus on influencing national Dev Ed policy
- o Contribute to raising the profile & understanding of development education locally & nationally

**Goal 2:
Contribute to and influence national debates on Development Education Theory and Practice**

Indicators:

- o GOWC takes part in national networks and appropriate working groups
- o Regional concerns are fed into national policy and national policy reflects these concerns.
- o National organisations such as Dochas strengthen their commitment to Development Education
- o Local organisations such as Baboro increase their use of global perspectives in their work

Governance

The organisation is based on a membership model and members are individuals or groups with an interest in development education and solidarity work that links local and global issues. Members elect a management committee at the annual general meeting. The Management Committee are also Directors of the Limited Company. The Committee meets monthly to review work plans and make strategic decisions on the focus of the work of the Centre. The GOWC is a Limited Company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Centre has recognised the need to clarify roles, policies and procedures and to strengthen organisational structures to facilitate the effective delivery of its programmes.

This includes the need to develop the competencies of the Board and ensuring that it meets its Governance obligations in an effective and efficient manner. The ongoing evaluation of the Centre's work in an effective and integrated manner is critical in ensuring that the centre maximises its resources. The ongoing development of the skills of the staff is a key element of a development education centre. The need to continue to expand the base of the Centre's Funding is critical for the centre to prosper and develop its programme of activities.

The specific objective regarding organisational development within the timespan of this strategic plan is:

To improve the governance and organisational structures of the GOWC to ensure improved organisational efficacy

- o develop board structures & policies in the areas of board leadership and responsibilities to fully comply with the Dochas "Code of Corporate Governance"
- o ensure compliance with legislative requirements
- o develop a fundraising strategy
- o continue to invest in training of staff, board members and volunteers

Indicators:

- o The Board of the Galway One World Centre will meet all standards as set out in the Dóchas "Code of Good Corporate Governance" by 2010.
- o Staff are confident with their roles & responsibilities
- o Increased access to funding sources

Definitions and Principles

The following working definition of development education has been adopted by Galway One World Centre:

"A participatory, empowering and stimulating process that aims to expand the analysis of power, justice, and equality, that operates at both the local and global levels to challenge injustice and inspire solidarity actions."

Key Characteristics of development education strengthen the definition:

- It is an educational process aimed at understanding what is happening at a global level and the link between local and global issues.
- It has skills, knowledge and value-based components.
- It addresses issues of equality, power, oppression and justice.
- It recognises that the roots of oppression are based in the historical, economic, political, social, cultural and spiritual structures in society, that have at their core an ideology of the superiority of one group over another.
- It challenges myths around development and exposes relationships that were set up to create and justify global inequality and which continue to maintain it today.
- It is a reflective process, which is learner-centred, participative, encourages reflective thinking and a holistic approach.
- It employs methodologies that reflect principles of equality, inclusion, and solidarity.
- It recognises that all people are both learners and teachers.
- It provides a forum for questioning not only issues of access but of opportunity and control.
- It moves from the personal to the political and encourages dialogue.
- It supports action and explores alternative approaches to the organisation of society.

Underlying these characteristics are the Core Principles of Galway One World Centre:

- Justice – working towards creating a just society, placing emphasis on human rights, equality and inclusion; challenging and supporting change to structural inequalities.
- Partnership - working in partnership with local community based groups; supporting the development of Majority/Minority world relationships; promoting solidarity with like-minded groups and individuals facing oppression.
- Anti-Racism – ongoing critical analysis of development education from an anti-racism perspective to enhance understanding of global injustice and ensure best practice.
- Educationally sound - commitment to developing methodologies and creative approaches that will reach diverse audiences; ensuring that the process reflects the content; using education as a vehicle for critical analysis of unequal power relationships.
- Capacity building – seeking to build the capacity to deliver good development education within the centre itself and with individuals and organisations in the formal and non-formal sectors.
- Linking local and global – seeking to mainstream development education and make the links on local and global development issues.
- Embracing difference – cultivating a true appreciation of the strength of diversity and ensuring equality regardless of difference.