

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Mulberry School for Girls
Region: London
Age range: 16 - 17 years old
Issue: Child Soldiers



What issue did they tackle and why?

After watching the film “Invisible Children” the girls were shocked at how many children suffered as a result of conflict; unanimously deciding that their project would be on child soldiers.

What did they decide to do?

They first decided to write to 10 Downing Street stating that they were against child soldiers and wanted the government to take more action to protect them.

In December they began by creating a book of “red hands” from their peers to be used as Red Hand Day campaign against the use of Child Soldiers.

After a letter to the Ministry of Justice a Civil Servant agreed to meet the girls in their HQ, where they gave a presentation and asked the government what they were doing to help the affected children.

The Civil Servant said she was extremely impressed with the girls’ passion offered them work experience and the chance to be featured in their internal magazine. The girls were also given a tour of the building and were shown how top secret documents had to be handled.



What is the Envision Schools Programme?

Envision works with teams of young people based in schools and colleges. Starting with the question, “What do you want to change?” teams are supported to investigate issues relevant to their lives as local and global citizens. Led by their own ideas and supported by staff and trained volunteers, teams plan and implement a project to tackle whatever issue they are passionate about - learning to be young leaders and gaining vital employability skills along the way.

For further information please contact Emma Bird
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Achievements

Raised awareness about the use of child soldiers in the world today to their school by creating a book of “red hands” which was signed by students.

Created a 4 minute video on child soldiers.

Gave a presentation to a civil servant in the Ministry of Justice asking them what they are doing to combat the use of child soldiers

Sent a letter to Gordon Brown asking him to do more about the issue.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Presentation skills

The students gave a presentation to the Ministry of Justice

Knowledge and research skills

The students had all been aware of child soldiers before the project but had to research the topic deeper for their presentation and for their video.

Cultural experience

As well as their trip to the Ministry of Justice, the team were supported by an adult volunteer who worked as an investment banker. Both team and volunteer had an insight into a different culture and way of life.

Testimonials

“I was really proud about how well I delivered the presentation to the Ministry of Justice and was pleased when a civil servant told me that I was an intelligent young girl who did a great presentation.”

Fatima Parul Nessa Chowdhury, team member

“In our Envision project we influenced local and national government and did a presentation in the Ministry of Justice..... the best part of Envision was seeing Buckingham Palace for the first time!”

Laya Adam, team member

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