

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

20 NOVEMBER 2022

In celebration of World Children's Day and in reference to the disputed question raised in class: "Is Child Poverty A Thing of the Past?", Grade 7 students initiated a call-for-action to advocate for children's rights in a demonstration of strength and resilience.

Our students are taking a strong step forward and proudly raising awareness on the deeply-rooted issues plaguing children. They are not simply highlighting their own personal needs, but also becoming a voice for children around the world, a portrayal of leadership.

So let's listen to them.....Let's listen to the voices of the future.



Oh Yeah?

On August 11, 1928, former US president Herbert Hoover delivered his famous speech with the sarcastic title, Oh Yeah? reflecting his contempt for political leaders who did not seem to know what was happening to the world.

Today, we are witnessing the same scenario. A stock market crash, a dollar surge, a chaotic world economy, and a nuclear war in the forecast, are simply footnotes jotted down in preparation for a long script of drama that the world is soon to witness. About thirty-one percent of children currently suffer from poverty. They are the ultimate entrepreneurs that I support in my call for action.

Poverty, a violation of human dignity, is a serious problem that needs a serious solution. We need to spread awareness about the consequences of such a malicious trap. We don't need a hollow plan, but rather a cemented one. Only then we shall, as president Herbert Hoover ended his speech "... soon, with the help of God, be in sight of the day when poverty shall be banished".

Student Adam Hossam

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The consequences are grave. Worldwide, the poorest children are twice as likely to die in childhood than their wealthier peers. For those growing up in humanitarian crises, the risks of deprivation and exclusion surge. Even in the world's richest countries, one in seven children still lives in poverty.

No matter where they are, children who grow up impoverished suffer from poor living standards, develop fewer skills for the workforce, and earn lower wages as adults. Yet, only a limited number of governments have set the elimination of child poverty as a national priority.

Student Ahmed Niazy

Poverty, a mighty phenomenon, one that is so hard to win a fight against, is a trap; rather a malicious and vicious one. One that one cannot escape.

This problem isn't temporary; we are witnessing global extreme poverty. Some might argue that there isn't an absolute solution to this problem simply because it has been going on forever and that there isn't really much we can do about it. I disagree. Current statistics revealed that if all adults completed secondary education, we can then cut the global poverty rate by more than half. Education develops skills, can correct some of the imbalances caused by marginalization, and can improve the living conditions of many people. This is one solution.

We also must remember that Islam calls upon its followers to reach out with open hands, and give in charity as a way of life. Charity should be part of the very fiber of your personality as a Muslim. Through charity, you're helping those people who, without a doubt, need your and my help.

"But what you give in charity, desiring the countenance of Allah, those are the multipliers." Surah Ar-Rum 30:39

Student Cindy Nessim

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“Overcoming poverty is not a task, it is an act of justice..... Let your greatness blossom”.

Nelson Mandela

I'm really done. Isn't it absurd that one in seven children is brought up in poverty, even when we have already acknowledged the reasons why child poverty occurs?

Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made, and it can be eradicated. Wars are accountable for child poverty around the world as in the case of Syria. The population of Syrian immigrants in Egypt has grown significantly over the past few years. However, this hasn't helped Egypt's economy, which is currently experiencing a recession.

Many people agree with the assertion made by Nelson Mandela that since humankind generated poverty, then they should take accountability for their actions by coming up with a plan to eliminate child poverty. Individuals always depend on the government to comply with their demands, and if they don't, then the economy suffers. We can contribute by setting aside 10 EGP to help feed a child, as we can't solely rely on the government to end poverty.

Student Farida Tamer

Poverty puts an additional strain on families, which can lead to parental mental health and relationship problems; it can also lead to financial problems and substance misuse.

We need to ensure that more children and youth have the support they need from the start. Having said that, we must stress the fact that children need to have access to affordable, comprehensive physical and behavioral health care; nevertheless, they need to be provided with affordable learning opportunities.

We must have a solid plan to educate children; we need to provide them with clean water, ensure basic health care, empower young girls with skills much needed for a demanding job market, improve child nutrition, support environmental programs and above all reach children in conflict.

Student Habiba Kassem

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their sun does never shine
William Blake

How do we end child poverty? We need to tackle the roots of the problems which started poverty. We need to work alongside communities to bring life-saving health care, clean water, the right amount of nutrition, and education to those needy children. We need to make sure that children will not slip back into poverty again.

The global COVID-19/ coronavirus has created an unprecedented strain on child protection systems including healthcare and poverty reduction techniques. It is estimated that about one hundred seventy million more children will be thrust in child poverty due to the impacts of coronavirus on health and other social economic structure.

“ The coronavirus pandemic presents governments with an opportunity to address the underlying causes of child poverty and policies that have contributed towards family poverty and widened inequalities in their economies.” Fred Nyabera, director of End Child Poverty Organization.

Student Hamza Galal

While it is a thing of the past, child poverty still persists. Poverty trap, a phenomenon quite difficult to escape, is one of the causes of child poverty. Furthermore, viruses, with over 320,00 types, led almost half of the globe to live in poverty. Covid-19 harmed many individuals and damaged many business sectors that are still attempting to recover from it.

It stings that the sight of kids on the street begging for money is becoming so common. I believe that if we ensure that everyone has access to fundamental social services like clean water, appropriate food, sanitation, and education, then the world's major problem won't be poverty. Moreover, we can raise awareness, take independent action, and donate money to reduce poverty. Technology can also assist in reducing poverty since it makes it easier for those who are living in poverty to find online employment and continue their education.

Student Lamis AboRaya

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"You take my life when you do take the means whereby I live"
Merchant of Venice, Act IV, Scene I. William Shakespeare

Is child poverty really a thing of the past? If so then why do we still encounter children who are forced to grow up as soon as they are born? Those children suffer from starvation, relocation, health issues, and many other sorrowful problems.

Starvation, relocation and infirmity are evident manifestations of extreme poverty. While starvation is a devastating issue, with over 3 million children dying every year from hunger, relocation has also been increasing lately, with an account of 36 million children migrating with their families in 2020, due to natural disasters or to escape political conflict. Also, being poverty-stricken is held accountable to many mental health issues, such as stigma and trauma, to name a few.

The effects of living in poverty are various. Poor nutrition, chronic illness, mental health issues, underfunded schools, and dangerous neighborhoods are just a few of the many effects that children who are born into poverty are more likely to encounter. Families are further strained by poverty, which can result in issues such as disturbed relationships and money issues.

Student Limar Hussein

The idea that children have turned into street beggars and that it is now common to watch young children suffering and torn apart is quite disturbing. Poor children are seen everywhere, begging in the streets for the sake of money; but no one seems to care. To comprehend how much these poor and innocent individuals have endured is what we truly lack. These kids stumble upon the gloomy days they are destined to encounter every day, and we are simply watching.

Is child poverty a thing from the past? The answer needs a deep reflection. Poverty existed because of many reasons of which wars stand as a leading one. But there are many other reasons; with governments that don't care much, with rich people getting richer, and with a clear social injustice happening everywhere, generating a deep sense of hatred, we stand clueless in the face of a global problem that can turn explosive.

Student Mesk El Sayed

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“For sure it is not the eyes that are blind but the hearts.”
Holy Quran, Surat Al hajj verse 22:46

Wake up. While you keep scrolling on social media, humans are striving for shelter, gasping for food, and living in eternal misery. Poverty has been a global problem for decades with no solution; Nowadays there are many organizations calling for action to eradicate this problem. Considering the question “will it ever end?”, I am left to believe that it wouldn't. Stranded with no decent education, no money, and no jobs, how can we expect this vicious trap to end?

“For their sun does never shine, living in eternal winter” William Blake, Songs of Innocence.

Student Mohamed Eid

A photo of a crying Syrian mother, in the midst of polluted water, symbolizing her eternal agony, inspired me to write the following response. It is poverty, hunger and fear that always force people to flee their countries. They try to escape; they try to survive. Life is precious and we should cooperate to keep it safe. Rich countries must take action. They must unite over a plan to provide poor people with shelter, guarantee food and work for them. Poverty should stop now!

Student Omar Kamal

In her poem Cry of the poor, Kathleen A. Ellinger wrote: “Look at those skinny arms... with no muscular charm and no protection from harm.”

Her words carry a philosophical implication that we all tend to miss; that we are all involved; simply watching and passing by is a crime by itself. For instance, cleaners, cooks, janitors, and workers in fast food places or supermarkets represent a daily reminder to all of us that these underprivileged humans exist, but remain unnoticed us.

Poverty consumes lives, erodes mental resources, diminishes cognitive capacities, and ferociously destroys the future of children.

Student Sarah Ashraf