

Think Global closes its doors, but the work continues

8 November 2018

Questions and Answers

1. What will this closure mean for those interested in global learning in England?

Global learning activities and work will continue in England through other organisations and programmes including those listed below:

The British Council led [Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning Programme](#)

The [Consortium of Development Education Centres](#) in England

The [Development Education Research Centre](#) at the University of London Institute of Education

The [UK Global Learning Association for Schools](#)

[Oxfam](#) Public Engagement and Education Team

[CAFOD](#) Education Team

[Red Cross](#) Education Team

[Send my Friend to School](#)

2. What about the Think Global network, resources and contact lists?

The [Development Education Research Centre \(DERC\)](#) at the UCL Institute of Education is kindly taking our library, archives and a static version of the Think Global website for reference in the future.

The Think Global contact list will cease to exist.

As of 1 of December, DERC will distribute a newsletter for individuals/organisations interested in keeping in touch with news and contacts relating to UK global learning/development education. If you would like join this list [please click here](#). Please ensure you tick 'Think Global' under previous affiliations.

3. What about the Global Dimension website?

As of 1 December, the [Global Dimension](#) website is planned to move under the management of UK registered charity, [Reboot the Future](#). The Global Dimension website will continue to bring together high quality resources and support to help teachers and other educators bring a global dimension to their work. You will receive separate communications regarding what this means for you shortly.

4. Why is this closure happening?

We don't have enough funds to stay open.

Specifically, changes in UK government priorities have meant that funding from the Department for International Development has been moved to support other areas. This resulted in a substantial reduction to our income that we have been unable to replace.

More broadly, Brexit has also had a dampening effect on the potential for organisations such as ours to access European Union funding, and the youth and education sectors – key environments for global learning - in England have suffered huge reductions in funding. Lastly, our members are suffering due to the same factors, affecting their ability to ‘join’ Think Global and pay membership fees.

5. How did the closure happen?

We have known for more than 18 months that we were facing financial challenges and have worked very hard to secure an alternative future, including exploring a potential merger, but all our efforts could not replace such a large reduction in income.

The Board of Trustees finally decided to close the organisation in September 2018, in order to devote remaining staff time and energy to securing our legacy.

6. What happens to Think Global’s programmes, activities and resources?

We are in the process of handing over potential programmes or remaining activities to partners in the global learning network and closing programmes.

7. What will happen to the staff?

Our remaining staff will all be moving on.

8. Will the Think Global branding disappear?

Yes

9. Reactions from the wider sector

Below is a small sample of the many responses we’ve had from people in our network, as they’ve heard of Think Global’s closure.

The impact of Think Global on education in the UK will be felt for many, many years to come. Here at NUS, we have always enjoyed collaborating with Think Global to ensure learners experienced a ‘golden thread’ of education for sustainable development and global citizenship education from primary through to higher education. Think Global has always been a hub for great conversation, sparking new ideas, and bringing together all the right people to create change across the sector.

Quinn Runkle, Education for Sustainable Development Programme Manager, Department for Sustainability, National Union of Students.

Think Global and its predecessor Development Education Association have made a massive contribution to global learning in England. They were responsible for successfully lobbying for major funding for NGOs in the 1990s. They were responsible for the Global Dimension, a unique and valuable resource for many thousands of teachers and kept members informed of activities in the sector. They will be sadly missed. Professor Douglas Bourn, Co-Director, Development Education Research Centre, Institute of Education, University of London

It’s been a privilege working with Think Global – As their sister organisation in Wales, Think Global consistently worked collaboratively and shared ideas and learning with us, supporting our global learning work. You will be sorely missed! Susie Ventrisfield, CEO Welsh Centre for International Affairs

Think Global, a charity that increases understanding of and action for global issues, have been a powerful force for change, encouraging people to think critically about global issues and motivating for a more just and sustainable world.

The work of the organisation has featured in my initial teacher education courses for the last three years, from enhancing critical thinking to building understanding of sustainable consumption. Their wonderful global wall calendars feature on many of my graduating trainees' walls as a reminder of our responsibilities for bringing the world into our classrooms.

The organisation's annual Global Educator of the Year Award recognises and celebrates the wonderful contributions of educators developing their pupils to become good citizens of the future. I was honoured to achieve the Think Global Educator of the Year Award in 2016. A privilege that, without doubt, enhanced my application in my transition from classroom teaching to becoming a Senior Lecturer in Teacher Education. I have a lot to thank Think Global for, from their deep commitment to embedding sustainability and global citizenship in our schools, to their recognition and celebration of good practice in global citizenship. Their closure will be a huge loss and leave an enormous gap in supporting Elly Lengthorn, Global Educator of the Year 2017, Senior Lecturer - Teacher Education, University of Worcester

Think Global have been a leading light, supporting the development of desperately needed global perspectives in classrooms in the UK Emily Oliver PositiveNegatives

When I've told international colleagues about Think Global, its role and its many important and useful projects (such as the Global Dimension resource portal), they are often hugely impressed, saying 'if only we had an organisation like that here!' Think Global, and its former DEA guise, have played a significant role in my own global learning journey as a teacher, researcher and trainer these last 20 years. The research on impact, the policy and advocacy work, the expertise and enthusiasm, the sharing and collaboration, the much-needed support for critical and transformative global citizenship education, all of these functions will be very much missed Harriet Marshall, educator.

Oxfam has greatly appreciated Think Global's key role in advancing Global Citizenship Education in England and Wales over many years. Think Global has played an important part in coordinating the Development Education sector through newsletters, the Global Dimension website and advocacy for global learning that will be sorely missed. Oxfam is currently consulting with others to find ways to fill these gaps. Meanwhile, we wish Think Global staff and board members all the best in the future. Kate Lea, Global Citizenship and Education Lead Adviser, Public Engagement and Education Team, Oxfam.

I was proud to be involved in helping to establish the Development Education Association, Subsequently Think Global, and to have worked alongside the team as a trustee and project partner over many years. The organisation has played a leadership role in raising the importance of development education and global learning; and perspectives continue to be highly relevant in our increasing complex and interdependent world. Steve Brace FRGS, Head of Education & Outdoor Learning, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

Think Global has been such a great network to be part of, brimming with expertise and passion, it has been a huge source of support for the Send My Friend to School campaign, connecting us to inspirational global educators. Ema Jackson, Campaign Manager, Send My Friend to School.

Think Global was the approach to global learning that the world needs – inclusive, sustainable, engaging and collaborative. It was a pleasure to work with the team as they brought together the voices of the sector through communications, events and opportunities. It will be an organisation sorely missed. Anja Nielsen, Policy Officer, National Education Union

I have really enjoyed engaging with you and the organisation over the years and thank you for all your positivity and proactivity in reaching out and working with us as well as promoting our resources as part of your membership. Lucy Tutton, Facilitated Learning Manager, British Red Cross.

Think Global has been an amazing, friendly and professional voice for the development education and global learning community. The organisation has played a crucial role in bringing us together and championing the value, importance and relevance of our work across UK society and beyond. Yvonne Luce, on behalf of the Consortium of Development Education Centres

The Think Global website has always been a 'go to' spot for access to quality resources and research. I was able to confidently cite from Think Global's work on a number of contemporary policy debates. Stephen Hull, Senior Consultant, British Council.

From a teacher perspective, Think Global has served an important function through the advocacy for and then the running of the Global Dimension Website which is widely regarded as the UK's best global learning resource for educators. The ease of access to a vast array of materials has proved invaluable to many a teacher over the years. Dr Andrew Christie, Assistant Headteacher, The Leys Primary School, Stevenage.

Global Education Derby has valued being a member of Think Global. Working with Think Global has saved us a lot of time in finding up to date, quality resources to recommend to teachers and enriched our project work and CPD offer for schools. We follow the connect, challenge change mantra, pioneered by Think Global, in our youth work programme. Yvonne Luce, Global Education Derby

The world needs global leaders. Climate change, mass migration, inequality can all be overcome but to do that we need to ensure that young people grow up knowing the world and thinking about their role in it. For 35 years Think Global have ensured that teachers have the curriculum space, training and resources to teach young people about global issues. At a time when internationalism is under threat it is deeply regretful to see government funding being cut for a great organisation like Think Global who has been driving forwards global learning, we can only hope that those that believe in global citizenship can pick up this vital cause. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners and board member at Bond, the UK's network of International Development NGOs.

As someone who was new to development education what I remember most about Think Global is the warm welcome I received. Being part of Think Global made me feel I was part of a family of like-minded, passionate people working with and for young people. A family who supported each other and who ultimately had the same goal...to empower young people by helping them engage in global issues; be critical thinkers and understand how they could take action towards a fair and sustainable world. I will hugely miss being part of this wonderful organisation. Julie Brown Head of Education, Practical Action.

Think Global have been an incredible source of inspiration for United Purpose over the years and have made an invaluable contribution to the Global Learning sector. Their guidance, support and advocacy for education, which prepares the next generation for meaningful and critical engagement with global development issues, will be deeply missed. Jo Davies, Global Advisor, Well-being and Safeguarding, United Purpose.

10. History

Think Global was established in 1993 as the Development Education Association to promote development education/global learning. The Association built on and brought together two existing networks, the National Association of Development Education Centres and the Inter Agency Committee for Development Education. These networks had been established in the 1980s and reflected the growth in interest within education in learning about global and development issues. In 2008 the Association changed its name to Think Global.

Over the years, we have been pleased to partner with a huge range of organisations and individuals interested in promoting global learning including: Development Education Centres, NGOs, INGOs, private companies, Unions and government bodies.

Together, we are proud to have played a major role in influencing the creation of UK government's strategies, funding and policies on development education, global citizenship and sustainable development education.

Collectively we have achieved so much, including:

- Design and development of bespoke global learning training for teachers and others;
- Creation of learning resources and facilitation of global learning debates, seminars and workshops;
- Conducting of global learning research and publishing research reports;
- Creation and distribution of thousands of annual Global Wallplanners to schools and others;
- Development and hosting of the Global Dimension website;
- Creation and support of a network of over 10,000 teachers interested in global learning;
- Creation and support of a network of many hundreds of organisations interested in global learning;
- Celebration of the contribution of teachers to global learning through the Global Educator of the Year Award;
- Support of the creation of international networks such as Global Education Network Europe;
- Development and delivery of many advocacy campaigns focused on promoting global learning;
- Pioneering and promoting approaches to global youth work;
- Initiation of major programmes in higher and adult education on learning about global issues;
- Promotion, participation in, and management of many national global learning programmes including the recent Global Learning Programme in England and Wales;
- Acting as advisor to many policy-makers around the world engaged in development education and global learning including South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan;
- Contributing as a key partner in the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals; through the World's Largest Lesson.

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