AIM: To Understand the Political History of Climate Change

BACKGROUND

In 2020 the United Nations (UN) will be 75 years old. It was founded after the Second World War as a forum for nations to come together and resolve issues peacefully. Climate Change is the biggest issue that the world faces, it has to be solved internationally, and is an issue that is now regularly raised at the UN.

ACTIVITY

Either read through or ideally deliver a production of the musical drama “Peace Child - The Story of How Young People Save Humanity from Climate Change”.

David Woollcombe, from Peace Child International and a member of Transition Town Buntingford scripted this musical drama. The backdrop of the drama is the International Climate Change Fora; the catastrophe in Copenhagen, the fiasco of Rio+20 and the partial success of Paris. The story pits young people against climate deniers, politicians, diplomats and hard-nosed oil executives – as they use love, cunning and old-fashioned real-politik, to fashion a solution to climate change.

The drama incorporates information slides from the Al Gore Inconvenient Truth presentation and songs by Cat Stevens and his brother David Gordon. You can hear the songs in the show by accessing the following links:

- World So Blind (https://youtu.be/mKzakGp4kmw)
- Peace Train (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOk4HK72RCA)
- I Who Am I (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H314M3kBcI&feature=youtu.be)
- Come into my Joy (https://youtu.be/t2BWJ_kJPDw)
- Petroleum Energy Complex (https://youtube.com/watch?v=P6US2PKtI4U from 34:42 to 37:14)
- Child For a Day (https://youtube.com/watch?v=P6US2PKtI4U from 1:55:32 to 1:59:45)

To obtain a copy of the script and musical scores, and advice on how to deliver a performance, please email David at david@peacechild.org.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Following the read through or performance of the musical drama you may like to set up a discussion. Ideas for questions you could debate are:

a) Do we still have time to address climate change?

b) Why are some countries unwilling to agree to international targets to address climate change?

c) Which technologies are going to be critical for tackling climate change?

d) Can Climate Change be solved by technology alone?

e) What can elected politicians do to tackle climate change? What ideas would you like to give to your local council, your national government and the UN, on how they should be tackling climate change?

f) What can we do as individuals, households and groups, to tackle climate change?