



January 2005

Dear Headteacher

## Education for all

*"Millions of parents, teachers and children around the world are calling on their governments to provide, free, good quality, basic education for all the world's children. They are part of the Global Campaign for Education; we add our voice to their call."*

Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel

The Asian tsunami tragically killed tens of thousands of people, injured many more and left millions homeless. But even in the most tragic circumstances we have seen the vital role that schools play in the lives of children. People working with local tribal people in the Indian Andaman Islands report that: "When we asked them what they need, it was very surprising that all of them said 'we want our schools to be reconstructed'."

School helps children and families to get back to normal life and to deal with the trauma. It is also one of the best long-term solutions to poverty. Yet more than 100 million children in the world receive no proper education.

All children should be in school by 2015 according to an international agreement signed by 182 countries. At the current rate of progress this won't happen for 150 years!

**On behalf of the Global Campaign For Education we are inviting your school to join us in making 2005 a year of action to MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY.**

In 2003 we organised "The World's Biggest Lesson" which took place in 70 countries. Last year, 117 countries took part in "The Big Lobby", during which children addressed politicians and governments all over the world. In the UK 485 MPs 'went back to school' for the day to listen to children talk about the importance of education.

**This year we are asking schools in the UK to support the call to 'Send My Friend to School' by making a million buddies. A buddy is a representation of one of the children missing out on education.**

Similar activities are being planned all over the world and buddies with personalised messages will be sent to different governments. In the UK buddies will be sent to the leaders of the G8 countries (France, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada) who are meeting in Scotland in July.

Feedback from schools who have already taken part in the campaign shows that it helps children to understand global issues, how democracy works and the importance of education.

We are also joined for the first time by Comic Relief who are encouraging schools to make buddies as part of Red Nose Day events.

Make sure you get your *free* video or CD-Rom featuring Konnie Huq from Blue Peter. Complete the form in the enclosed leaflet or log on to [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org). For further information, call 020 7561 7564 or email: [sendmyfriend@actionaid.org.uk](mailto:sendmyfriend@actionaid.org.uk).

We hope that you will decide to join us to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Miller**  
**Director**  
**ActionAid UK**

**Barbara Stocking**  
**Director**  
**Oxfam GB**

**Dr Mary Bousted**  
**General Secretary**  
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**Fiona Weir**  
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**General Secretary**  
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**Association**

**Chris Keates**  
**General Secretary**  
**National Association of**  
**Schoolmasters Union of**  
**Women Teachers**

**Avril Hall-Callaghan**  
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**Steve Sinnott**  
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