



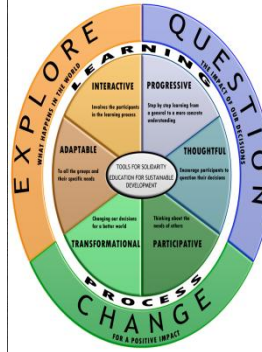
**ASTC**

**NEWS ABOUT  
OUR LAST TRIP  
TO AFRICA**



**SUPPORTED  
VOLUNTEERS**

**LAST NEWS OF  
THE PRO-  
GRAMME**



**ESD**

**NEW WEBSITE  
AND SCHOOLS**

# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

**NEWSLETTER**



**TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY AT THE  
METHODIST COLLEGE BELFAST CITIZENSHIP**



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Organisation

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TFS Newsletter

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Betuwe Wereldwijd

Glensheever Community

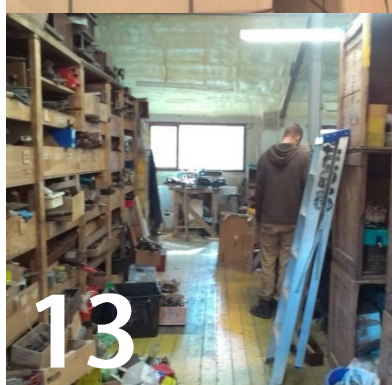
Edited by Ángel Leira Pernas

The views in this newsletter are  
not necessarily the vie views of  
Tools For Solidarity



TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY  
NEWSLETTER

# NOVEMBER 2015



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# WELCOME AND GOODBYE



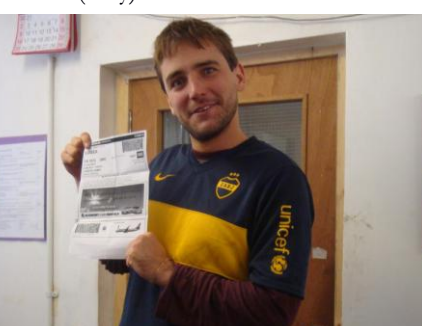
Anton (Russia)



Aristote (France)



Betta (Italy)



Christie (Scotland)



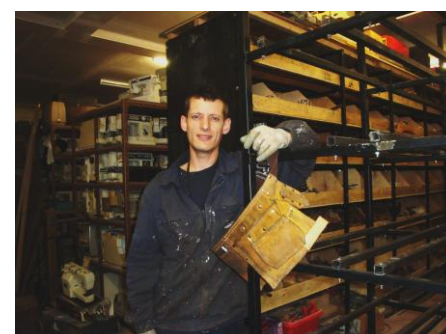
Moritz (Germany)



Fidelis (Germany)



Elena (Russia)



Juanjo (Spain)



Lisa (Italy)

From the last newsletter we gave a very big welcome to our new international volunteers Juanjo (Spain), Elena (Russia), Aristote (France) and Fidelis (Germany). We also had the opportunity to welcome Darragh and David, two new local volunteers from Belfast. And finally we were glad to say hello to some of our new supported volunteers Stephen, Jim, James and Trevor, all of them from Belfast. And also Christie, our former Scottish volunteer visited us for a few days.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Brenda (Argentina), Anton (Russia), Betta (Italy), Moritz (Germany) and Lisa (Italy). All of them had finished their projects. So, the current volunteers of TFS in Belfast are: Francesca (Italy), Fidelis (Germany), Ángel (Spain), Juanjo (Spain), Saara (Finland), Boglárka (Hungary), Elena (Russia), Laura (Spain), Aristote (France), Caroline (Scotland), Conor, Stephen and John Wood, Peter, Liam, Conor, Jim, Larry, David, James, Trevor, Stephen, Darragh, Sam, William, Anthony, Nancy and Michael. Thanks also to the volunteers in Downpatrick, Mourne Grange and the Isle of Man. Thanks!

# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY AT THE METHODIST COLLEGE BELFAST CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION CLASSES

FROM THE 17TH TO THE 19TH OF JUNE THE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) PROGRAMME FROM TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY (TFS) PARTICIPATED IN THE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION CLASSES ORGANISED BY METHODIST COLLEGE BELFAST (MCB)

The aim it was to engage KS4 students (aged 15) in citizenship education classes, primarily in human rights, equality and social justice. To do this MCB had asked 4 NGO's: Red Cross, Ten Foundations, Beyond the skin and Tools for Solidarity to deliver some interactive lessons. During the three days TFS and the other NGO's worked with 240 students during 12 sessions in which the students were split into groups of 20. Tools for Solidarity designed activities consisting of 4 different workshops to create an understanding of the importance of tools and to develop practical knowledge of how to use tools to fix everyday items. At the end of the workshop they also had a competition to test their knowledge of the relationship of how our lifestyle impacts socially and environmentally and how to reduce this impact.

## CARPENTRY WORK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REPURPOSING

In the UK we produce a large amount of waste per person and if we compare our waste production with that of developing countries the difference is stark. If instead of buying things and throwing them away in a short period of time we use tools to fix them at home and repurpose them we can dramatically reduce the waste that we generate and the envi-

ronmental and social impact that is generated by the exploitation of natural resources. In this workshop the students learned the basic skills on how to use tools to build a small shelf at home.

**As the pictures show the students were interested, participative and open-minded.**



## BICYCLE WORKSHOP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE

Bicycles are the most common form of transport in Tanzania whilst Cars are the most popular form of transport in Northern Ireland. We emit more than 110 million tons of CO2 every year in the UK. Emissions were one of the topics that the students discussed in this workshop as well as learning how to do a security check and fix different parts of a bicycle.

## PLUMBING WORK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

In this workshop the students discussed important information related with water and its importance in

developing countries and then learnt how to fix a tap and a toilet cistern.

## SEWING MACHINES, TOOLS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

In this workshop the participants had the opportunity to do something practical with a sewing machine – such as make a bracelet, a key holder, pencil case or phone case. These are just some of the things that you can make with used material instead of buying it, thus highlighting practical steps we can all take to reduce waste. We have also talked about the importance that sewing machines and tools have on development - giving people and communities the possibility to be economically independent. We also covered other aspects





**We also talked with the students about development, poverty, inequality and how a responsible behaviour can help people in Southern countries**

of development such as the importance of local production and skills transfer and training. The students had the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn skills that will be useful on a daily basis and at the same time they get knowledge of the connections of how our lifestyle affects the environmental and society. In doing so we encouraged students to make considered decisions on how to make a positive impact. We also had “expertise students” who were involved in the different workshops with us during the 12 sessions helping their fellow students with the “practical skills” learning process. They have been very helpful in running the workshops and very kind to take the role of trainers making things easier for the TFS team. They were so helpful and involved with this TFS project that they come back to our workshops a week after to visit us. Thanks so much to: Kate, Nina, Katie, Ceara, Emilie and Rachel for your help!

### QUESTIONING THE WORLD

750 million people around the world lack access to safe water. (Equivalent to more than twice the population of United States) Nearly 1 out of every 5 deaths under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water-related disease. How do you make dirty water safe to drink in developing countries?

What is the difference between sending money and sending tools?

In the rural areas in Tanzania there's not full access to electricity supply - which kind of sewing machine would you send?

Do you know how many trees would we need to plant per person to capture all these emissions?

What percentage less CO2 does a bike emit than a car?

Could you think of an example of how to repurpose an old item?

How much waste do we produce in the UK per person per day?



# ASTC

## UPDATE

BETWEEN THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AND THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER, TFS VISITED THE ARTISANS SUPPORT AND TRAINING CENTRE (ASTC) IN JINJA, UGANDA. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO ASSESS THE RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR BY THE PROJECT AND TO DISCUSS WITH OUR PARTNER WORIT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

During the visit we have been able to meet some of the tailors whom received a sewing machine from the centre. We met two women working in the local market, two women with disabilities and a girl school. For many women a sewing machine represents one of the few opportunities they have to generate an income for themselves and their children. Tailors in general were very pleased with the machine and the training they have received.

**Despite some difficulties in implementing the tools training, the project has achieved some remarkable results**

Despite some difficulties in implementing the tools training, the project has achieved some remarkable results. 41 of the 57 sewing machines originally sent have been delivered to artisans and training conducted for 27 tailors; over 1100 tools have been sold to artisans such as carpenters, aeromechanics and builders. This was done in just 4 months, considering the limited time the staff had; this represents a very good start

for the project. Unfortunately, while in the country, we discovered that a considerable amount of tools were missing from the stock. After a stocktake was done, the police was called in for an investigation. The workshop mechanic was held responsible for the stock missing and is no longer in the job. This leaves the project without the capacity to deliver the tool refurbishment side of the project.

After an emergency board meeting, TFS decided to keep supporting the project and have drawn up a proposal that has been submitted to funders. The idea is to re-design the programme by shifting the focus on sewing machines with a smaller tool component. Tools will still be provided to artisans by supplying young men leaving Vocational Training Colleges with small starter kits.

Although this event represents a step back for the project, we are confident that the



**Nabiye Darusi with her hand operated sewing machine. Nabiye was part of a government scheme supporting people with disabilities through a tailoring project. When the programme shutted down she was left with no machine to keep working as a tailor. She received a Singer sewing machine free of charge from the centre and she is now able to generate a profit of around 100,000 shillings a month.**



programme can still work and be effective in helping and supporting artisans and tailors in the Busoga sub-region.

TFS has put a lot of effort into this project and decided to continue to do so because of the potential within the programme to achieve something positive.

While waiting for what we hope will be a positive feedback from funders, volunteers in Belfast and Downpatrick are already at work to get the second shipment to Uganda ready for the middle of November.



**Rose in her stall at the local market in Jinja. She got a Brother straight stitch five months ago and she makes dresses, schools uniforms and wedding gowns.**

# FIELD TRIP

## SEPTEMBER 2015

THE PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ARTISANS SUPPORT PROJECT IN TANZANIA. IN TOTAL 4 SIDO (SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION) AREAS IN TANZANIA WERE VISITED



Dar Es Salaam – Coastal Zone Region

Iringa – Southern Highlands Zonal Region

Morogoro- Coastal Zonal Region

Kilimanjaro (Moshi) – Northern

Zonal Region

Since the establishment of a tailoring center in Mwanza, Tanzania in 2007 the development of other such centers has been an objective for a while. The collaboration of 2 tool sending organizations TFS and BWB, a Dutch tools organization, has made this prospect not only viable but important to investigate. The new center or centers could look to provide a mix of tools and sewing machines within a self-funding project. To this end a visit was undertaken to several prospective partners, presenting the options and assessing the strengths and weaknesses within each organization.

In the meetings we discussed how an artisan center could operate and the support needed from the partner. It was emphasized that at this stage we were looking to see which areas would be interested in exploring the possibilities and that a pilot project would be required. From the subsequent discussions and follow up there are 2 possible areas that would be interested and we will look to discuss with BWB what the next step will be.



During the visit we meet with some tailors, carpenters and visited shops to see what tools and sewing machines are available locally. While there is still a big demand for sewing machines and tools there is an increasing demand for electrical tools and machinery. As part of the visit we took out some tools and showed them to some groups. We were very surprised at what they would be willing to pay for the tools at least double what we would be looking to charge, in order to make the projects self-financing.

**John doing a slide show to some local artisans during the visit last September.**





# BETUWE

# WERELDWIJD

Betuwe Wereldwijd (BWW or Tools4Change outside Holland) is a Dutch organization, which looks a lot like Tools For Solidarity. Our organization is housed in an old tobacco factory in the little town Culemborg, in the centre of the Netherlands. We started almost 30 years ago with the aim to provide a safe workplace for all kind of people. Together we overhaul tools, sewing machines, computers and all the other stuff you know from TFS, for organizations most in Africa, Surinam and Eastern Europe. A little bit different from TFS is the group of people working. Currently 38 people are working at our workplace. Seven of them have a mental disorder. Twelve are unemployed

(some of them very long) and are supported by the municipality to gain work experience and to move on to a regular job. For five people working at BWW is a way to be in contact with other people as part of a social activation program. Most of them suffer from psychological problems.

Ten people are 'just' volunteers. Finally we've always some trainees working at our workplace. Our annual budget is about €225.000, which is about £166.000. With this money we do a lot of different projects. In 2015 we have completed and in preparation the following projects:

3 projects in Eastern European countries: bicycles, tools, wheelchairs, and hospital beds to a school, an organization for disabled people and a care centre for troubled youth

3 small projects for organizations in the Netherlands: gardening tools, inventory for a giveaway shop

2 projects in Ghana: 110 sewing machines for vocational training centres

Big two year project in Surinam (container full of bicycles, wheelchairs, tools and workshop inventory. Training in bicycle and wheelchair repair and management.

Tools and sewing machines for 5 projects for vocational training centres in Tanzania.

Tools for a vocational training centre in Zambia.

300 sewing machines for MSTC in Tanzania, together with TFS





In 2016 together with TFS we hope to start a program opening even more workshops like MSTC in Tanzania. We wish this program will be good for TFS, Tanzanian parties and ourselves, connecting people, exchange knowledge, building a (little bit) better world and not the least: have some fun doing it!



TFS

RHEINHESSEN

Tools regret to let you know that our sister-organisation in Germany called Tools For Solidarity Rheinhessen has been closing down.

The German organisation was founded by Ruädiger, who spent a year in Dublin as an Irene volunteer. During his voluntary service he visited the Tools workshop in 1997 and the experience had a powerful impact on him.

He contacted us early last year and expressed his perpetual enthusiasm for our work and he also said that he had never forgotten about Tools as well as mentioning his interest in setting up a workshop in Germany. Luckily, Ruädiger managed to put everything together, so they could start with a small group



group consisted of a handful of people.

The members worked in the evenings and at weekends beside their jobs but the common aim kept the group together. They collected numerous tools and sewing all around Germany. Then this year we received the devastating news that because of some unsolvable insurance issues they have been closing down temporarily. But in the meantime, they are going to send a box full of refurbished and unrefurbished tools and sewing machines that they collected and fixed for us.

We are really grateful for their great work and remarkable achievement and we hope wholeheartedly that one day they will be able to reset their project in Germany.

# GLENSHEEVER COMMUNITY

## BENEFIT SOCIETY

Disabled people have been targeted by budget cuts up to nine times more than other citizens. Disabled individuals are buckling under the strain of 'fitness for work' tests and escalating benefit sanctions. It is against this dire situation we plan to launch the Glensheever Community Benefit Society – chiefly to provide meaningful employment to young people who otherwise would find it difficult to find work, either through virtue of their disability or lack of education and training. The project will support the work of Tools for Solidarity Co-op in collecting and storing tools. Also in partnership with Recycle and Halfords, we will collect and refurbish bikes ready for shipment to projects in Africa. We also want to have a partnership with Holly Horse Ha-

ven in Omeath. We would foster/adopt small donkeys and ponies that would be quiet enough to be groomed by people with special needs. Obviously we would need land and buildings suitable for workshops. To buy the land we plan a share offer. Share holders (£30 each, maximum by law £20,000) will own the land and have a vote at the A.G.M. They would also be kept informed via a Newsletter. Tools, bikes and abandoned donkeys earn no money to pay wages etc. We will set up a workers' co-op who will pay rent to the Community Benefit Society, which by the way, could apply for charitable status. The workers' co-op will also employ young disabled people. It will have a variety of workshops geared towards natural burials.

We are worried by present day burials. Trees are cut down to build coffins, sometimes in the tropics, and shipped to the U.K. to be buried. We embalm bodies with formaldehyde. All this is nonsense environmentally. Bodies do not need to be embalmed with dangerous chemicals. Burials can be in willow coffins, recycled cardboard or natural material shrouds. We could bury pets and people. An organic cut flower nursery would suit our employees and fit in with the burial service. The import of cut flowers from as far away as Africa also raises big environmental questions. Would it not be better for Africans to grow food for themselves instead?

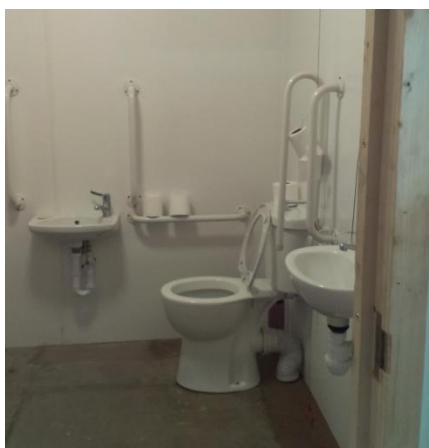
FROM TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY WE WANT TO THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR NEWSLETTER. THEY HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB IN THE PAST AND IN THE PRESENT. FOR SURE, THE FUTURE WILL BE GENEROUS WITH YOU.



# SUPPORTED

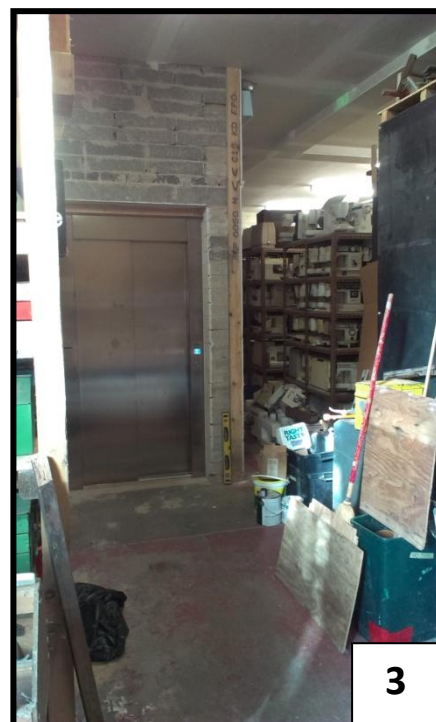
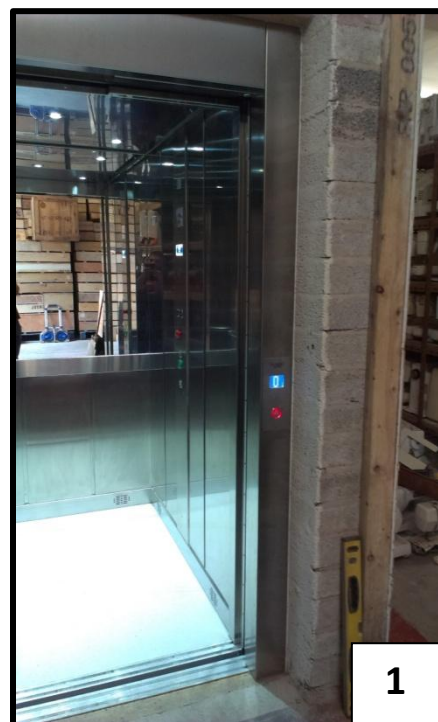
# VOLUNTEERS

As we announce in the last newsletter, the supported volunteers programme is growing in the last few months. After a few months of really hard work now we are glad to say that the workshop is ready for return to the supported volunteers programme. We're still putting the finishing touches to the workshop: although between January and March we installed the disabled toilet and the lift, we still had to work a lot in cleaning and tidying up the workshop. Since when last year we moved from the Crumlin Road to the actual workshop in the Sunnyside Street, we had problems for organizing all the tools and sewing machines we have. But after a few months of working hard and with the help of a small storage room that we were able to rent very close to the workshop, we are happy to say that finally everything is clear, ready and safe. So, in the last three months Jim, James, Stephen, Trevor started to work with us in the workshop. We also had the good news that Liam has decided to come back with us, so all of them have joined Larry and finally we have a good number of volunteers who are helping us. Nonetheless, not all are good news. Saara, our volunteer from Finland who is doing a great job working with most of the Supported Volunteers is leaving at the end of October, so again we are facing a period of changes. Is not only sad for us in TFS to say goodbye to Saara, but is also sad for all the supported volunteers working with her because we know that they enjoy her company as much as she enjoys theirs. In the next months we will work hard on organizing the job for helping the supported volunteers.



**In these two images** we can see the new disability toilet (left) and the workshop upstairs (down) where the supported volunteers work tidy. We cleared the way to the lift and clean the table for create a better working place for our supported volunteers.





**Picture 1:** lift

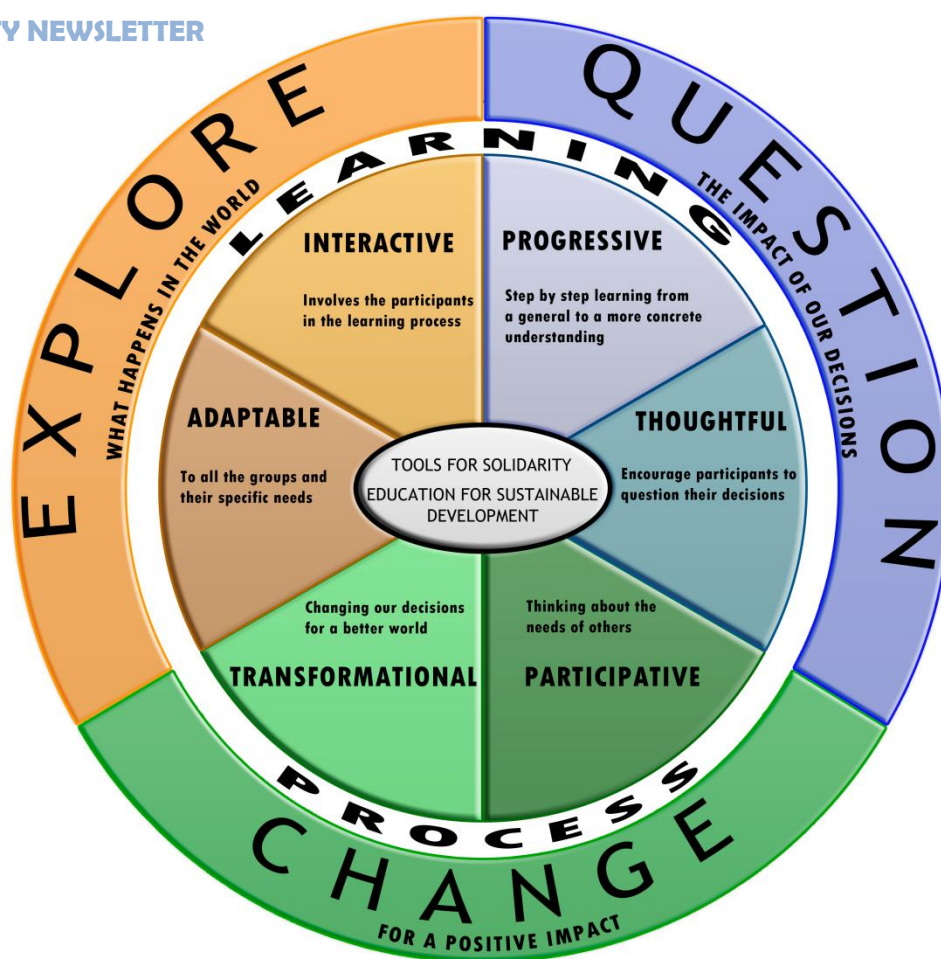
**Picture 2:** new machinery room at the bottom and disability toilet in the right

**Picture 3:** way from the lift to the disability toilet

Our Russian volunteer Elena and our German volunteer Fidelis are getting involved in the supported volunteers group little by little. Elena is already working with Liam on Tuesdays and Fidelis has a great disposition to replace Saara when she will be leave. And of course John will be always ready to help the programme to be run. As we from TFS usually remark, although we have lots of things to do and a lot of work to be done for our projects in Uganda and Tanzania, the supported volunteers pro-

gramme is a key part of our aims and also of our values. We decided to dedicate Tuesdays and Thursdays to focus just in working with the supported volunteers programme and is good to realize that in the last few months, the people coming in is getting more and more involved and apparently they want to be with us for a long period. We are happy to see how things are coming back to normal after all the work of accommodating our new house.





# ESD REPORT

## 2013-2015

As you probably know, the Education for Sustainable Development programme has improved remarkably in the last three years. Lots of new schools in Belfast has joined our educational programme trying to complement the Northern Ireland Curriculum in schools with issues related with development, poverty, consumerism, exploitation of natural resources or global relationships.

In order to involve more schools and students in our programme, we decided to make a report about the first three years of ESD with all the interesting information to make new schools be interested in the programme.

Have a look to the complete report in:

[http://issuu.com/toolsforsolidarity/docs/esd\\_report\\_2012\\_-\\_2015](http://issuu.com/toolsforsolidarity/docs/esd_report_2012_-_2015)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gtld07enwqjlj0j/ESD%20Report%202012-%20-%202015.pdf?dl=0>

### OBJECTIVES

Engage pupils, teachers and schools in the process of critical thinking and increase the awareness and understanding of issues of poverty, environment and globalization that are fundamental to the achievement of development.

### METHODOLOGY AND CHARACTERISTICS

We use a dynamic and participatory one, to help students to build critical learning step by step, starting with a general understanding of sustainability and developing this into a more concrete knowledge of our actions and their impact on the world.

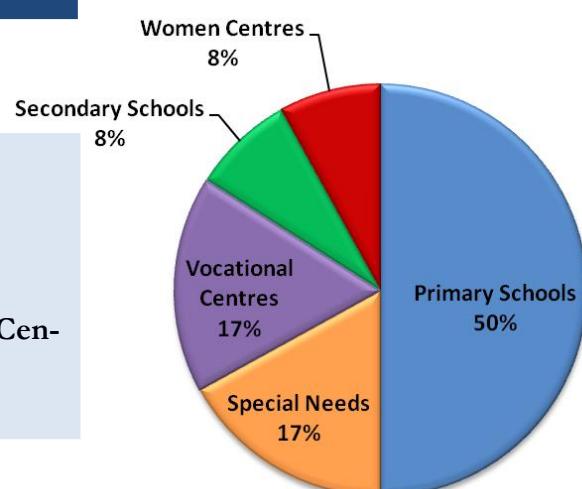
## LESSONS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme is divided in four sessions which approach the objectives through different items:

- **Session 1.** Inequality in the world
- **Session 2.** Poverty and Inequality
- **Session 3.** Resource exploitation and critical thinking
- **Session 4.** Fair Trade, Conclusions and reflection

## OBJECTIVES

- **Schools**
- **Primary level**
- **Secondary level**
- **Special Needs Schools**
- **Vocational Training Centres**
- **Women's Centres**



## FEEDBACK

The performance of the educators was



## NEW ESD WEBPAGE

[educationforsustainabledevelopment.weebly.com/](http://educationforsustainabledevelopment.weebly.com/)

We introduce you to the new Education For Sustainable Development of Tools For Solidarity webpage. There you can find all the necessary information about the programme and all what you need if you want to contact us. Visit us also through [www.toolsforsolidarity.com/education-sustainable-development/](http://www.toolsforsolidarity.com/education-sustainable-development/)

