

Comhlámh

Action for Global Justice

Our mission is to challenge our society on the root causes of global poverty and inequality and empower people to demand equity in global relations

Guiding Principle

People can make a difference

Strategic Objectives

Comhlámh is a dynamic, independent membership organisation committed to critical engagement on worldwide development.

Through awareness raising, research, education and training we empower individuals to take effective action for addressing global injustice.

Ours is the belief that people acting in solidarity can change the structures of global injustice and poverty.

As the Irish Association of Development Workers, we protect the interests of people working in development and for human rights. Our work is informed by their experiences.

Objective 1 Challenging Perspectives

To increase understanding of global development & justice issues and create a constituency for change. Communicate.

Objective 2 Investing in people

To develop informed advocates & activists to campaign for global justice. Educate.

Objective 3 Influencing Policy

To campaign to alter the structures that cause global injustice & poverty. Activate.

Objective 4 Maximising Potential

To develop strategic partnerships & alliances
To develop secure and diversified sources of income that support Comhlámh's aims & goals

Our vision is of a just and sustainable world.

Comhlámh

Action for Global Justice

Strategy 2005-2007

The context within which this plan is framed

Globally

Growth of global social movements building alternatives and balancing economic globalisation.

The coming of age of developing countries in international fora such as the World Trade Organisation, forming strong coalitions among themselves and balancing Northern power.

World insecurity post 9/11 leading to a militarised security agenda impacting on human rights & Development Assistance

Increasing withdrawal of governments from their responsibilities under international law

Increasing globalisation of trade and pressure for liberalisation of markets and privatisation of public goods

Increasing poverty and inequality through HIV/AIDS

The emerging human rights based approaches to development

European Union

An enlarged and increasingly integrated Europe

Increasing affluence and economic prosperity coupled with increased inequality

Increasing racism accompanying increased immigration

Ireland specifically

Overseas Development Aid budget faltering on the road to the United Nations target of 0.7%

Recognition of need to deepen public understanding of development issues

Increasing role of international NGOs in the Irish aid programme

Decline in long-term International volunteering, but increase in number of short term overseas volunteer options

Comhlamh

Action for Global Justice

As an activist organisation

Our Role is

- To be a critical voice on development and global justice
- To articulate the case for global justice
- To challenge public understanding on the root causes of poverty & inequality
- To build the will to change the structures that cause global injustice

How ?

Through

- supporting and engaging returning development workers, volunteers and human rights activists in action in Ireland.
- drawing on the activism, support and development experience of our members
- research, education, building skills and understanding.
- public awareness raising, lobbying, campaigning & networking.
- strong external communications and development of a public profile
- Engage with Southern & Northern grass roots movements

We will

Be action orientated, focused on achieving our goals in the most effective manner

Be leaders in education on development issues through having an annual national campaign action

Be key providers of informed advice and pre decision and preparation training in relation to overseas volunteering

Increase our participation within the international development & justice movement

Be a critical voice on development cooperation, rhetoric and reality

Continue to root our action in ongoing reflection.

Objective 1

Challenging Perspectives - Communicate

To increase understanding of global development & justice issues and create a constituency for change

Focus our education efforts on multipliers – the activist, global educator, opinion maker and decision maker.

Focus efforts on communicating development issues and looking at alternative solutions

Developing and promoting good practice in development education

Pursue accreditation and advanced qualifications in development education

Support sectoral engagement & information sharing on development issues

Objective 2

Investment in people - Educate

To educate & develop advocates & informed activists to campaign for global justice

Develop communication & lobby tools to support activism by individuals locally

Promote the concept of the Comhlámh Action (Activist) Network

Integrate the organisations themes & priorities across geographic areas

Promote skills and issue training workshops

Outwardly focus member energies

Capitalise on the demand for overseas volunteering to engage potential & returned volunteers in education & campaigning at home

Objective 3

Influencing Policy - Activate

To lobby and campaign to alter the structures that cause global injustice & poverty

Speak out on global injustices whether perpetrated locally, regionally or globally

Invest in research & information resources

Focus on campaigning and developing an external profile

Focus education and skills training to support campaign efforts

Develop network links within EU & Internationally

Mentor & manage Integrating Ireland towards organisational independence

Objective 4

Maximise Potential

Comhlámh is committed to networking as a means of being effective in reaching its objectives and as a catalyst for engaging other organisations in advocacy.

To develop strategic partnerships & alliances

Develop links with Southern activists so that their voices may inform our work

Develop links with similar organisations in Europe (East & West) in order to increase our effectiveness and enrich the debate in Ireland.

Engage with government and non-governmental organisations where it will enhance our ability to achieve the organisations goals.

Encourage & support networking amongst like-minded organisations on shared goals or campaigns.

To develop secure and diversified sources of income

Through developing new means of bringing in income, for instance by

Developing a consultancy role for staff

Becoming a service provider for example in relation to training and information provision

Developing a 'Friend of Comhlámh' facility for organisations and others

Investing in membership administration

Organising campaign appeals

Independence of income is essential

- *for campaigning*
- *for maximising member potential*
- *for enabling the organisation to chart its own course*

Surety of funding is essential

- *for providing security to staff*
- *for providing a safe and effective office environment*
- *for enabling long term planning*

All action, alliance or new venture is undertaken only where it fits with the ethos of the organisation and serves to forward our interests.