

# Summer 2014 Directive

## Part 1: Global poverty & charities

*Part one of the Directive has been designed to get you writing about the global issue of poverty and charitable giving. We would like your views on the way charities respond to the crisis of poverty in the developing world and for you to share any experiences of (or not) taking action with a charity.*

### To begin

Start your Directive response by listing five words you think of when you hear the phrase “global citizen”.

### Your views in general

Most of the questions in this Directive are about how charities try to engage people to take action. Before moving on to this, it would be useful if you could write about what you understand global poverty to be and why it occurs. Please explain your opinions, and say if you think that your views have changed as you have got older.

### You and charities

Do you support any charities that address the problem of global poverty (some examples: Oxfam; UNICEF; Christian Aid, or ActionAid)? If so, what sort of support do you give and why did you first get involved? Remember, we are interested in hearing about any kind of actions taken, whether you have made a one off donation, joined a campaign event or prayed for the eradication of poverty.

If you don't support charities like this, please let us know why you choose not to.

### Comic Relief

Information about global poverty is sometimes combined with entertainment. Perhaps the best known example of this is Comic Relief, or Red Nose Day as it is often called.

Have you ever watched the Comic Relief television programme? Did you enjoy it? Have you, or anyone you know, ever done anything to raise funds for Comic Relief? Have you donated money to this campaign?

We are interested in hearing your thoughts and experiences that relate to any other charities that use entertainment to engage people in the UK: Live Aid, Make Poverty History and Live 8 are some additional examples.

Please start each part of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember *not to identify yourself* or other people inadvertently within your reply. It is best to use initials instead of real names.

Is combining entertainment with charitable action an effective way to engage with people? Do you think humour and celebrities are an effective way to generate support?

### **Celebrities and charities**

Do you ever read, listen or watch any media (TV, magazines, Internet) concerning celebrities? Please give details about any media you encounter celebrities in.

Musicians, actors and other famous people are often involved with charities. What are your views on celebrities campaigning about global poverty? Are there any campaigns that “stick in your head”? What was memorable about this campaign?

### **Powerful images**

Often charities will use an image (on the TV, posters, or leaflets etc.) of a child living in poverty to highlight their campaign and the need for action. What emotions do you experience when you see an image like this?

**Task** - Over the next week write down any images of global poverty you see. How do they make you feel? How do you respond?

## **Part 2: Corporal Punishment**

Please start part 2 of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

*In this part of the Directive we are exploring the issue of physical punishment used as a means of discipline. This is often known as corporal punishment and has most commonly been applied in schools and in the home as a means to chastise bad behaviour. We are specifically interested in your thoughts and any personal experiences that you have had as well as reflections on how attitudes towards this subject may have changed over the years. You do not have to answer all of the questions or answer them in the same order. Please add any additional thoughts on corporal punishment which we have not covered in the questions.*

*As always, your reply is anonymous, but we advise you to take special care not to use real names or other identifiable pieces of information when describing actual experiences.*

### **Your opinions**

How would you define corporal punishment? What sort of acts do you associate with this behaviour?

What are your opinions about corporal punishment when used:

- On children?
- On adults?

On what occasions, if any, do you think that it is acceptable to use corporal punishment?

Have your opinions to corporal punishment changed during your lifetime? Please give details.

### **Your experiences**

Have you ever experienced any form of corporal punishment? For example: smacking, caning or slapping.

Was this at home, at school, or somewhere else? What was the relationship between you and the person punishing you? For example: parent, carer, teacher.

How did this experience make you feel? What effect did this form of punishment have on you?

Do you have any memories of anyone you know being punished in this way? For example: a friend at school or a sibling. What happened?

We are interested to pick up any differences across time and regions, so please ensure you tell us when and where these events took place.

If you have no experience of this please say why you think this might be the case.

### **Using corporal punishment**

Do you/have you ever used corporal punishment? (Perhaps to discipline a child.)

How did this experience make you feel? Was it effective?

Have you ever used any other forms of punishment to discipline someone? Are these methods better/worse than corporal punishment and why? How effective are they?

Has your decision to use/ not use corporal punishment been shaped by your past experiences or those of others?

### **Images of punishment**

Can you think of any examples of representations of corporal punishment in books, film, or television? Please give details and say if you think these images were realistic and how they made you feel.

### **Wider reflections**

Have you observed people using corporal punishment in public? What was your reaction?

The current law in the UK bans the use of corporal punishment in state schools. It remains legal, except in Scotland, when used by parents. Do you think that the current laws is satisfactory? Why?

Are there any circumstances in which you believe that corporal punishment should be re-introduced into schools or be implemented by order of court?

What are your feelings on further regulating the use of physical punishment in the home?

How do you think that the public image of physical punishment has changed over the years?  
What factors have influenced these changes?

## Part 3: Current Affairs in Summer 2014

Please start part 3 of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

Every now and again we issue a Directive that asks you to record your reflections on current affairs, and recent issues in the news. Since the news is a fast paced business, and we write the Directives a couple of weeks before we send it to you, a Directive like this can never be current. For this reason, we are asking you to choose the news story you write about.

### Recent news stories

Here are some examples of recent issues in the news to get you thinking: Gay marriage; MH17 plane crash in the Ukraine; the government cabinet reshuffle; Isis rebels in Iraq and Syria; the summer of sport; UKIP; the cost of living and home ownership; the ongoing Middle East conflict and situation in Gaza and the recent Church of England vote which approved women bishops.

*What do you think about these issues? What do you think about the coverage of these events? Do you have any personal experience? Do they effect you? Have you had a conversation with anyone about them? What makes them interesting?*

Please write about these or any other news story or issue that you think is important to document and record as part of your Mass Observation work.

---

Please post your response to: **Freepost: RTGU-AYJE-YSSC, The Mass Observation Archive, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP** Or by email to: [moa@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:moa@sussex.ac.uk)  
JS/KP Spring Directive/No. 100