

Afri



Hedge School 2010
Scoil Choís Claí

In association with Kimmage DSC



kimmage DSC
development studies centre

A unique blend of **conversation, debate,**
music, fun and food!

‘Food Sovereignty – Rooting out the Causes of Global Hunger’

**Beginning 10.30am,
Saturday, October 23rd**

**In Kimmage Development
Studies Centre, Kimmage, Dublin 12**





Introduction

Welcome to Afri's Annual Hedge School, which we are delighted to organise this year in collaboration with Kimmage Development Studies Centre (KDSC). This is particularly appropriate as both Afri and KDSC celebrate our 35th anniversaries.

Afri has adopted the concept of the Hedge School to reflect on contemporary issues of injustice and oppression. Hedge Schools were places of learning, continuity and resistance, emerging out of the draconian Penal Laws of 1695 that forbade formal education to most Irish people. We harness that memory as we try to recover and sustain solidarity with oppressed and excluded people, especially people who are denied their most fundamental human rights today.

Hedge Schools were set up wherever a safe place could be found: in the shelter of ruined houses, in dry ditches, by the roadside, in a barn or 'on the sunny side of a thorn hedge'. A poem by John O' Hagan captures the atmosphere of the Hedge School:

'... crouching neath the sheltering hedge
or stretching on ferns
The teacher and his pupils met felonishly to learn'.

The Penal Laws were repealed in 1782 but many parents continued to send their children to Hedge Schools up until the 1840s, the period in which Ireland was devastated by the Great Famine, a reality that faces millions of people in today's world. This year's Hedge School will focus on the fundamental right to food and discuss the importance of food sovereignty as a potential precondition for food security and tackling world hunger.

The Hedge School, part of our development education programme, will aim to promote a better understanding of the causes of hunger and food insecurity and a greater awareness of Ireland's commitment to achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goal – the reduction by half of the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015.

Joe Murray
(Afri Coordinator)

*Front cover photograph: Derek Speirs
- with thanks to the National Botanic Gardens
for lending the sapling for the picture.*

Clár

- 10.30am** Registration
- 11.00am** Music and Welcome
- 11.10am** Sustainable Development, Trade Liberalisation and Food Security - *Alan Matthews*
Followed by Q&A
- 12.10pm** Music
- 12.15pm** Booklet Launch: 'Seeds of Hope in a World of Insecurity' - *Clare O' Grady Walsh* and *Denis Halliday*
Followed by Q&A
- 1.15pm** Hedge Planting
- 1.45pm** Lunch - Soup & bread
- 2.45pm** Music
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2.50 - 4.30 Workshops

- **Food Sovereignty: A Response to the Increasing Privatisation of the Commons** (facilitated by Fergal Anderson, *Via Campesina*)
 - **The Global Trade System and Hunger** (facilitated by Fleachta Phelan, *Comhlámh*)
 - **The Roots of the Problem: Debt, Tax and Financial Injustice** (facilitated by Nessa Ní Chasaide, *Debt and Development Coalition Ireland*)
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- 4.30pm** Feedback and Conclusion
- 5.30pm** Music and Dinner – a meal cooked by our special chef Stephen, using local and organic food
- 7.00pm** Close
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Workshops

■ Food Sovereignty: A Response to the Increasing Privatisation of the Commons —Fergal Anderson

Food sovereignty has come to encompass much more than just a set of principles for the restructuring of international agricultural markets. It offers a new way of looking at control, power and ownership within the context of increasing privatisation of the commons. It also offers a reappraisal of how we relate to land, resources, self and community – espousing the values of autonomy and solidarity instead of competition and oppression.

The food sovereignty movement is taking the most basic of our needs – food and the resources needed to produce it – back into the hands of food producers and consumers and, at the same time, renouncing and denouncing corporate control over ever increasing areas of our lives.

■ The Global Trade System and Hunger —Fleachta Phelan

This workshop will explore the impact of the current global trading system and regulations on food production both locally and globally, and whether the globalisation of agricultural trade has contributed to the ongoing global food crisis. The workshop will be interactive, encouraging participants to discuss and debate the pros and cons of the liberalisation of agricultural trade, examine critiques of the current global trade paradigm, and explore alternative approaches to international trade which prioritise food sovereignty.

■ The Roots of the Problem: Debt, Tax and Financial Injustice —Nessa Ní Chasaide

This workshop will focus on the impacts of the financial crisis on possibilities for food sovereignty in countries of the global South with a particular focus on the central problems of debt and tax injustice. The workshop will include a mixture of interactive exploration and inputs to support participants explore the barriers placed by the international financial system to addressing the root causes of inequality and food insecurity.

Speakers

Clare O'Grady Walshe was born in Enniscorthy County Wexford. She is the former Director of Greenpeace Ireland and has worked with Afri for the past decade, especially in the field of development education in secondary schools. A graduate of University College Cork, where she received a Masters degree in Sociology, she has also served on the Irish Aid Advisory Committee and the Heritage Council. More recently she was appointed to the Irish Government High Level Task Force on Green Enterprise. She is a Director of the Irish Seed Savers Association (ISSA), and the NGO Children in Crossfire. She is a mother of two young children and lives in Dublin.

Denis Halliday, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General (1994-98). In mid-1994, Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali appointed Denis Head of Human Resources Management for the global United Nations. In mid-1997, he was appointed by Kofi Annan as Head of the UN Humanitarian/Oil-for-Food Programme in Baghdad when Iraq was subject to sanctions imposed by the Security Council. Since resigning at the end of 1998 in protest at the genocidal nature of these sanctions, he has served as a visiting Professor at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, a lecturer at Trinity College Dublin and as an international speaker and activist. In 2003, he received the Gandhi International Peace award in London. In mid-2010, Denis was imprisoned by Israel after Israeli soldiers hijacked the MV Rachel Corrie en route to Gaza with humanitarian supplies.

Alan Matthews is Professor of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics, Trinity College, Dublin. His major research interests are agricultural policy analysis, the impact of rich countries' agricultural trade policies on developing countries, and the design of World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules for agriculture. He was a member of the Irish government's AgriVision 2015 group in 2004, tasked with setting out a strategy for Irish agriculture over the next decade. He has previously worked as a consultant to the OECD, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Commission.

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