

## IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES

Below are a range of ideas and suggestions for activities that could form part of the week. There a variety of things that can be done that don't cost anything to organise but can help raise awareness about poverty. Whatever you organise please remember to tell us! Email information about events and activities to [cpw@povertyalliance.org](mailto:cpw@povertyalliance.org)

<p><b>1. Tell people about poverty</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a discussion with someone who has experienced the effects of poverty or worked closely with someone who has done so, for example a client of a support organisation, a welfare or health worker.</li> <li>• Hold the event at your workplace or social group or combine it with a social event like a breakfast, morning tea or dinner. Or just organise a simple get-together for staff at your work to mark the Week and help create interest</li> <li>• Set up a display, exhibit or stall giving information about poverty issues at a local event, your work or a public place like the library. Or write an article for a newspaper, website or other publication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Encourage debate or discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a debate, forum or workshop about a local issue, and include for example local community leaders and identities such as MPs, councillors, heads of community groups and local media.</li> <li>• Organise a workshop, seminar or conference on particular poverty issues. It could be designed mainly for people who are directly affected by poverty, provide community or welfare services or work with disadvantaged people in some other capacity.</li> <li>• Carry out some research or a survey about the issue and use it as a basis for discussion at the meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Call for action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a submission or petition which highlights key problems and makes specific proposals for action to address them. It could be delivered by a delegation or</li> </ul>

	<p>mail to your local MP or council or to the state or federal government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a rally, walk, march or sleep-out in your local area to raise awareness about an issue or to call for government action.</li> <li>• For more impact, organise a series of these kinds of activities with other groups during the week.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Encourage people to express their views</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage people to write to their local MP or council about a particular issue. This could include providing pro forma letters or setting up a stall to help people write individual letters to politicians, public servants or other people who may be able to help address their problems.</li> <li>• A question session with a panel of local councillors, MPs, public servants or community and business leaders. It could be held in a public place like a shopping mall, library or community hall (perhaps in combination with a lunch, dinner, breakfast or morning or afternoon tea).</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Provide some practical help</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law or accountancy firms, health or nutrition professionals, local banks or financial advisers, computer or internet businesses etc. could offer practical help to people experiencing poverty or hardship.</li> <li>• They could provide individuals or groups with free training, advice or information in their areas of expertise (eg, tenant's rights, family law, budgeting and financial planning, availability of benefits and tax, retirement prospects, health and nutrition advice or computer training).</li> <li>• Brochures, guides or handouts could be provided, perhaps together with kits including other useful items supplied by sponsors.</li> </ul>

<p><b>6. Promote a local community service</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up a display, exhibition or information stand about your organisation or service (eg, at a local library, shopping mall or community centre). Or you could hold an open day or social event like a lunch or afternoon tea to raise awareness of the service and encourage support for it, including volunteers.</li> <li>• Launch a brochure, publication or a new service during the Week. You could hold a competition to help raise funds for the service or conduct an award presentation. Or you could organise a project or activity with a local school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Get the local community together</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a family day, festival, fete or award presentation. It could involve as many local people as possible from schools, welfare or community organisations, police, health centres, places of worship etc. Different groups could have stalls or exhibits which explain or promote their services or issues.</li> <li>• The event could encourage community participation in programs to address local problems. For example, it could launch a program of community donations to help schools, sports clubs and other organisations provide free or low-cost services for low-income families.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Do something artistic or spiritual</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask people in the general community or particular disadvantaged groups to produce art, photography or writing which reflects poverty generally or a specific issue. You could hold a workshop or an exhibition or display of the work in a library, town hall or shopping mall or at a particular function.</li> <li>• Organise a performance, concert or screening on a poverty-related issue. Some events could be designed especially for children (eg, a puppet show with a poverty related theme).</li> </ul>

# CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a religious service on poverty or a particular aspect of it, either at a place of worship or a public place such as a local park or beach. Or a special sermon or prayers could be included in regular religious services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Organise a collection or raise some money</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine almost any of the other ideas in this section with raising money (eg, through admission fees, ticket sales, gold coin contributions, raffles or auctions).</li> <li>• Organise a collection of used or new clothes, sports or baby equipment, school uniforms from the local community or businesses. Or organise distribution, or give them to a charity or aid organisation to distribute.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Volunteer or donate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer your services to an organisation working to address poverty and hardship, either for a one-off event or on an ongoing basis. You could ask your employer to let you organise a volunteering program at work, or if you are an employer you could think about putting a volunteering scheme in place.</li> <li>• Donate money yourself and you could consider organising a donation scheme at your workplace. Donations could perhaps be made through direct deductions and matched by the company or business.</li> </ul>

## Contact

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