

More Than Gold Social Justice Programme

The main place for churches and individuals to look for suggestions and resources to get involved with the More Than Gold social justice programme is the MTG website:

<http://www.morethangold.org.uk/service/social-justice.html>

Global Gatherings

Olympic & Paralympic Games:

27 days of largest global sporting gathering

Size of the Games

- **46** Olympic & Paralympic sports
- **22,800** Athletes, Coaches & Officials
- **25,000** Press/media
- **14 million** meals, **9+ million** tickets
- Workforce of up to **250,000**
- Estimated **1 million** visitors

Being socially responsible in 2012

Past experience has shown that a vast event like the 2012 Games will create some significant social issues. The More Than Gold Social Justice Team has already been in consultation and has highlighted the following as being of greatest concern –

- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking and Prostitution
- Fair Trade
- Environment
- 100 days of peace

Our social justice work is in response to God's Word, e.g. Deuteronomy 10:9, Micah 6:8, Matthew 25: 34-36 which speak of welcoming the stranger and acting justly with love and

humility. Our aims are clear: to provide an appropriate programme of awareness and response to help churches address these five areas of concern.

1 Peace

What has 'peace' to do with the Olympics?

The ancient Olympics were marked by a sacred truce. This was so competitors could reach Olympia safely when travelling through warring city-states in the Greek peninsula. Peace was **the underlying purpose of the original Games**. And also the ideal of the modern Games when revived in 1896 by Pierre de Coubertin.

The new call for an Olympic Truce – a 100 days of peace – is about –

- Laying down weapons to build a culture of non-violence
- Upholding respect for human potential and

achievement above bloodshed


- Implementing UN resolution A/RES/48/11 which urges member states to 'abide by the Truce, individually and collectively, and to pursue . . . the peaceful settlement of all international conflicts'.

Who has resurrected the 100 Days of Peace?

50 days before (**June 8th** → July 27th/Opening Olympic Ceremony)

50 days after (Closing Paralympic Ceremony/September 9th → **October 28th**)

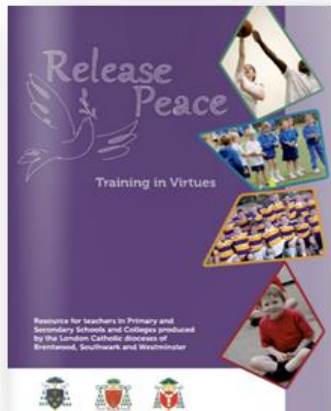
The call for peace in the context of London 2012 has come from the young people within secondary education across the city of London. They talk about experiencing instability on the streets of the Metropolis every day. The goal is more peace in streets, homes and hearts.



1 100 Days of Peace

- **700BC** – pause from endless cycle of **war and violence**
- **Peace** - Underlying purpose of original Games
- **1993** – UN A/RES/48/11 “pursue initiatives for **peace & reconciliation**”

'abide by the Truce, individually and collectively, and pursue the peaceful settlement of all international conflicts'



How can others engage with the call for peace?

The aim is to use the Olympic Truce to encourage and strengthen what is being done by those working for peace, with a particular focus on London. Individuals, churches and schools can support the call for peace by –

- Using the **100 Days of Peace initiative** - 50 days on either side of the Games. This encourages peace events and to see the Games as an occasion to celebrate peace in hearts and neighbourhoods, locally and internationally. For ideas for schools and young people, see **Release Peace**, and for ideas resources and an events planner for churches see the **Planning Handbook for Parishes** at www.peacelegacy.org.uk. Consider adding your own ideas to this website
- Planning to attend the **Peace Service in Trafalgar Square** – a civic celebration on Saturday 9 June 2012.
- Keeping track of the **Walk for Truce** - Lord Michael Bates

walking from Olympia, Greece to Westminster to champion the cause of the Olympic Truce. Details at www.walkfortrue.org and sign the online petition at www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/truce,

- **Praying** with a focus since all 193 member states of the United Nations General Assembly gathered in New York in October 2011 to commit to observe the Resolution they signed on peace and that they remain true to their word to implement it.
- Look out for the **Your Journey To Peace** reflection booklet to help you walk through the 100 Days actively and prayerfully.

2 Homelessness

In response to the potential increase in homelessness through the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games More Than Gold will seek to help the churches serve the needs of people who are homeless. This will involve –

- Working closely with the strategies and action plans of agencies, statutory bodies and service providers specialising in the area of homelessness;
- Identifying churches which are prepared to open night shelters during the 2012 Games;
- Housing Justice's **'Shelter in a Pack'** toolkit. We

2 Homelessness



Concerns?

- **rise** in homelessness during Games
- authorities will **forcibly remove** from streets

Our role?

- **good response** to rise in rough sleepers
- **monitor** planned local govt responses
- **no Games plans** to sweep the streets

Who is without a home?

- 1,800 – 7,500 **rough sleepers**
- 49,000+ households in **temporary accommodation**
- 400,000+ **hidden homeless** people
- 1.77m households on **local authority waiting lists**
- 565,000 **overcrowded** households
- **Migrants, asylum seekers & refugees**
- **Travellers**

strongly recommend contacting **Rev Paul Reily, the Housing Justice Shelter Liaison worker** before a church makes plans to set up a shelter on p.reily@housingjustice.org.uk or 07557 110956.

- We are also researching volunteering opportunities to **support the local authorities' responses** to homeless people during the Olympics and these will be put up on the MTG website as we become aware of them.
- Volunteers may be needed to staff the telephone

helpline during the Olympics, and to work alongside the paid outreach workers who meet homeless people on the street and help them to find accommodation. If you are interested in these sorts of volunteering opportunities please contact Housing Justice on info@housingjustice.org.uk.



3 Fair Trade

The 2012 Games will bring the world together. But, when it comes to trade, not everyone competes on a level playing field. The way things work at the moment **discriminates against the poorest and weakest producers**. They get squeezed and end up producing in unsafe working conditions, for long hours and with little in return.

What does Fairtrade do?

The Fairtrade movement is committed to –

- Creating opportunities for poor producers
- Making sure the way trade works is fair, both in terms of how much a producer receives and how swiftly it reaches them
- Making sure children are not being exploited
- Making sure there is no discrimination

- Making sure working conditions are safe.

How does Fairtrade impact More Than Gold?

More Than Gold is committed to issues of social justice. This means we'll do everything we can to:

- Use and recommend Fairtrade sourced products
- Help churches understand the issues of Fairtrade and apply them to their engagement with the 2012 Games.

What can churches do?

Churches can show their commitment to social justice in the context of the 2012 Games by –

- Making sure the widely recognised Fairtrade Mark can be seen on all refreshments served at their More Than Gold events. Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and a wider variety of groceries, delivered to the door, can be found at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk
- Displaying a certificate showing they are a Fairtrade church at More Than Gold outreach events. To discover how to obtain a certificate [click here](#).
- Using Fairtrade cotton t-shirts and bags which can be found at www.freesetbags.co.uk

Meanwhile, a **resource pack with the focus on Fairtrade** to help churches make the most of the Torch Relay as it passes their way is available free of charge from **Traidcraft** (tel: **0191 491 0591**).

10,000 free copies are available. Once these are gone, it will be available to download from www.traidcraft.co.uk.

4 Environment

Planned activities include –

- Encouraging denominations and churches to **set a target for their carbon reduction** by the end of the Games;
- Encouraging churches to **work towards achieving 'Eco-congregation' awards** or similar environmental benchmarks to coincide with the start of the Games in 2012;
- Encouraging denominations with environmental policies and programmes already in place to **share expertise and**



good practice to enable other churches to achieve this commitment;

- Encouraging denominations, churches and individuals to explore **and promote sustainable living**, with a particular focus on **reducing and recycling waste** - including the use of plastic bottles and other forms of packaging - in their 2012 Games ministry programmes;
- **Running a celebration** at the end of the Games, with the other social justice theme groups, linking the experience of Christian competitors from countries affected by climate change to the church's initiatives on the environment and sustainability;
- Encouraging and making known the efforts of the ODA, LOCOG and the Olympic Park Legacy Company in making the Games in 2012 sustainable, and **making available to the church simple explanations of the carbon footprint of the Games** and the measures being taken to reduce it.

5 Anti-Human Trafficking/Prostitution

Why will human trafficking and prostitution be an issue during the Games?

Experience suggests that at major sporting events there is an increased risk of women, men and children being exploited and trafficked to meet the demand for cheap labour and the commercial sex trade. At present, we have **no baseline evidence for this**. This is **an issue not just for London or the UK**, but for the **entire world**. Men, women and children are enslaved by labour abuses, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation every day. The 2012 Games offers us an opportunity to engage with this often difficult topic.



Who are most at risk?

It is often the most vulnerable who are tricked, trapped and transported to be used in what has been referred to as 'modern day slavery'. It is common for human trafficking to take place **across borders**. However, **internal trafficking** is a growing problem in the UK.

What can be done to respond?

The ways churches and individuals can respond include –

- **Finding out more:** Look out for information about: *trafficking* (see www.stophetraffik.org) & other types of *exploitation* (e.g. www.beyondthestreets.org.uk, working to end sexual exploitation)
- **Praying:** Individuals and churches can download and use following resources
Gathering Voices – a 7-day prayer guide based on the prayers of women who have been directly affected by this issue and **Responsive prayers** – 3 prayers to use in public worship or in small groups (both available to download from www.morethangold.org.uk/uploads)
- **Raise awareness:** Dedicate a church service to the issue using the prayer resources and others that are on the way, and display a Met Police **poster** in your church to alert people to help that is at hand
- **Keep your More Than Gold activities 'fair trade':** This is an important way to make sure what you buy has not involved exploitation or trafficking (www.fairtrade.org.uk).
- Get your church to consider **sponsoring, hosting or volunteering** a **U.N. GIFT Box** in your local area to educate others about modern-day slavery in our towns & cities (www.ungiftbox.org):
 - **500 volunteers** are needed during the Games to staff these boxes, aged 15 yrs upwards
 - Apps will be available in **6 languages** (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese) to help visitors to understand the "stories in the box"
 - Next info evening: Wed 25th April in London. Half-day training will be given in July
 - Partnership between the United Nations, Stop The Traffik, Metropolitan Police (their national hotline number is **0800 783 2589**), and many safe houses ready to receive victims.