

# History Talk Outline



## Eglantyne Jebb

- Born to a prosperous Shropshire family, Eglantyne Jebb worked as an elementary school teacher until ill-health forced her to give up.
- In 1919, when she was 42, news reached Britain that millions of German and Austrian children were threatened by starvation because of the continuing Allied blockade.
- Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton joined the 'Fight the Famine' campaign.
- On 15 May 1919, she was taken to court and accused of being a traitor when she distributed a handbill, showing emaciated Austrian 'enemy' children.
- Fined £5, she then extracted a donation from the prosecuting council!
- Eglantyne wanted to do more than to campaign for the rights of these children; she wanted to provide practical help. Four days after her court appearance, she, with sister Dorothy, launched Save the Children at a packed meeting in the Albert Hall

## Save the Children advertisement

- Understanding the value of publicity, the sisters put the first ever page length charity appeal in 'The Times'. Money poured in.
- By the end of the first year, a staggering £400,000 (the equivalent of about £8 million today) had been raised and work was able to spread from Europe to Armenia, and the Baltic states.
- The first grant, on the 28th May 1919 was for relief work with starving children in Vienna. In partnership with local agencies, Save the Children supplied food, milk supplies, and set up welfare centres

## Russian children

- When news reached Britain of the catastrophic food shortages in Russia in 1921, Save the Children was among the first to appeal on behalf of the six million children suffering from the famine.
- By the autumn of 1922, Save the Children's team, were feeding over 300,000 children in Russia every day.

## Declaration of the Rights of the Child

- Eglantyne was the first to realise that children have rights, which the international community should understand, protect and respect.
- One Sunday in 1922, on Mount Salève, high above Geneva, she wrote the words that were to become the world's first declaration of rights of the child.
- This declaration of children's rights was adopted by the League of Nations in 1924, and evolved to become the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,

which came into force in September 1990. It still inspires all of Save the Children's work.

Eglantyne Jebb quote 1923:

*I believe we should claim certain rights for the children and labour for their universal recognition, so that everybody - not merely the small number of people who are in a position to contribute to relief funds, but everybody who in any way comes into contact with children, that is to say the vast majority of mankind - may be in a position to help forward the movement."*

## African children

- Before she died, Eglantyne had set in motion Save the Children's first scientific study into the living conditions of African children.
- This eventually led to a conference on the subject in 1931.
- The recommendations of the conference included the recruitment of more African doctors and nurses, the education of African children to encourage 'the development of their personality, and the progress of their race', and legislation to protect child labourers.

## Children during the Depression

- In the 1930's, when the General Strike led to the depression, Save the Children supplied free meals and clothing to children in the worst hit areas.
- The Depression also led to Save the Children's lowest annual income ever; £20,802 in 1930. Financial aid arrived, though, for Save the Children's work in the UK from, amongst other sources, the city of Vienna. They gave £1,000 in recognition of the generosity of the Miner's Federation in 1919.

## Children drinking milk

- During the depression we also provided free milk to school children in South Wales, several years before this became government policy.
- We campaigned for free dinners and milk in schools
- In the 1940s we got the law changed and the UK's poorest children still benefit from this today

## Nursery Schools

- The nursery schools that Save the Children provided during the 1930's became models of planning and design providing simple shelter, playgrounds, fresh air and rest
- At one time Save the Children provided ten per cent of the country's nursery facilities.

## Saving children during World War II

### Refugees

- Eglantyne once remarked that '*All wars, just or unjust, disastrous or victorious, are waged against the child*'.
- As the thirties drew to a close, conflict in Europe became a major concern of Save the Children.

- Later on, with the outbreak of war against Germany, Save the Children's work inevitably became concentrated in Britain itself.

### **Evacuees in the country**

- The main task was to care for children under five, and Save the Children ran thirty residential homes in large houses all over the country, for children brought to the safety of the country in red London buses.
- By the end of the war, Save the Children's first relief teams were following the liberating armies into Holland, France, and Germany, to care for orphans and displaced children.

### **Relief during the Korean war**

- Overseas, Save the Children soon found that victims of other wars needed urgent aid.
- Save the Children's teams were active in Korea during the war in 1952, providing emergency food and shelter for the shattered families often found sleeping in the open on flattened biscuit tins.
- By 1955, the country was receiving more Save the Children aid than any other. As well as aid, Save the Children also trained Korean doctors and nurses. It operated a health centre at Pusan, which continued to work from tents when the building had to be evacuated. Save the Children also ran children's wards in a Red Cross Hospital

### **Vietnam immunisation**

- Save the Children began long term development work in 1967 with the opening of the Widow's Training Centre and the Convalescent Rest Centre for war-injured children and babies suffering from malnutrition.
- When the war ended in 1975, Save the Children was obliged to leave as part of the general evacuation, but much of the work was continued by local staff, and Save the Children staff later returned, in 1986.

### **The Ethiopian famine 1984**

- Abroad, short term disaster relief operations are often part of long-term projects which form the major part of Save the Children's work overseas. Together with local people, programmes are developed which will bring permanent benefits to their communities.
- In Ethiopia where Save the Children had been working since 1932 we played an important role in relief operations in the catastrophic famine of 1984, distributing food, seeds and tools supplying people with the assets they needed to build their livelihood up again.

### **Rwanda Family Tracing**

- War and the resulting chaos often results in family separation.
- From 1985 to 1995, one million children were separated from their parents by conflict. In these instances, Save the Children uses its' years of experience in family tracing, with techniques developed in Sudan, Rwanda, and Bosnia and Kosovo.

## Save the Children from Violence campaign

- Our first major campaign was launched in April 1999, when 12 million viewers saw our national TV advertising campaign, highlighting the first focus of the campaign, the plight of children, some as young as seven, fighting in war.
- Thousands of people signed the “I Object” petition protesting against the forcible recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- The campaign was a great success resulting in changes to International legislation

## Princess Anne, HRH The Princess Royal

- In 1971 Princess Anne, later the Princess Royal, became Save the Children's President and is very active on our behalf.
- Her first field trip was to Nairobi, Kenya in 1971 and was filmed by Blue Peter.
- She has seen the charity expand from a £6,000 a day charity in 1971 to one which now spends over £300,000 a day on project work in the UK and in more than 50 countries across the world

## What Save the Children will do next.

**NEARLY 10 MILLION children won't live to see their 5th birthday this year**

**YOU help us stop this. We know the solutions, like vaccinations, mosquito nets and enough food.**

**We just need the world to see how easy it is.**

- The equivalent of a coach load of children die every 3 minutes from illnesses we know how to treat or prevent
- All of our work will be focussed on Child survival.....saving more children
- 10 million children die every year before their 5th birthday from conditions that are easy to prevent or treat, like diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- Our programme work will be focussed on this as will our fundraising and awareness raising.

## Emergencies

**WE KNOW there's no time to waste when disaster strikes**

**YOUR DONATIONS help us stay ready to act quickly**

- Over 60 million children are affected by natural and man-made disasters every year.
- Children particularly vulnerable - may lose home, community, security and everything they have.
- Face multiple threats from violence, disease, malnutrition, trauma and lack of shelter, water, food and education.

- Children's emergency fund is set up to provide reserve funds so we can respond immediately when an emergency hits.

**HAVING A BABY in Liberia is scary. And it costs up to 1500 Liberian Dollars to deliver. Trouble is, that's a month's salary.**

**YOU make governments realise that healthcare fees don't work**

- Well over two-thirds of the population of Liberia lives on less than US\$1 a day.
- Average life expectancy is 41 years, and one in five of Liberia's children dies before their fifth birthday.
- SC is working with the Ministry of Health in Liberia to improve access to free healthcare, especially for mothers and children.
- SC are campaigning on this issue
- SC estimates that the lives of 285,000 children in Africa could be saved every year by abolishing healthcare fees.

## **Props Box**

**Bottle of milk – represent milk in schools**

**Map – represent family tracing**

**Emergency and family tracing poster**

**Plumpy nut**

**Muac band**

**Mosquito net**