

NEW JERSEY COALITION RESPONDS TO THE CRISIS IN DARFUR

Action Ideas for Organizing Advocacy and Fund-Raising Initiatives

1. Invite speakers and plan an assembly for your school about Darfur. For ideas and speakers, visit www.helpdarfurnow.org, www.savedarfur.org, www.darfurrehab.org, and www.darfur-hr.org.
2. Organize fund raising events such as: car washes, walk-a-thons, read-a-thons, benefit dances/concerts, assemble and sell “Dolls for Darfur” pins (www.dollsfordarfur.org), sell Help Darfur Now gel wristbands, pins, shirts and sweatshirts (www.helpdarfurnow.org), sell Save Darfur car magnets and lawn signs (www.savedarfur.org). Solicit businesses in your community, such as retail stores and restaurants, and ask them to pledge money for humanitarian relief groups during the dates of your project. Please visit the “Links” section of our website, www.njresponddarfur.org, for recommended humanitarian relief organizations to receive the donations and money you raise.
3. Schedule movie nights at your school or in your community and show, for example, “Darfur Diaries: Messages from Home”, “The Devil Came on Horseback”, “Sand and Sorrow”, “God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan”, “POV: Lost Boys of Sudan”, “A Journey to Darfur”, “Hotel Rwanda” or “The Killing Fields”. Ask for donations as people enter and sell popcorn, candy and Help Darfur Now shirts/sweatshirts, gel wristbands and pins for more fund raising possibilities.
4. Plan a candle light vigil for Darfur.
5. Organize letter writing/call in days to elected officials asking for governmental action to end the crisis and for US humanitarian aid. See www.savedarfur.org and www.genocideintervention.net for tips about letter writing.
6. Write letters on paper plates to members of congress asking for US humanitarian aid. The paper plates symbolize the ongoing starvation in Darfur. Collect the plates and make a trip to the state capital or US Representative’s offices to deliver the plates.
7. Wear a Help Darfur Now gel wristband or make and wear a green ribbon daily and inform people about the genocide. (www.helpdarfurnow.org)
8. Organize a poetry reading about Darfur.
9. Solicit pledges to support schools in Darfur. For more information about school sponsorship, visit www.dpado.org/home.php.
10. Plan poster making contests to raise awareness about the crisis and make and display your posters through out your school, communities and places of worship.

11. Distribute flyers to raise awareness about Darfur through out your community, schools and places of worship. Fliers can be obtained from www.savedarfur.org.
12. Introduce the topic of Darfur at your place of worship. Show “Darfur- A Call to Action”, a 20 minute documentary produced by the Save Darfur Coalition and visit the “Faith Outreach” link at their website, www.savedarfur.org for discussion guides.
13. Organize a school supply collection.
14. Organize a Solar Cooker fundraiser. For more information about Solar Cookers, visit www.jewishworldwatch/donate/solarcookerproject.html.
15. Join a local Darfur facebook or myspace group to share information and ideas and to learn about Darfur related events your community.
16. Write articles to your newspapers and letters to the editor to keep Darfur in the spotlight. For help, visit the “Letters to the Editor Guide” at www.savedarfur.org
17. Subscribe to the weekly newsletters from the Save Darfur Coalition and the Genocide Intervention Network to stay informed and updated. (www.savedarfur.org and www.genocideintervention.net)
18. Contact the media – let them know about your event and invite them to come and/or cover your event. Not only does this help spread the word about the crisis in Darfur, it will make more people aware of your group for when you have future events.

These action steps were prepared by the NJ Coalition Responds to the Crisis in Darfur. The Coalition is made of diverse organizations based in New Jersey who come together with the mission to alleviate the persecution and end genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan through education, advocacy and assistance.