



What is the Group of 8?

- The G8 Group of Nations includes the world's richest countries (USA, UK, Italy, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and now Russia).
- It was set up in the turbulent years of the 1970s when the global elite were keen to regain control of the world economy and check the power of developing world countries.
- The G8 is an unaccountable, exclusive and self-appointed club of the world's elite – they only represent 12% of the world's population but make decisions for all 6 billion of us!
- It mainly concerns itself with setting strategic priorities for managing the global economy and maintaining power for the rich and powerful.
- The G8's combined power means that they effectively control all other main world organisations—the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, UN Security Council, NATO and the EU.
- The G8 has no permanent staff or headquarters yet its actions influence pretty much every area of our lives.
- The G8 meets annually, since the late 1990s there have been huge demonstrations by the public outside most meetings.
- The annual meeting is mostly a media show, with actual decisions been made in ministerial meetings before and after.
- Big issues in the USA last year were the Middle East and Global Security.
- Over half of Scotland's police will be mobilised to protect the world's 8 most powerful leaders, with the security bill estimated at £150 million.
- Tony Blair has set the agenda to include Africa and Climate Change. But can the G8 solve these issues?
- A week of action has been called for from July 2nd- 8th 2005

TRAPESE

Take Radical Action through Popular Education
and Sustainable Everything

www.trapeze.org

***TRAPESE** is a popular education collective formed in January 2004. Through interactive workshops and social events we aim to provoke debate, inform and inspire positive social change. Since September, Trapeze has been running workshops, talks and social events in order to inform and mobilise people around the G8, (the Group of 8 most industrialised nations) who are holding their annual meeting in Gleneagles Scotland 6-8th July 2005. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse and include community theatre, international solidarity work, sustainable living projects and campaigning with various anti-capitalist/ ecological struggles.

***The G8 in Scotland** is an opportunity to strengthen UK and global networks, raise public awareness of the current status quo and build alternatives. Through the workshops we aim to inspire and empower people to take action together in their communities, nationally and internationally.

***The TRAPESE roadshow** has been touring Britain since the middle of September. From Stirling to Brighton we have done over 50 events, including university **lectures**, **workshops** in student unions, plenaries at the European Social Forum, **pub quizzes** and karaoke spectaculars. The tour will be carrying on throughout the spring, for details see the website.

What is Popular Education? - Popular education is about developing a **critical awareness** of the world we live in, promoting **social and environmental justice** over economic gain and valuing creative and emotional knowledge rather than just facts. By stimulating **debate and free thinking** it intends to draw on the existing knowledge and experience of the group and encourage everyone to learn and teach. Part of the workshop's aim is to help with future **action plans** and look at opportunities for local training, networking and meetings. Popular education aims to be non-hierarchical and is based on issues that the learners are concerned about. It is about addressing problems and questions whilst **looking for solutions** within the groups. The work of Trapese aims to be long term- we are co-organising a popular education seminar in Spain, September 2005 to build a strong network of popular educators and will be running further workshops and events after the G8 summit.

Workshops - Trapese workshops normally last around two hours, cover the following themes and can be adapted according to the interest, size and previous experiences of the group.

***Who are the G8? What do they do and their role in the global economy.** Background info on how the G8 came to be, how it works and its relation to debt and development.

***Climate Chaos, Energy and Blair's G8 Greenwash.** Wrestling with the issues of climate change, the oil industry and the nuclear and renewable energies debates.

***Resistance and Living Alternatives.** What inspiring things have happened before, what lessons can be learned and what new things can we do. Information on the mobilisation against the G8.

The workshops use a variety of different formats, **visual aids, games, videos** and hand outs to ensure they are varied and interesting. As well as more introductory sessions we hope the workshops can be used as **training for trainers** and provide groups with the resources they need to give further workshops and information sessions.

Resources - Trapese CD-Rom a collection of background articles on the G8, workshop templates and other resources related to climate change and Africa that we have used to put the workshops together. The CD rom is available for £2/ free, email us and we can send you a copy or download it from the website.

Socials/Benefits - Trapese also has a pub quiz/show that includes G8 bingo, karaoke etc., a fun and informative way of dealing with the G8 and related issues. The pub quiz can be part of a benefit evening for local groups or as a way to reach out to people about the G8 who might not come to a workshop or talk.

Practicalities - The tour is carrying on throughout the spring. We have received some funding but our resources are very limited. Educational workshops in universities/colleges can be arranged and will be charged at the standard rate. In non- for profit spaces we come for free but ask for donations to help with travel and admin costs. We also sell books and a few other sound products to help fund ourselves. We need a large space for workshops, a place for projecting videos and accommodation but bring the rest. We have learned that the longer we have the more productive the session, ideally half a day of workshops and an evening social over 2 days.

Contact - To find out more, organise an event or support our project please contact: roadshow@riseup.net or call 07904 452297.

We are a part of DISSENT! (See www.dissent.org.uk), a network of horizontal grassroots resistance against the G8.



