



Poverty

W: Today I we will debate about another social reality which is poverty. Sarah, what could you say about this issue?

Sarah: I know that eradicating poverty is one of the great challenges of the twenty first century. It is still the world's greatest killer. And despite the world leaders' fine words, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening, not closing.

W: Definitely. Actually world leaders had set themselves the task of halving global poverty by 2015, but it seems today to have been just pie in the sky. Anyway, poverty is bound to worsen if economic growth cannot keep pace with population growth.

Sarah: I think that rich countries need to increase the amount of aid given to poor nations. The agreed target is zero point seven per cent of GDP. Did you know that the US is the most generous donor in terms of volume, but as a proportion of GDP, however, this is only zero point sixteen per cent?

W: Well I ignored the last fact. I think it's not only a question of aid, but of organization. Poverty-reduction strategies in the developing world must prioritise clean water and adequate sanitation.

More than ten million children under five die each year from preventable diseases and about one hundred twenty million children never go to school.

Sarah: I agree with you. The agreement to cancel the debts owed by eighteen of the world's poorest countries is a mighty step forward but it is not enough. There is still a long way to go before global poverty is eradicated.

W: Concerted action is required more than ever to alleviate poverty.



GLOSSARY:

Poverty	The gap
To debate	The haves
To eradicate	The have-nots
To widen	The task
To close	Global poverty
To set oneself	Pie in the sky
To halve	Economic growth
To be bound to	Population growth
To worsen	The amount of aid
To keep pace	The agreed target
To increase	GDP (Gross Domestic Product)
To give/gave/given	The most generous
To agree	Donor
To prioritise	Poverty reduction strategies
To die	Developing world
To cancel	Clean water
To owe	Adequate sanitation
To require	Preventable diseases
To alleviate	The agreement
A social reality	The debts
An issue	Poorest countries
A challenge	A mighty step forward
Twenty first century	A long way to go
Greatest killer	Concerted action
The world leaders	Despite However
Fine words	Not enough
	Still
	More than ever



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