

Concern Debates: 40 YEARS IN 40 OBJECTS

CONCERN
40
DEBATES

RDS, Minerva Suite, Dublin 4
21st of May 2025

Welcome to **Concern Debates: 40 Years in 40 Objects**, an exhibition that celebrates four decades of Concern Debates, Ireland's largest and longest running school debates programme engaging over 85,000 people since it began. A platform that has empowered young people across Ireland to engage with global issues, think critically, and develop skills that will last a lifetime.

Since its founding, Concern Debates has brought thousands of students, teachers, volunteers, and communities together in pursuit of meaningful dialogue. This exhibition tells that story through 40 objects, each one offering a window into a moment, a memory, or a milestone from the past 40 years.

From worn debate badges and handwritten notes to trophies, photographs, and symbolic teaching tools, these items reveal the dedication, creativity, and impact of everyone involved in the programme. Some objects reflect personal journeys, while others highlight a connection to real world issues and Concern's mission of ending extreme poverty.

Together, they form a rich tapestry of voices, ideas, and experiences that have shaped generations of changemakers, and continue to inspire the next.

We invite you to explore, reflect, and celebrate the powerful legacy of the Concern Debates programme.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Development
Education ie



IDEA
IRISH DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



Irish Global Solidarity
in one hundred objects

SUPPORTED BY



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

written and curated by Eoghan Connolly and Tony Daly