***Press Release***

**For Immediate Release: Date**

**For more information, please contact:**

Your Contact Details

Name

Email

Phone number

**Title: 200 students join the Global Sleep Out to speak out on the Irish homelessness crisis**

*Link to pictures or videos (use a sharing site like Weshare)*

**Dublin, 2019***(City and year)*- *(One- two sentences on what you are doing)* On Saturday, December 7th, over 200 teens slept out to raise awareness around homelessness in Ireland. This is part of a global movement called the World’s Big Sleep Out. The event is run in partnership with the Institute for Global Homelessness (IGH), UNICEF, Malala Fund and Social Bite.

An expected 50,000 other people throughout the World by participating in (or hosting your own) Sleep Out event on Saturday 7th December 2019. By taking part, students and others across Ireland and the globe are aiming to raise enough funds to give a hand up to a target of 1,000,000£. This is in hopes of helping homeless and displaced people in Ireland and throughout the world.

*Write a paragraph here on what you are doing in your school or community. Did you bring friends to the sleep out? How many people were involved? Add quotes from you, your friends, your principal etc..!*

The target for the event is to raise $50,000,000 through the World’s Big Sleep Out campaign. The proceeds will be divided between charities helping rough sleepers and people living homeless and going to charities helping the 70.1 million people displaced globally through war, natural disasters or extreme poverty. Founder of The World’s Big Sleep Out, Dr Josh Littlejohn writes, “By collectively sacrificing our beds for one cold night we can reach out a hand of compassion and solidarity with those who need it most – homeless people on our doorsteps and refugees internationally. Over 50,000 people sleeping out on a December night is a mandate for action”.

100% of the funds raised through the initiative will go towards addressing homelessness. This is due in thanks to supporters and partners alike who have donated venues, services, time and money to make the global event successful.

The event will be held in a number of countries and cities across the world. This includes; Dublin, London, Edinburgh, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Newport, Belfast, New Dehli, Madrid, Hong Kong, Cardiff, Hutt City, Brisbane, Brighton, San Jose, Manchester, Manila, Cebu, Wacken, Santiago, Rijeka, Kharkiv, Harare and more!

**About**

*Optional Information*

**School, name of group or club**

A short description about your school or club. Can be found on your school website- ask permission to use this! Add link to website.

**The World’s Big Sleep Out**

This campaign was founded by Josh Littlejohn MBE, the co-founder of the charity Social Bite - based in Scotland. The event is run in partnership with the Institute for Global Homelessness (IGH), UNICEF USA, Malala Fund and Social Bite of which more details are below. They have also previously organised the World's largest ever Sleep Out in Edinburgh - Sleep in the Park. This event campaign has raised over $10,000,000 in two years to tackle homelessness in Scotland.

**UNICEF**

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. For more information about UNICEF and its work for children visit www.unicef.org.