

**Poverty and Homeless action week**  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2009

As part of our United Nations Global Compact ([UNGC](#)) commitment to respect human rights, Article 13 supports the [Poverty and Homeless Action Week \(PHAW\)](#) 2009 which runs from the 31 January to 8 February 2009. This year, Article 13 contributed to PHAW through volunteering a member of staff to St Paul's homeless drop-in shelter in Kensington, which ran between the hours of 12pm and 4pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2009.

The volunteer dealt with the diverse needs of over 70 clients. There were about 18 volunteers to offer a range of services, which included a wide range of activities, such as:

- Preparing/ serving tea, coffee and nutritious meals for the service users.
- Cleaning the kitchen and general eating area.
- Offering a vital source of support for the staff and those who use St Paul's shelter.
- Listening to, sharing stories and building relationships with customers that have a diversity of skills, experiences and emotions.
- Working with customers in the designated art and music areas.
- Making the atmosphere fun, informal, safe, comfortable, and an inviting place for vulnerable homeless people to spend time.
- Supporting customers through being there for them.

Article 13 wanted to add value to their in-house participation goals, build interest for volunteering amongst staff and help meet the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged at the grassroots level. This participative action will be a part of our yearly commitment to the homeless.

Daniel Francis, Article 13 member, said: *"Participating at St Paul's homeless drop-in shelter was really rewarding, through offering a valuable service to a wide variety of people and listening to amazing heart filled real life stories. It was a really humbling experience!"*

For more information please contact Fiona Banyard on [fionab@article13.com](mailto:fionab@article13.com) or call 020 8840 4450

Please also see Article 13's website [www.article13.com](http://www.article13.com)

Tags: Homeless, Poverty, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), volunteering, shelter, diverse needs.

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A notable CoP signatory of the United Nations Global Compact – [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

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