

Aid Politics Poverty

The Sidekick Manifesto – count me in

October 20, 2016

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This is just great. Read, reflect and if so moved, [take the pledge](#). Anyone know who wrote it?



WE ARE ONLY VISITORS | WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR HISTORY |
WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR CULTURE | WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR
TAXES | WHO DO NOT VOTE IN THEIR ELECTIONS | WHO ARE ONLY
ENGAGED FOR SHORT DURATIONS OF TIME | WHO HAVE NEVER
ENDED OUR OWN POVERTY

IN THE STORY OF POVERTY'S END, WE CANNOT BE HEROES.

WE ARE SIDEKICKS!

TAKE THE SIDEKICK PLEDGE

I WILL RIDE IN THE SIDECAR.

I WILL NOT LEAD. I WILL LISTEN AS THOSE
ALREADY DOING THE DIFFICULT WORK OF BUILDING
A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES DEFINE AND DETERMINE
HOW TO END POVERTY.

I WILL QUESTION THE UTILITY OF MY UTILITY BELT.

TECHNOLOGY AND GADGETS ARE HELPFUL (SOMETIMES).
BUT, THEY DO NOT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES
OF POVERTY. POVERTY IS ABOUT POWER AND
POLITICS.

I WILL WELCOME MY SIDEKICK SLAPS.

I WILL MAKE MISTAKES.
AND, WHEN I DO, I WILL
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, HOLD
MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE,
AND ACT DIFFERENTLY
MOVING FORWARD.

I WILL STEP OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
TO POVERTY COME FROM WITHIN ARE
BOTTOM-UP, AND FLOW FROM LOCAL
LEADERS WHO ARE TAKING THE RISKS
OF HOLDING THEIR POLITICIANS ACCO-
UNTABLE AND CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO.

I WILL EXPLORE MY DARK SIDE.

"DO I WANT POVERTY TO END? WHO
WOULD I BE WITHOUT IT? WHAT WOULD
I DO? DO MY POLITICS AND CONSUMP-
TION PATTERNS PERPETUATE POVERTY?
AM I COMPLICIT IN ITS PERSISTENCE?"

I WILL READ "TO HELL WITH GOOD INTENTIONS" AGAIN AND AGAIN.

POLITICIANS, CELEBRITIES AND
BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPISTS WILL TELL ME THAT I CAN BE A HERO.
I CANNOT. THE POOR ARE NOT POWERLESS OR WAITING TO BE SAVED.
I WILL CHECK MY DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

I WILL IGNORE SIRENS SINGING SONGS OF SCALE.

BUILDING DIGNIFIED RELATIONSHIPS
IS A MUTUAL PROCESS OF LEARNING
ABOUT AND FROM ONE ANOTHER.
THIS TAKES PATIENCE, HUMILITY
AND AUTHENTICITY- THESE THINGS
CANNOT BE RUSHED OR EASILY SCALED.

I WILL BE THE CONSTANT UNDERSTUDY

A CRUCIAL REASON THAT GOOD INTENTIONS
SO OFTEN FAIL IS A LACK OF SELF-CRITIQUE.
I WILL ALWAYS BE LISTENING, LEARNING, AND
SEEKING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF MY ROLE
IN THE STORY OF POVERTY'S END.

I WILL EXERCISE NARRATIVE HUMILITY

I CANNOT KNOW ANOTHER'S
STORY OF MATERIAL POVERTY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT BEGAN
OR HOW IT WILL END. IT'S NOT
MY STORY. BEFORE SHARING WITH
OTHERS, I WILL SEEK PERMISSION:
NO MORE STOLEN STORIES.

I WILL HANG UP MY CAPE. IN MY SEARCH FOR MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE,
I WILL LEARN TO TURN INWARD AND ACTIVATE MY OWN AGENCY BEFORE TRYING TO ERADICATE



Aid development Doing Development Differently



Duncan Green



This is a conversational blog written and maintained by Duncan Green, strategic adviser for Oxfam GB and author of 'From Poverty to Power'. This personal reflection is not intended as a comprehensive statement of Oxfam's agreed policies.

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4 comments



Allan Moolman says:

October 20, 2016 at 8:27 am

If the 'evidence base' tells us anything Duncan, these are going to be hard words to live by for many, many colleagues...

REPLY



Dena says:

October 20, 2016 at 10:17 am

I found this – may be the origin

<http://shawnhumphrey.com/dos-and-donts-for-do-gooders/10-promises-social-good-sidekick/>

REPLY



Shawn Humphrey says:

October 20, 2016 at 12:30 pm

Thanks for posting the Sidekick Manifesto Duncan! I am a huge fan. And, I am also the author of the Sidekick Manifesto. – shawn (@blucollarprof)

REPLY



Duncan Green says:

October 20, 2016 at 3:16 pm

good to know Shawn – great job!

REPLY

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Duncan
Green
good to
know
Shawn -
great job!



Shawn
Humphrey
Thanks for
posting the
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Manifesto
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Dena
I found this
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Allan
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