



City of Sanctuary

THE
GREAT
GET
TOGETHER
INSPIRED BY JO COX

Refugee
Week



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



BACKGROUND



WHAT IS IT?

The Great Get Together is a celebration of the things we have in common - of shared humanity, and shared future. Spearheaded by Brendan Cox in memory of his wife Jo, who was killed a year ago, it brings together an incredible range of organisations dedicated to improving our communities and celebrating our shared humanity. Great Get Together aims to build on the 7 million people The Big Lunch (a key partner) already bring together every year and raise the number of people taking part to 10 million in 2017.

Join or put together an event with your neighbours, with other local community groups, with anyone you can think of - reach out, get together, and enjoy celebrating the things that unite us all.

The weekend coincides with the beginning of Refugee Week, and gives us the incredible opportunity to open it with real flair and celebration. It's all about bringing people together, and celebrating what unites us - so it's a perfect beginning to a week that remembers, and encourages others to remember, that we all share a future.

Stories of division and hatred, of exclusion, are not ours. We have other stories - of hope, and bravery, and compassion, and unity. Share them with each other. And make more.

An event can be and look like anything you can think of. This pack will give you some guidance on how to plan an event, ideas about who you could think about reaching out to, point out some things you'll need to consider and direct you to some resources.

WHY WE'RE DOING IT

When our humanity is forgotten, human rights are in jeopardy.

We're asking you to take part in "The Great Get Together" as part of your work on Refugee week and I Welcome.

Amnesty International has been a partner of Refugee Week for decades, working with other groups to remind people of the agency, contributions and needs of a group of people who are too often vilified or forgotten. It celebrates how deeply refugees enrich and enhance our communities.

The Great Get Together is a powerful initiative to join all of our communities in a moment of celebration, and to enhance and strengthen the ties that bind us.

We all have the right to safety, dignity, and to express ourselves. Too often we focus on differences, and forget the humanity that unites us.

So this year, we are kicking off Refugee Week by going wide, bringing whole communities together regardless of backgrounds. Our future is shared; let's get together.

I-WELCOME

Solving the global refugee crisis starts with these 3 words: I Welcome Refugees.

As part of the 'I Welcome' campaign, Amnesty UK is working with partners and communities to help create welcoming spaces for people newly arriving to the UK.

We are working with City of Sanctuary on a pilot project that encourages groups from both organisations to reach out to one another and work together to amplify their work, and make sure refugees arriving here know they are welcome.

Amnesty wants to let people who are here feel part of vibrant, accepting, welcoming communities. Amnesty International and City of Sanctuary working together isn't new - several of our local groups have had relationships in their communities for a long time, and have already begun amazing work on the ground changing minds, educating people about human rights and welcoming refugees.

This partnership work is so exciting, and we want local groups to feel free to build on it, and on similar projects, to be more engaged, visible and powerful in their local communities. Working more collaboratively with a range of organisations where our goals align will connect more people to their rights, and our campaigns.

Unlike the governments letting them down so badly, our activists remember that refugees are human beings, and are not defined by things that have happened to them. We remember that people treating each other with respect and recognising the things we have in common and respecting the value of things we do not are the way communities are built and strengthened.



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ORGANISING

AN

EVENT



ORGANISING AN EVENT

Quick Guide!

1

Check what's happening already in your area
See if you can get involved!
(It's not a Great Get Together if everyone's doing things on their own!)

2

If there's a gap, find out who else is in your area (City of Sanctuary groups, civic groups, etc. - there's some suggestions later in this pack) and start getting together your ideas. Don't be surprised if other groups contact you!

3

Find your location and make your plans - get any permissions you need from local Councils or land owners

4

Get your invites out as widely as you can! You can get your events onto Amnesty's website (amnesty.org.uk/add-event), and the Refugee Week website (refugeeweek.org.uk/events/submit-event/) - and at the back of this pack is a simple poster you can fill in to stick up in shop windows or community message boards, or scale down and send out as invitations

5

Have fun!



LET'S
GET
TOGETHER



ORGANISING AN EVENT

Reach out!

Try to be as inclusive as possible - consider every community in your local area.

Civic and local organisations

Consider reaching out to churches, mosques, synagogues and temples, as well as civic groups like Rotary Clubs, Women's Institutes, Lions Clubs, sports teams, local film societies, history societies, etc.

Partners

Are any of the Refugee Week/ Great Get Together partners active in your local area? Ask if you can join their event, or invite them along to yours, or co-organise your events from the beginning.

These partners can be found at:

refugeeweek.org.uk/about-us/our-community

and:

www.greatgettogether.org/partners

City of Sanctuary

There's already exciting collaborative projects happening between Amnesty and City of Sanctuary up and down the country. City of Sanctuary have lots of local groups, and specialise in creating welcoming, inclusive spaces for refugee communities within the UK. They would be a fantastic partner for events!

Your Parliamentary candidates and Councillors

It's incredibly valuable for local groups and individuals to get to know their elected representatives, whatever party they might represent. You might find an ally for your causes, you might find friends, you might just be bringing together some people who will have just been through a tiring and potentially combative election for some rest and relaxation. Whatever comes of it, or nothing, it's always good to reach out and start building these relationships.

Please remember that Amnesty International is non-partisan, and make sure you invite representatives from across the political spectrum.



ORGANISING AN EVENT

Things to consider

- Whatever you're doing, you're going to do it somewhere. Make sure you have permission to be there from whoever owns the land.
- This is all about people. Remember to reach 'outside of your bubble', beyond the people you normally spend time with, and remember to consider activities or events that everyone can enjoy.
- Think about an ice-breaker to get people relaxed and talking to each other.
- Be safe, and keep each other safe. Certain audiences don't go well with certain locations - like children and busy roads.
- Be considerate to other people taking part, and to people who aren't taking part. Is your site accessible? If you're organising your event at night, is it going to keep the whole neighbourhood awake?
- If you're organising food - think about what and when. The Great Get Together falls during Ramadan, so consider the restrictions that will place on anyone observing it. Think about vegetarians and keep in mind common allergies.
- Clean-up. You don't want to get stuck doing it all yourself, and you don't want to leave litter blowing around your neighbourhood for weeks to come. Consider planning the clean-up while you're planning your event.
- Be inclusive and be collaborative.
- Cost - how are you going to cover the cost of your event? Will charging entry limit inclusiveness? Can you get any of your equipment donated? Don't forget to check out The Great Get Together's amazing pack on their website (Greatgettogether.org)
- Take photos, because hopefully this will be an event you'll all want to remember. Make sure you have a way of sharing them with each other (and with us!) - But also remember not everyone will want to be photographed, and it's a good idea to have a system in place which will let people 'opt out' of being in photos.
- If children and young people are going to be at your event, ensure you create a culture that safeguards their welfare, respects their rights and values their contribution.
- Public Liability Insurance: Our insurance will cover your event if Amnesty International is a leading or is a lead partner in organising an event. If you have any questions, get in touch at activism@amnesty.org.uk

ORGANISING AN EVENT

Some ideas

The only limits are your imaginations - but for some inspiration, take a look at the Big Lunch website (<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-you-can-do>) which has some amazing ideas and check-lists to help you get them done!

In the meantime, here are a few of our favourites:

A BIG MEAL



The Eden Project started its amazing “Big Lunch” project in 2009, and since that time millions of people have got together on their streets and in their communities to share food and share company. This year, “The Big Lunch” have joined with The Great Get Together to reach out even further.

A street party is a grand tradition - but why not invite a few neighbours around and eat in your garden? Or go really big and see if you can turn your local park into a giant picnic site, with hundreds of people taking part?

Make sure everyone knows what they need to bring, and that you have permission to be wherever you are, and most importantly have fun. If you're going to be on public land (such as the traditional tressle tables in the middle of your street) go to www.gov.uk/organise-street-party for guidance on permissions.

Lunch is good - but how about a midnight feast? Wrap up warm and eat by moonlight! The Great Get Together falls during Ramadan, so how about A Big Iftar? Sunday morning brunch is always a popular meal; why not do it as a group?

A COMMUNITY PROJECT



Communities are about people - but they exist in spaces. Why not get together to enhance yours?

The Big Lunch website suggests a Community Garden - and have some fantastic guidance on how to do it. (Find it at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-to-do/plant-community-garden>) If you don't have an appropriate piece of land, or a someone with green fingers, how about a litter pick in your local park? Is there a derelict bit of land nearby that could do with a spot of colour? You could sew a wildflower meadow there, and improve the environment for all local residents - human and otherwise.

Depending on your project, you'll need some equipment - it's worth contacting local Councils and businesses to see how they can help. If you're going to do anything on someone else's land - make sure you have appropriate permissions. But be bold - what would make the place where you live a more welcoming, inclusive, beautiful place to be?



TOWN HISTORY TOUR

When thinking about celebrating the things your community has in common - don't forget that one thing everyone in your community shares is the place they are in.

For people who didn't grow up in your town, or for children who have not grown up in your town yet, its history could be a fascinating mystery they're not even aware of.

Pick a few places of key interest, and consider the order you visit them in to create a 'story' of your town's history.

Consider how people will get between sites - you might want to focus on a small area to make sure people aren't having to walk to far.

Find information, or better still, a tour guide. Many towns have historical societies, why not get in touch with them?



SET UP A FILM NIGHT



We suggest a comedy, because what brings people together better than laughing together? Just remember to ensure all of your content is suitable for your whole audience.

You'll need somewhere to show your film, and if you want to do it outside, it's worth having a contingency plan just in case the rain decides it wants to attend your event too.

You'll need permission to show a film (or films) publicly - websites like [filmbank \(www.filmbankmedia.com\)](http://filmbankmedia.com) can help you get a license, but bare in mind they can get quite costly.

Once again, the Big Lunch website has a fantastic guide to setting up a film night including key steps - but you can also reach out to find the expertise you might need. There are lots of community film clubs around the Country, in schools, community centres and Libraries who might love to be involved in your event, and expose people to their clubs at the same time.

DO SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW

Don't be bound by what's gone before - experiment, innovate and get excited!

As long as your event is inclusive and celebrates what we have in common, it's the kind of event we're looking for. This is all about communities - you know your community better than anyone else. What does it want? What does it need?



ORGANISING AN EVENT

Resources

The Great Get Together & The Big Lunch:

You can register for a pack from the great get together at pack.greatgettogether.org - which is filled with ideas, stickers, and other bits and pieces that might be useful along the way.

Great Get Together also have some fantastic digital assets that you can download and use as templates, including posters and invitations covered in their beautiful gingham. Find it at www.greatgettogether.org/ideas

Refugee Week:

Refugee week have posters and postcards at refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/free-materials/ and an online toolkit to help you organise a Refugee Week event at refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/event-advice-and-ideas/refugee-week-toolkit

Amnesty UK:

We will be producing some materials which you will be able to order from our fulfilment store by calling 01788 545 553. We will update this pack as these materials become available.

GET

INSPIRED

GET INSPIRED

People reaching out to their communities can have incredible results.

For inspiration, here are a few projects Amnesty, our friends and our partners have been involved in lately that are helping to make our communities more welcoming.

WELCOME CINEMA + KITCHEN

Welcome Cinema are an incredible group who recognised the difficulties in integrating into a new society, and decided to create spaces where Londoners can get to know the newest members of their communities.

The organisation say: “Having worked in the Calais jungle many of our volunteers have witnessed the desperation and hardship refugees face first hand. At the camp's Women and Children's Centre residents were able to escape, stay dry and watch a film twice a week through a visiting cinema. That same spirit comes to our screenings. Bold, inspirational movies followed by thought provoking Q&A's help bond an audience who might not normally meet.”

You can find more information on this extraordinary project at www.welcomecinema.org





GET INSPIRED

FOOTBALL WELCOMES REFUGEES

April 2017 marks 80 years since the bombing of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War. Thousands fled the bombs raining down, among them nearly 4000 child refugees who arrived in Southampton from Bilbao a few weeks later.

Nobody knew it then of course, but 6 of the boys would become professional footballers in England, making them some of the first refugees to play in the English league, and strengthening line ups from Southampton, Coventry City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Brentford, Norwich City, Colchester United and Cambridge United.

To mark the occasion and to celebrate the huge contribution refugees have made to football and our communities across the UK, an Amnesty International initiative saw 30 clubs reaching out to their local communities with free tickets, invitations to participate in local tournaments, opportunities to meet the players and a whole range of other activities.



Participating clubs included AFC Wimbledon, Bath, Blackburn Rovers, Brentford, Cambridge United, Colchester United, Everton, Huddersfield Town, Hull City, Leicester City, Newcastle United, Norwich City, Notts County, Oxford United, Plymouth Argyle, Preston North End, QPR, Sheffield United, Southampton, Stoke City, Sunderland, Watford, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Yorkshire St Pauli, City of Liverpool FC.

GET INSPIRED

1 LOVE COMMUNITY



Inspired by Eden's Community Camps, Junior Mtonga created community programs and, later, a community space that is "a successful support network for [his] community".

Junior is part of a growing number of community projects that are impacting lives and empowering people to claim their rights.

Junior and his team first got together over three years ago with the aim of organising events that would help develop relationships within their community. Their initial aim was to hook up with other with actively minded locals in order to form a network which could then take positive steps towards creating a better environment for them all to live in. Initially called 'One Love Get Real', Junior's network searched for ways to be able to alleviate the pressures experienced by people at an individual and communal level.

He has since opened up a pop-up shop in a formerly disused commercial space in Canary Wharf.

'The idea was not just to create a shop but also to help people to re-imagine what the space could be,' he says, 'so what we have here is an opportunity to provide good, low-cost furniture. It's another way of bringing people together. We've got various classes like yoga, meditation and personal development activities that are going to function through here. So we want to look at it more like a community space rather than just a furniture shop.'

You can see more on the incredible story of '1 love community' on the Eden Project communities website (www.edenprojectcommunities.com)

AFTER

THE

EVENT

STAY CONNECTED

Don't let connections you make go to waste.

You really do have more in common with other members of your community than the things that divide you - and the connections you make during your Great Get Together event could amplify your work - and the work of other groups - indefinitely.

Human Rights underpin many of the values of a diverse range of community groups. Standing up for the rights of refugees is something common to both City of Sanctuary and Amnesty International. What overlaps are there between your human rights priorities and the priorities of other groups you have strengthened ties to during your event?

KEEP IT GOING - REFUGEE WEEK



You've started refugee week with an inclusive, inspiring, community celebration - but there is a whole week (and more) of events celebrating the contribution of refugees to communities all over the Country.

You can submit your events, and search for other events happening during Refugee Week at www.refugeeweek.org.uk

ABOUT REFUGEE WEEK



Refugee Week takes place every year, across the world, in the week around World Refugee Day on the 20 June. (19th - 25th of June in 2017). In the UK, Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities.

Amnesty International UK have been involved in the Refugee Week coalition for almost 2 decades, and over that time it has become an established part of the UK cultural calendar and of Amnesty's activism. We are proud of our partnership and of the incredible work done by groups up and down the Country who have embraced the aims of Refugee Week:

- To encourage a diverse range of events to be held throughout the UK, which facilitate positive encounters between refugees and the general public in order to encourage greater understanding and overcome hostility
- To showcase the talent and expertise that refugees bring with them to the UK
- To explore new and creative ways of addressing the relevant issues and reach beyond the refugee sector
- To provide information which educates and raises awareness of the reality of refugee experiences

The ultimate aim is to create better understanding between different groups of people and to encourage successful integration and the development of thriving, diverse communities which enable refugees to live in safety and continue enriching their host nations.

DIGITAL

ASSETS



DIGITAL ASSETS

BUNTING (next several pages)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print as many bunting designs as you like and need
2. Cut around the dotted line
3. Fold the top tab over some ribbon or string
4. Secure with staples or glue
5. Hang up your bunting to jazz up your event

(You can make your bunting double sided by gluing two pieces back to back.)

INVITATION POSTER

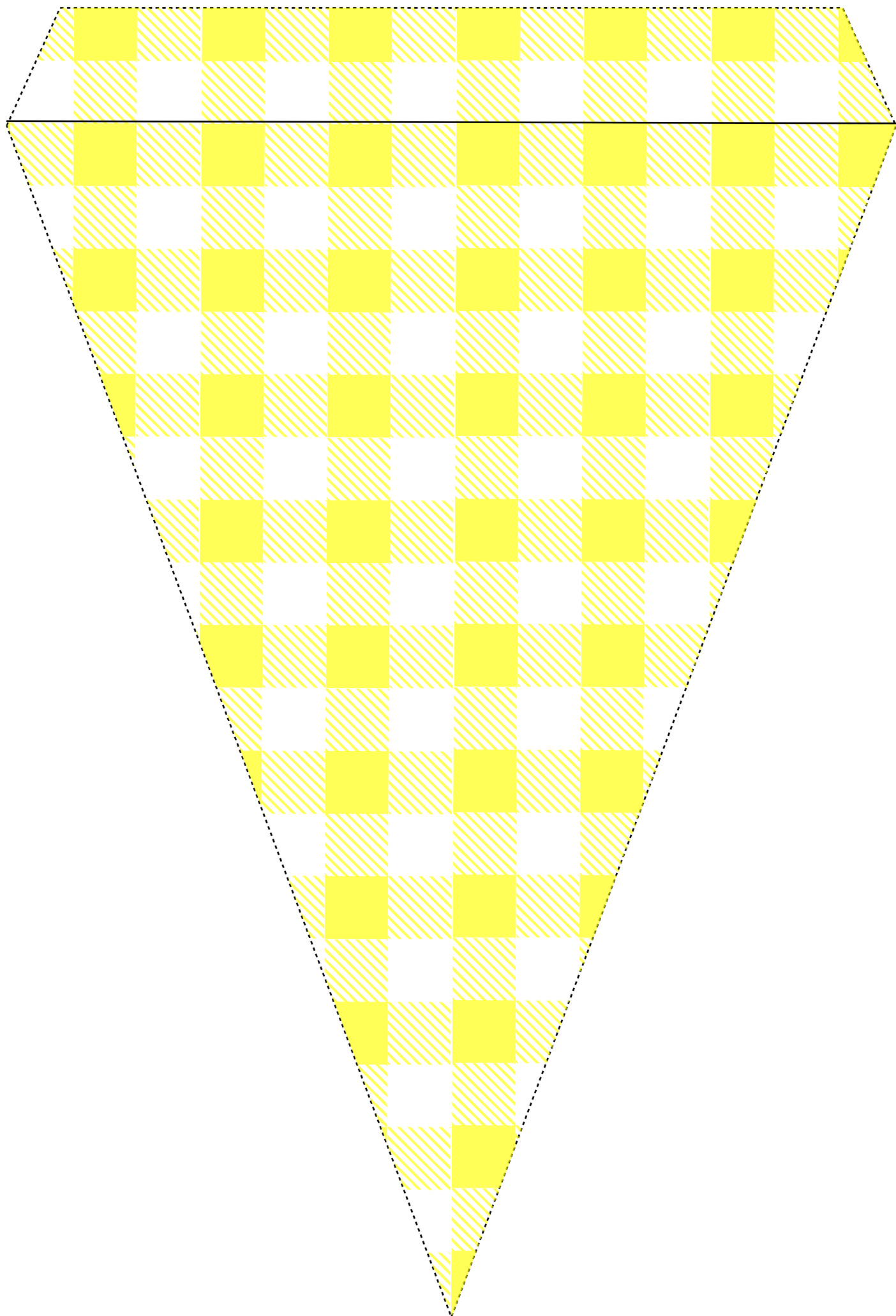
INSTRUCTIONS

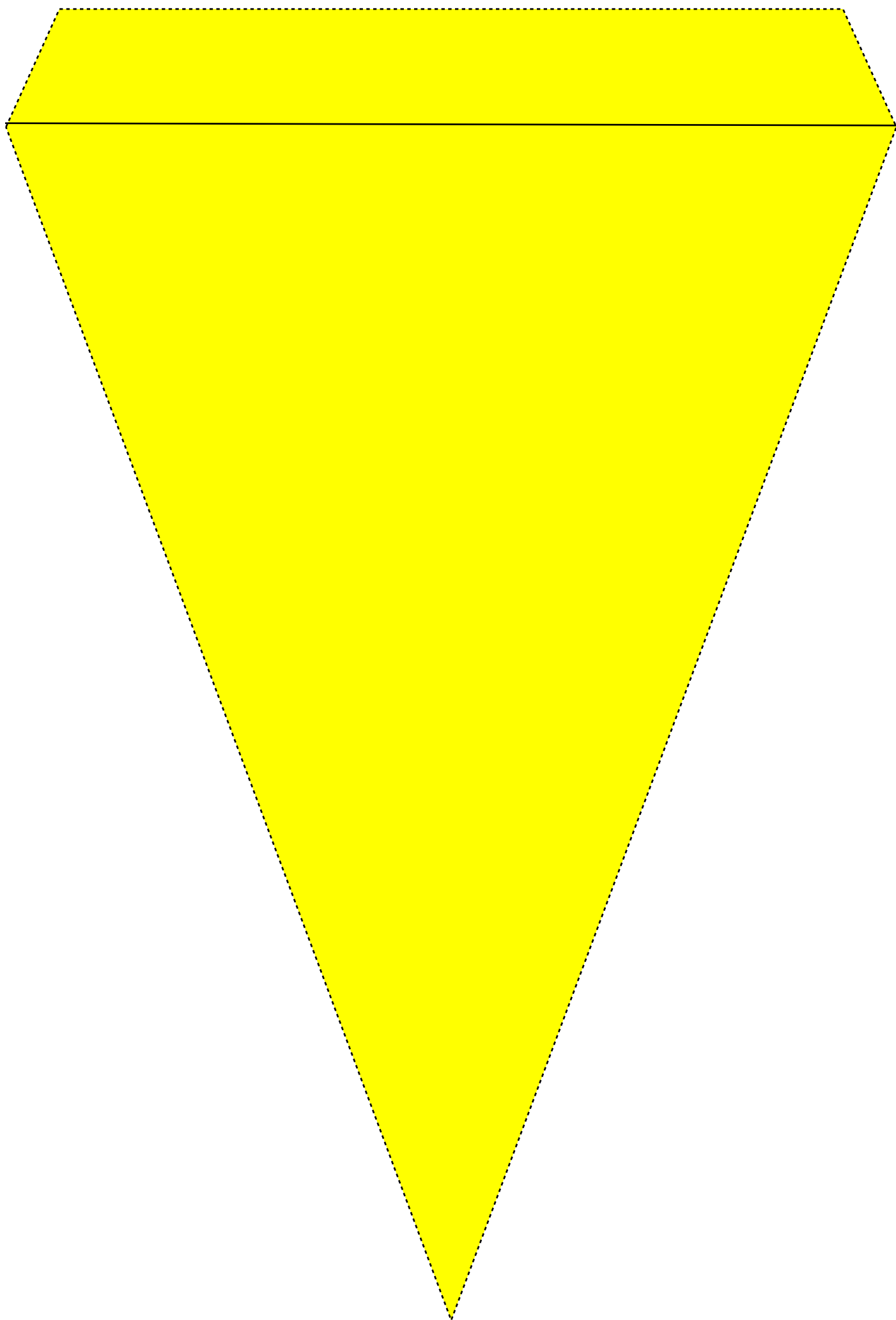
1. Fill them in
(There's a gap where you can put extra info like "bring a picnic" or "you'll need wellies")
2. Send them to groups, put them in shop windows or up on community notice boards, ask your local pub to put one behind the bar, anywhere where there's people!

(There is a colour version or a black and white version, which will grab less attention but will come out of a black and white printer looking like it should.)

GREAT GET TOGETHER

Remember to check out the Great Get Together's gorgeous gingham templates at www.greatgettogether.org/ideas



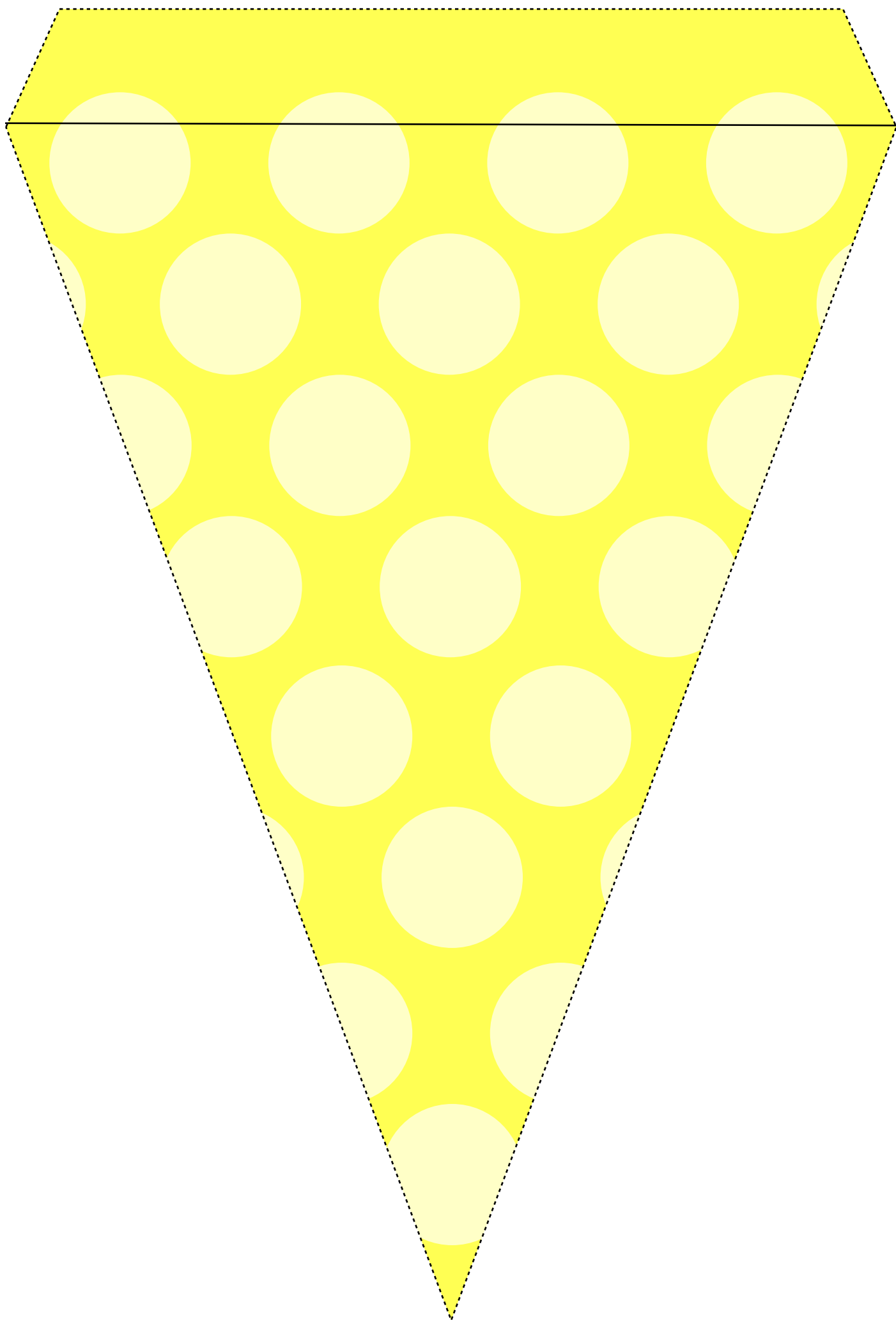


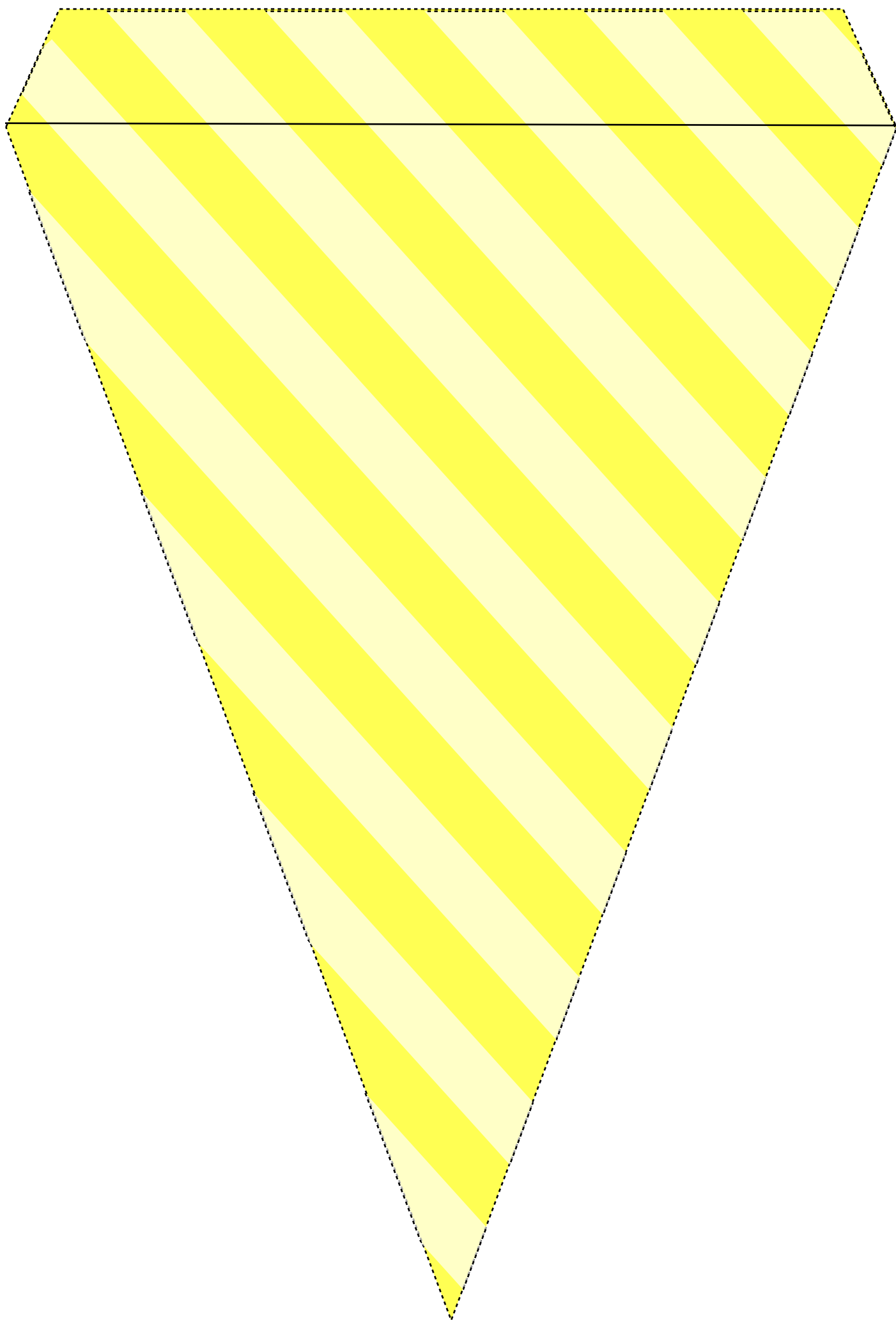


LET'S

GET

TOGETHER





YOU ARE INVITED!

To:

Where:

When:

Contact:

LET'S

GET

TOGETHER



YOU ARE INVITED!

To:

Where:

When:

Contact:

LET'S

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TOGETHER

