Imagine that the 2008 crash didn't happen. What would have been necessary to prevent it from happening? We believe that if economists had received a more pluralist, critical and real world education, then they would never have allowed the crash to happen. We need an economics education that enables us to holistically assess our economies as entrenched in our societies. Thus providing us with a diverse set of viewpoints. Here's how we get there:

1. Curriculum Reform

We demand a curriculum that is pluralist, critical and real-world. Let's unpack that. **Pluralism** ensures that all schools of thought can inform a budding economist. Being able to **critically** engage with different ways of thinking and choose the most appropriate economic model for any given situation. This means that solutions would be **real-world** focused and applicable to their given context, rather than applying a model that may have worked in one part of the world, but is unable to work in another.

2. Diversifying

Persons from the global south, BAME (Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic), working class, low-income persons and women are all social groups that are highly underrepresented in economics, in text books and in the profession. Until we work to diversity economic practitioners, the student cohorts and the curriculum they study, we will not have economic practitioners who are representative of society. Part of the work to do this will be decolonising the curriculum. Until we start to move beyond a western-centric education we will not have course content that reflects the global reach of economics.

3. Democratising

Education is much more than what occurs in a university setting. There is an urgent need to open up economics knowledge to ensure that every citizen has the potential to become involved, understand and crucially to influence policy. This must be done by expanding the teaching of economics away from inaccessible academia and in to the everyday life of citizens. Incomprehensible jargon and dense mathematics are examples of aspects of economics education that require reform. Until the language of economics is democratised in this way, then the economy will never reflect the real world. Once every citizen has the potential to understand and contribute to policy debates, then we can envisage an economy that truly reflects society.

With these key changes, the economics students of today will go on to have a huge and positive impact on society. Becoming; economists, politicians, business leaders or change makers in their communities, creating economies which are resilient to the challenges of the 21st century.

RECAP: what happened 10 years ago?

Ten years, on the 15th September 2008, the financial services firm Lehman Brothers, filed for bankruptcy. With $639 billion in assets and $619 billion in debt, Lehman's bankruptcy filing was the largest in recorded history, and it shook the financial world to its core. Today, it's seen by many as the first domino to fall in the start of the 2008 worldwide financial crisis.

Immediately after the 15th of September, the British Queen asked many influential economists at the London School of Economics, why all this had happened. They weren't able to answer, and this was not a coincidence: the economics curricula didn't prepare them to do so. Logically, the universities should have started to reform their courses in order to make the young able to explain future crises. But most of them didn't. The majority of today's students still have to do private research to understand why the crisis happened.

10 years on we are still not teaching economics students to answer this question. The public deserve economists who can. Therefore a change of economics curricula is urgent.

Who is Rethinking Economics?

Rethinking Economics is an international network of students, academics and members of the public, working to build a better economics in the classroom and society. We have over 50 local groups in 24 countries around the world. To get involved today, become a member of Rethinking Economics [here](https://www.rethinkingeconomics.org), sign up to our mailing list [here](https://www.changefinance.org) and find or start up your own local group and help us change economics and our world.

Who else is taken action to mark 10 Years since the Crash?

Organisations all over the world are taking action to demand more from their governments. If you want to find out more, check out the change finance coalitions website: [https://www.changefinance.org](https://www.changefinance.org/)