

Campaign update: The cuts

March for the alternative

On 26 March WDM will be joining in the biggest march the TUC has organised for many years. Join us as we call for a fair and sustainable alternative to the cuts.

If you would like to come along and say no to the spending cuts and yes to alternatives, join the WDM contingent at **11am on Saturday 26 March**. Meet on Temple Place, near the junction with Surrey Street. This is close to Victoria Embankment where the march will be starting.

Placards are a great way of getting messages in the media so if you have any witty and/or incisive placard suggestions, please email effie@wdm.org.uk so we can turn your words into placards.

Talk idea

WDM can provide a speaker for those groups who would like to run a public meeting linking WDM's broad work opposing neoliberal economics in the global south and the cuts at home. This is a great way of linking up with local anti-cuts groups as well as giving your WDM group a reputation for having its finger on the pulse!

The talk would ideally involve both a WDM speaker and an anti-cuts campaigner with some knowledge of the ideological background for the cuts. Below is a possible (slightly edgy) title and some blurb. Note that the part in brackets should be smaller than the first part, and the quotation marks are important!

'Britain's becoming a third world country.'

(spending cuts, privatisation, tax cuts for corporations)

For decades, countries in the global south have had privatisation, public spending cuts, and lower taxes for the rich and corporations pushed on them by economic institutions controlled by the rich world. They were told it was a recipe for prosperity - but most people there are still desperately poor.

As the UK gets it's own dose of free market policies, join the World Development Movement to discuss the legacy of 'neoliberal' economics for the world's poor majority, and what we can learn from their struggles.

Campaign update: Cleaning up the banks

Bonuses are back with the news that taxpayer-owned RBS will be paying out roughly one billion pounds in bonuses at this year's AGM. The government is seemingly powerless to rein in the banks even in the face of a vitriolic reaction from the public.

Last spring WDM groups took part in a national day of action with stunts outside 20 RBS branches and protests at the AGM over their dirty investments in Canadian tar sands. In Madagascar, ranked seventh poorest country in the world, tar sand projects are beginning to take hold where the environmental and social damage is expected to be even greater.

Since the bailout, RBS have provided finance totalling over £300 million pounds to oil company Total, who are building infrastructure to develop the tar fields in the west of Madagascar.

At this year's RBS AGM in April we plan to continue to expose the public money financing climate change, and call for RBS's investments to be aligned with those of a green investment bank. We will soon be handing in the postcards and signatures collected by WDM groups in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Sheffield, Warrington to the chancellor. If you have any more cards please get them in soon or take the e-action.