

THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with the World Development Movement



December 2010

World 
Development
Movement
Justice for the world's poor

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Letter from the network team

Dear friends,

As we reach the end of the year this is a good opportunity to look back on what we've achieved and what may lie ahead for our campaigns.

Climate debt

Despite a disappointing outcome at Copenhagen last year, our climate debt campaign has made significant progress. There have been some exciting developments with the send a pound campaign and this is largely thanks to our local groups, who have done some great actions. Several groups carried out visual World 'piggy' Bank piñata stunts and over a thousand pounds have been sent to Andrew Mitchell at DfID for the UN Adaptation Fund. DfID is still refusing to pass on the money and continues to support projects administered by the World Bank, and so many WDM supporters joined us for a protest outside DfID. To keep the pressure on the UK government to support grants not loans for developing countries, we will be launching the 'World Bank out of climate finance' campaign together with southern partners at the UN talks in Cancun.

Food

This year we had a very successful launch of our food campaign with lots of media attention and interest in the campaign. In addition to a packed public meeting in London, our groups have been taking action by lobbying their MPs, taking part in the FSA phone-in action and holding stunts in public places.

2011 will be a crucial year for the campaign as the European Commission will be issuing their proposals around regulation of commodity speculation in the spring. We will be gearing up again to ensure that the proposals are effective enough to curb speculation as well as ensuring the UK government doesn't oppose them.

Clean up the banks

We have successfully built up the pressure on the government and RBS through our continued campaigning and work with other organisations. The government has committed one billion pounds for the creation of a Green Investment Bank. We will continue to push for politicians to recognise social and environmental considerations when reforming the banking sector, as well as contributing to the wider debate on the government's austerity measures.

With our campaigns gaining traction and lots of local groups taking action, 2011 looks set to be an exciting year for WDM. Thank you all for your efforts and support and make sure you take time to celebrate your groups' successes.

I hope you all enjoy your Christmas holidays.

Best wishes,

Sarah

Sarah Reader
Network coordinator



Action checklist

Groups

Climate debt

- Distribute 'send a pound' cards and order more for stalls and events.
- Organise a trip to London for the climate march on 4 December.

Food

- Order a human blackjack action pack and organise a stunt.
- Write to, call or meet with your MP and ask them to sign the Early Day Motion 1015.

At your next meeting

- If you haven't done so already, complete the groups questionnaire and send your responses back to Sarah at 66 Offley Road, London, SW9 0LS or email them to sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk.
- Discuss if you would like to hold a 'human blackjack' stunt or stall and get in touch with Heidi at heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk or by calling 020 7820 4900.
- Think about travelling to London for the climate march on 4 December.
- If you have not set up a new website, decide who should be your group's web officer and contact Pontus to get started – pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk.
- Think about if you would like to organise a talk about WDM's trip to Kenya.

Activists

Climate debt

- Post your 'send a pound' card and order more to distribute to friends and family.
- Write to your MP on climate debt if you have not yet done so.
- Organise a trip to London to join WDM on the climate march on 4 December.

Food

- Write to, call or meet with your MP.
- If you have met with your MP, please send the feedback form back to Sarah.

Inserts

- World Bank Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) briefing
- Send a pound action cards

Campaign update: Climate justice

Send a pound

In the run up to the next UN climate conference in Cancun groups have been doing some amazing campaigning on the 'send a pound' action. This has ranged from piñata stunts in public places, to lobbying and writing to MPs, to holding street stalls.

DfID have not only refused to accept our donations, but have threatened to send them to "a local charity". They have also confirmed that they will be supporting loans through the World Bank, in spite of Andrew Mitchell's empty words of support for the UN Adaptation Fund.

The government has still not given a single pound to the UN Adaptation Fund but we are not going giving up. Please don't stop sending your pounds in. We need to keep up the pressure at this crucial time in the campaign. In the mean time, we are going to collect the pounds that have been sent back to us by DfID and take them to Cancun. Here we will deliver them directly to the UN Adaptation Fund. We will be letting them know that the pounds have been sent by the UK public because the UK government refuses to pass them on.



A protestor is 'gagged' by Andrew Mitchell outside DfID

WDM targets DfID's offices

On 18 November people from all over the country descended on the Department for International Development (DfID) for our climate debt stunt. We were there to ensure that the secretary of state, Andrew Mitchell, and his department didn't ignore our message against forcing countries into deeper poverty with World Bank loans for climate change. Supporting these loans means breaking both the Conservatives' and Liberal Democrats' pre-election promises of not creating more debt for developing countries.

Members of WDM and Jubilee Debt Campaign turned up outside DfID's office in force. Having already spotted Andrew Mitchell himself enter the building, there was extra incentive to ensure we made as much noise as possible. We had colorful placards and flags and all took part in some loud chanting. Three people dressed as Andrew Mitchell, Nick Clegg and David Cameron proceeded to gag the protestors after having torn up their pre-election promises. This represented DfID having ignored public opinion by sending back our send a pound cards without reading the messages people have written in them.

The security guard commented that it was one of the most colorful and enthusiastic protests he had seen in his time at DfID!

When entering DfID on her way to work, DfID's permanent secretary, Nemat Shafik, confirmed (with a slight grimace) that the department have heard about our campaign. During the action we ensured this by handing out leaflets to DfID staff.

The stunt was also mentioned twice in Andrew Mitchell's speech that day regarding climate finance. We clearly got the minister's attention!

You can watch the video from the stunt here www.youtube.com/user/wdmuk and our photos have been uploaded here www.flickr.com/photos/wdm/.

The Big Climate Connection

WDM groups took part in the Stop Climate Chaos' mass constituency lobby, 'The Big Climate Connection'. In total over 165 MPs were lobbied from the 5-6 November and some meetings are still to take place. Thank you all for your efforts and do send in any feedback or response you've had from MPs.

Cancun Watch

On 29 November the next round of UN climate talks will begin in Cancun, Mexico. This is the 16th meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

WDM will be there, and you can follow our activities and the development of the conference with 'Cancun Watch'. We will keep you updated with a written blog and video diaries. 'Cancun Watch' will also involve urgent actions which you can take in the UK. Climate finance is set to be a critical issue at these talks so it will be a crucial time for our climate debt campaign.

In Cancun, along with other southern partners, we will also be launching the global 'World Bank out of Climate Finance' campaign.

This will take place on the 8 December and may be accompanied by an action in London. This will be organised jointly with other organisations. We will keep London groups updated via email, but if anyone else may be interested in joining us, please let Rosie know by emailing rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk.

World Bank loans

The first projects under the World Bank's Pilot Programme for Climate resilience have been announced. We have produced a briefing together with Jubilee Debt Campaign which is included with this copy of Think Global.

Climate change march, 4 December

We will be joining in the national climate change march in central London on 4 December. Meet at 12 noon at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. See the events page for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie at rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk.

Campaign update: Clean up the banks

Last month we reported the government has committed one billion pounds for the creation of a Green Investment Bank with the sale of some state assets to help finance the bank. Since then we've had more details. Many of the important decisions on what the bank will look like are being made over the next few weeks and the government hope to have staff and office systems in place for the bank by December 2011. With a debate raging in Scotland over whether RBS and Lloyds should be broken up to provide more competition we have some new opportunities to slot social and environmental considerations in to the discussions being had by politicians on reform of the banking sector.

Lobbying Danny Alexander MP

We are keen to get WDM members and activists living in the constituency of Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, to lobby him. His constituency covers Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey. If you live there, or know someone who does who would be willing to help, please get in touch with Iain at our Edinburgh office on iain@wdmscotland.org.uk or 0131 243 2730.

Campaign update: Food

Human blackjack stunt

On 20 November the **Bexhill and Hastings group** were the first to launch our Human Blackjack stunt. This came just before we held our media stunt in London on 25 November. Thanks to all who took part and for the great photos! We are hoping other groups will hold a similar action to help raise awareness about our food campaign.

Online human blackjack

At the time of printing, we are preparing for the world's first online human blackjack game on Friday 26 November. We are hoping to generate considerable media interest in the campaign as well as attract new supporters. We will include a full update on how it went in the next issue of Think Global.

When the live game is over, you can still play the game at www.wdm.org.uk/humanblackjack.

You can use this link as a way to reach new audiences in your area. Send it to friends or to other groups to get them to start thinking about the issues.

Lobbying update

Thank you to all the groups that have lobbied their MPs about food speculation. We have received many feedback forms which have been extremely useful for us to coordinate our parliamentary strategy on the campaign.

We have produced a briefing on the food campaign for MPs which provides them with all the information they need to understand the issues. You can use the briefing if you are meeting with your MP or as a way to follow up correspondence. If you would like one, please contact Heidi Chow.

Tim Farron MP (Liberal Democrat MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale) has sponsored an Early Day Motion: EDM 1015 about speculation on food prices.

It would be great to get as many MPs as possible to sign up to this EDM as it's a way for MPs to express their support in parliament on a particular issue. Do ask your MP to sign up to the EDM. If you have already met with your MP on the food campaign, it's also a good opportunity to continue the dialogue with them.

Goodbye to our campaigns officer

We will be saying goodbye to Gary Dunion, our campaigns officer for the food campaign. Gary will be leaving WDM at the end of November. Please contact Heidi Chow if you have any enquiries specifically about the food campaign (heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk or 020 7820 4900).

Campaign update: The cuts

In October WDM staff joined a march on parliament to protest against the 'Comprehensive Spending Review'. We joined thousands of people representing different UK groups such as teachers, nurses and students who marched to Downing Street in disgust at the measures announced by a government made up of millionaires. The spending review seemed intent on recouping the losses caused by the banking crisis from the poorest and most vulnerable members of society, whilst leaving the perpetrators of the crisis untouched.

As the UK (or at least some people in the UK) braces itself for the impact of this Comprehensive Spending Review, WDM is part of the growing movement working to oppose the drastic cuts to our public services.

WDM's extensive work with anti-poverty organisations across Africa and Asia over the past 40 years places us in a good position to provide an international perspective on the UK cuts debate. The austerity measures imposed on many countries in the global South during the 1980s and 1990s have shown that cuts do not bring about the sustainable economic growth they are supposed to deliver. Most countries that had such economic policies forced upon them by the World Bank and IMF witnessed not only a fire-sale of vital public assets that harmed long-term growth prospects, but also suffered a downturn in their domestic agriculture and industry as their economies were geared towards export-orientation conducted by (and largely for) foreign transnational corporations.

In addition, the imposition of austerity measures coupled with liberalisation impacted most harshly on poorer sections of society in the global south. The gap between rich and poor widened almost universally in countries that underwent 'structural adjustment', as public services and safety nets for the poorest people were slashed and deregulation and privatisation allowed big business to flourish. This often happened at the expense of service users and consumers.

In stark contrast, countries that resisted the measures such as have had more equitable growth patterns.

WDM is working with groups in the UK that are fighting the cuts on a national level and is providing an international and historical narrative to the cuts debate. It will show the dangers of following the current economic path chosen by the coalition government. It is also a great opportunity for solidarity; to stand with our partners around the world for an economic system that will result in a fairer and more just society.

WDM's current campaigns also help those resisting cuts with practical proposals for a fairer, greener economic system. For example, WDM's campaign for a Green Investment Bank; and our support for a financial transactions tax to help finance grants for developing countries to cope with climate change not only highlight the problems with current economic policies, but also show that there are alternative paths to follow.

You can keep in regular contact with our campaigns and staff news via our online blog and website. See www.wdm.org.uk.

Events

Climate change march

Midway through the UN climate talks in Cancun, we will be joining a march on parliament to challenge the government to take the action needed to deal with the climate threat. We are calling for a zero carbon Britain by 2030.

When: Saturday 4 December

Time: 12 noon

Where: Meet Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park. Look out for the WDM flags and banners.

It would be great to have as many people join us as possible for the event. WDM staff and supporters will be marching together and Deborah Doane, WDM Director, will be speaking at the rally at Parliament Square.

Rosie will be coordinating the WDM group so email rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk if you have any questions.

6 Billion Ways

A day of workshops, debates, music, art and film with a top line-up of speakers.

When: Saturday 5 March

Where: Rich Mix, London EC1, and surrounding venues

In March 2011 WDM will be involved in organising a second '6 Billion Ways' event. Anyone who came in 2009 will know that it was an absolutely packed event, with a buzzy atmosphere and great speakers and debate. It should be even better in 2011. The event is free, although the venue, Rich Mix, will be running a paid 'warm-up' event with George Monbiot on the Friday night before (see website for details).

Leaflets for the event will be included in the next groups mailing. Even if your group is some distance from London is worth encouraging people on your contact list to travel down to the capital for this event, as many people did last time. We need groups help to make this event a success!

Contact Mital Patel, our 6 Billion Ways volunteer, with any queries about the event or promoting it: mital.patel@wdm.org.uk or 020 7820 4900

(Mondays and Thursdays only for phonecalls). For more info and to book your place go to www.6billionways.org.uk or contact the WDM office on 020 7820 4900. For facebook users, please 'like' the new 6 Billion Ways facebook page at: www.facebook.com/6billionways.



Groups

Groups' round up

The **Brighton group** met with Green Party MP Caroline Lucas and she offered full support for our climate debt campaign. **South Lakeland WDM** managed to get Tim Farron MP to send a pound to Andrew Mitchell and he also took some extra pounds for his colleagues and former MPs Shirley Williams and Paddy Ashdown. Tim Farron is the chair of the LibDem's Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Andrew Smith MP tabled a parliamentary question on what DfID are doing with everyone's donated pounds thanks to the efforts of the **Oxford group**. This was a very useful step for our campaign and key in building the pressure against DfID.

North Kent WDM had a productive session with their Conservative MP who by challenging aspects of our campaigns, has created a discussion between WDM and the Conservative party.

It's been great receiving everyone's feedback from their meetings with MPs and responses to letters they have written. We will be using the feedback to help plan the next stage of the campaign and to work out how best to target certain MPs.

And as Gerald Kaufman MP told the **Manchester group**: "it is essential that we make maximum effort on the different aspects of climate change because any success can have a repercussive effect on other issues. So please keep up the good work".

Most of the groups' World 'piggy' Bank piñatas have been smashed in successful stunts. **Brixham WDM** were very successful in getting press interest in their stunt that took place on 13 November. Students from **Richmond University** even made a short film about their stunt which will soon be available online.

The **Central Lancashire group** held a talk with Ashley Erdman from WDM on our food campaign and it was attended by members of the local Friends of the Earth group and the Fairtrade Foundation amongst others. **Watford WDM** are hosting a Fairtrade Quiz Night on 30 November.



Bexhill and Hastings WDM's human blackjack stunt

Bexhill and Hastings WDM held an eye-catching 'human blackjack stunt' on Saturday 20 November. Group members dressed as bankers played George Osborne at a game of blackjack with the stakes being sacks of food.

The **South West London group** held a stall at a local farmer's market in Oval.

Bristol WDM held a successful joint event with the university's Student Restaurant society. Over eighty students enjoyed a meal cooked from food that would have otherwise been wasted and most of them stayed for the WDM talk on our food campaign. The event showed how linking up with other groups such as student food societies can be a brilliant way of engaging diverse groups of people with our campaigns.

South Lakeland WDM have been busy, having organised a very successful meeting in Kendal with Polly Higgins, an environmental lawyer working for the UN, on 'Ecocide'. About 90 people attended including local councillors, environmental activists, council officers and planners.

The group also held their annual Youth Conference for local sixth form school students. Presentations included a talk on peak oil, reducing carbon in Cumbria and a mock trial on tarsands.

Jayati Ghosh's interview online

Whilst Jayati Ghosh was in London for our public meeting on food we took the opportunity to interview her on the global food crisis. In it Jayati explains the impact the food crisis in 2007-2008 had on India and what needs to be done to ensure it doesn't happen again.

A short video of this interview is available online on our Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/user/wdmuk.

Kenya talk

In August Caroline and James from WDM went to Kenya to research how drastic increases in the price of food have affected Kenya's poorest people.

They met people who have been directly impacted by the food crisis of 2008 and found out about communities that have won campaigns to ensure better food security for themselves and their families.

Caroline would like to share her experiences with you and is offering to give talks about the people she met and how they may inspire our food campaigning. She said:

In Kibera, I met a woman called Judith who said she was nursing her 3 month old child during this time. She told me she didn't eat for three days and consequently was unable to feed her baby. She had been ill and unable to work for sometime because of having tuberculosis, diagnosed during the food price hikes, which had worsened her condition.

Meeting Judith and other people in Kenya made me feel even more strongly about the huge importance of WDM's food campaign. The fear of another food crisis is very much on people's minds in Kenya and no doubt in other poor countries. People already struggle and not being able to afford food has all sorts of knock-on effects that take years to put right.

If you would like Caroline to give a talk to your group, contact Sarah on 020 7820 4900 or email sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk.

Annual survey

In the November issue of Think Global we sent out a copy of the annual survey and the groups agreement. If you haven't done so already it would be great if you could get these sent back to us before February 2011. Your feedback is very valuable in planning for the next year and knowing how best we can support you.

Groups subscriptions

All groups which do not pay their annual subs by direct debit will have received a renewal reminder. We do encourage all groups to set up a direct debit to pay subs if at all possible; it saves us money and should make life easier for you as well!

Top tips

Why not organise a Christmas social for your WDM group? Or welcome the New Year with an informal meeting? Having a social can be a great way of celebrating the successes from the past year, getting to know each other outside of meetings and energising the group. You might even come up with some exciting plans for next year!

Websites

The new websites are looking great and we've already had positive feedback from groups saying that having an updated website has helped attract new members. If you don't yet have a website then please contact Pontus for help (pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk).

Current materials

Food

- ACTION POSTCARD: Stop betting on hunger
- A2 POSTER: Stop betting on hunger
- CAMPAIGN BOOKLET: Betting on hunger (8 pages, A5)
- BRIEFING: Frequently asked questions
- BRIEFING: Parliamentary guide ****New****
- REPORT: The great hunger lottery (34 pages)

Climate justice

- ACTION POSTCARD: No new debt (send a pound)
- ACTION POSTCARD: Climate debt
- A2 POSTER: Climate debt
- BRIEFING: Time to pay climate debt (6 pages)
- REPORT: The climate debt crisis (48 pages)
- BRIEFING: Bullying and bribery in Copenhagen

Clean the banks

- ACTION CARD: Clean up the banks
- BRIEFING: Greening the bailed-out banks (2 pages)
- REPORT: A bank for the future
- REPORT: Towards a Royal Bank of Sustainability
- REPORT: Cashing in on Tar Sands

General

- LEAFLET: Impatient for change? (recruitment)
- REPORT: Out of Time: The case for replacing the World Bank and IMF

Groups

- FILM PACK: Cinema for social change
- TALK PACK: Powerpoint presentation and outline of talk for the food and climate debt campaign

No longer live

'£10 note' climate debt action card
Trade pledge card
Phulbari action card
No new coal card

Action magazine

If you would like copies of *Action*, WDM's supporter magazine, to use on stalls and at other outreach opportunities, contact James on 020 7820 4900 or by email: james@wdm.org.uk

Diary dates

29 Nov-10 December: UN Climate talks, Cancun, Mexico

4 December: Climate change march, London

5 March 2011: 6 Billion Ways, Rich Mix centre, London EC1