

February 2012



THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with the
World Development Movement

World Development Movement
Justice for the world's poor

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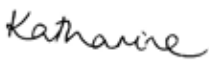
Letter from the network team

Dear friends,

A very happy new year to all of you, I hope you enjoyed a well deserved rest over the festive season.

We begin 2012 with several events to keep us inspired over the coming months; particularly our activist gathering in Manchester on Saturday 17 March – An economy for the 99%: ideas, stories and tactics from around the world. We are organising this event with Jubilee Debt Campaign, as both our organisations feel it is a priority for us to contribute to building a movement for economic justice. We aim to give attendees the opportunity to hear from a variety of campaigners who have been immersed in the groundswell of grassroots activism around the cuts agenda over the past year. We also hope to make the most of this event in building on the great work that our regional co-ordinator in the north, Andy, has been doing over the past months. Please do put the date in your diary and come along if you possibly can. Remember that you can always apply to the groups project fund for travel funds, we're aware that train travel fares are rising substantially and that the cost of travelling to an event can be the biggest barrier to attending.

All the best,



Katharine Talbot
Network development officer

News bites

Climate justice

- The UK government finally announced it would give £10 million as grants to the UN Adaptation Fund to help developing countries cope with the impacts of climate change.
- The government also announced that it would give the majority of its climate finance for adaptation as grants instead of loans
- The 'Durban Platform' was announced at the UN climate talks. Essentially this is an agreement to set up a new round of talks towards an agreement which would come into force until 2020.

Food speculation

- A new urgent e-petition was launched in the new year to demonstrate public support for stronger rules to rein in the food speculators. A total of 8,200 names were submitted in response to the consultation.
- As a result of the petition, the lead MEP on MiFID, Marcus Ferber has agreed to a meeting with WDM alongside one of our European partners, Friends of the Earth Europe in February.
- WDM nominated Barclays for the Greenpeace 'Public Eye Awards' for its role in speculating on food. Barclays won the global award at the end of January which has helped to generate media exposure on Barclays and its leading role in food speculation

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Action checklist

Groups

Climate debt

We are currently in a development stage of the climate campaign and will provide more of an update in the March issue of Think Global about our plans for 2012. Following the government's recent climate finance announcement, we have produced a slideshow which provides an overview of the past two years of the campaign. You can view this slideshow on the WDM website.

Food

- Continue planning MEP lobbying activities if you haven't already done so.

At your next meeting

- Discuss and complete the annual groups survey if you haven't already done so.
- Think about which events you might like to hold in 2012

Activists

Food

- Write to your MEP about the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (email Amy at amy.horton@wdm.org.uk to order a copy of our new MEP briefing)

Inserts

- Greensource solutions recycling envelope
- MEP lobbying materials (briefing and updated tricky questions) – groups only

Campaign update: Climate justice

Government shift on climate loans

While the overall outcome of the UN climate talks in Durban last December was disastrous, the UK's announcement on climate finance did bring some positive news: the UK government finally announced it would give £10 million as grants to the UN Adaptation Fund. Until this point it had not put a single penny into this fund. The government also announced that it would give the majority of its climate finance to help developing countries cope with the impacts of climate change as grants instead of loans, which will help prevent further unjust debt in the name of climate change. The UK were the first country to have given loans for climate adaptation, and we hope this shift will help ensure that loans are not seen as an appropriate form of financing by other countries. The efforts of WDM campaigners in making this an issue the government could not ignore has been critical.

However, disappointingly, the majority of the UK's allocated funds will still go through the discredited World Bank's fund (the focus of WDM's report *Climate Loan Sharks*) and loans will still be used to enable developing countries to transition to low carbon technology. There is still a long way to go, but this is considerable movement and the campaigning efforts of WDM and JDC groups and activists has been significant in putting this issue on the agenda. Well done and thank you all for your support and energy and let's hope the government's approach continues to shift in 2012.

We have made a photo slideshow, which is available on the WDM website, which tells the story of the climate campaign with pictures from several actions and events.

Materials

Due to the success we've had on climate loans, we will no longer be using the World Piggy Bank cards. However, we will soon be sending a final package of them to Chris Huhne, so please send any completed cards you have to the office as soon as possible.

Where next for the campaign?

In early February we will be holding another planning day to look at where to go next with the climate debt campaign at the WDM office. We will be in touch after this to get your input on where we go next.

Durban outcome

The outcome from Durban was a catastrophe for both climate and justice. Please see Kirsty's article on the website for a fuller picture of what happened called Durban Platform: using broken ideas to fix the climate crisis. Here's a top line breakdown of what the outcomes were on the various issues.

Durban Platform – a new roadmap for talks

The talks announced a 'Durban Platform'. Essentially this is an agreement to set up a new round of talks towards an agreement which would come into force until 2020. In essence, this is much the same as the outcome painstakingly laid out at the Bali talks four years ago, the Bali Roadmap, a roadmap where rich countries lost their way and shamelessly failed to follow what they had agreed. In the past four years, following a global financial crisis, rich countries have become much less prepared to do what was necessary to tackle climate change or provide the necessary funds. In short, the Durban Platform spells out this decade, perhaps the most critical for stopping runaway climate change, as the decade of inaction on emissions cuts.



Campaigners at the UN climate talks in Durban

Emissions reductions

The Kyoto Protocol, the only legally binding framework in which rich industrialised countries are required to take the lead, became a zombie, kept alive in name but little more than that. The protocol now only covers the EU, has lost its legally binding status and is now no more than a series of voluntary pledges that have repeatedly been shown to fail meaningful action. What's more, the same flawed carbon markets that had always undermined meaningful action under the Kyoto Protocol were kept alive with room to grow, despite being inadequate for anything beyond maintaining neo-liberal ideology.

The Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund was also agreed. WDM, along with many other organisations from the Climate Justice Now network have long campaigned for this fund as an alternative to the World Bank. But the inclusion of a 'private sector facility' led the fund to be renamed a Greedy Corporate Fund during the talks. A pet project for the UK government, this addition enables multinational corporations and financiers to directly access tax funds to back up risky projects, instead of ensuring funds are delivered to the world's poorest people. There are still some elements of the fund that are yet to be designed, and there are certainly spaces where pressure from WDM may make a difference. We'll be speaking with our allies about this and will keep you posted if we think there are things we can do to help influence the fund for the better.



A 'World Bank out of Climate Finance' campaigner in Durban

Climate justice in Scotland in 2012

At a renewable energy event in Abu Dhabi this month, the Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond called for 2012 to be 'the year of climate justice' arguing that developed countries must take the lead in moving towards low carbon living. But while Scotland is doing well in its development of renewable energy technology, and also has a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 42 percent by 2020 – the Scottish budget for the coming year is not making emissions cuts a high priority. WDM Scotland has been working as part of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland to improve the budget, particularly for walking and cycling – for which public funds have been slashed while funding for new roads and infrastructure projects like the new Forth road bridge in the budget has been vastly increased. Around 350 cyclists, including some WDM members, held a rally outside the Scottish Government in January calling for a budget re-think. The final budget for the coming year is due out as Think Global goes to print and will be debated in the Scottish Parliament during February. WDM Scotland will continue to work with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland to increase money for cutting carbon emissions Scotland.

Campaigning in Scotland on climate debt: Durban and beyond

In the run-up to the UN climate talks in Durban, WDM Scotland ran an e-action to Stewart Stevenson, Scotland's climate change minister who was to attend the climate talks in Durban with the UK contingency from Westminster. We asked him to use his influence to urge Chris Huhne and the UK government to stop using UK money to finance climate loans through the discredited World Bank. Around 100 people completed the e-action, and a number of WDM members came along to a joint WDM Jubilee Scotland photo stunt outside the Scottish parliament featuring WDM's climate loan shark.

In 2012, the climate debt campaign in Scotland will focus on developing a Scottish international climate adaptation fund – something that the SNP (who won last year's Scottish Parliament elections) included in their manifesto. We will be working closely with other international development NGOs in Scotland to take this forward.

Campaign update: Food

Petition to Markus Ferber

The food speculation campaign kicked off the new year with an urgent e-petition. This complimented a detailed response from WDM to a consultation that was launched by the economic and monetary affairs (ECON) committee in the European Parliament - the committee responsible for scrutinising the proposals to regulate food speculation (Markets in Financial Instruments Directive or MiFID for short).

The idea behind the petition was to demonstrate public support for stronger rules to rein in the food speculators. WDM managed to achieve 3,200 signatories. We also asked our partners in Europe to also promote the petition on their websites and they achieved 5,000 signatories making a total of 8,200 names submitted in response to the consultation. This is a significant number as the ECON committee were expecting only 'interested parties' ie banks and regulators to respond and so the petition should have really got their attention.

As a result of the petition, the lead MEP on MiFID, Marcus Ferber has agreed to a meeting with WDM alongside one of our European partners, Friends of the Earth Europe in February.

MEP lobbying

Thank you to all groups who have been involved in lobbying their MEPs - so far 28 UK MEPs have been contacted by local groups, some twice by different groups! This is fantastic as well as vitally important to make sure MEPs know there is public support for strong regulation to rein in speculators.

The first half of the year is a crucial time for all MEPs as they start forming their views and position on MiFID. For ECON committee members their scrutiny of the legislation starts now leading up to a final report on the proposals and amendments to, we hope, strengthen them. This process is likely to last until July, when European parliamentarians break for the summer.

From the autumn, representatives from the three European institutions (the parliament, commission and council of ministers) will go through a process of trying to come to agreement on a final version of the proposals.

So please continue to plan your meetings and write letters. Please contact us if you need extra copies of template letters, MEP briefings or the briefings we produced last month on how to prioritise the MEPs in your region. Alternatively, all materials are available on the groups' area of the website.

Please remember that you can call up the office to speak to a member of the food team who would be happy to run through any questions you may have before a lobby meeting.

New materials to help with lobbying

This month, we have produced two new campaign materials to assist you with your MEP lobbying efforts:

Lobbying your MEP on MiFID

Some groups, especially those who have ECON committee members in their region, have asked for more details about the legislation itself. This material provides an in-depth analysis of MiFID – what it says on regulating food speculation and then what WDM would recommend to ensure that the legislation is effective in reining in excessive speculation.

Please note, this is a technical document and there is no need for any group member to understand all of it! This has been produced for those who have a particular interest in the detail of the legislation itself.

Tackling the sceptics

Some MEPs may not be supportive of our position on food speculation and demands for regulation, and may raise objections with you. This material will help you to overcome the most common objections on food speculation and will be useful not just for MEP lobby meetings but can also be useful for any other situations where there is disagreement about the issue of food speculation or our campaign.

The Real George Osborne

Thanks to all the groups who helped to promote The Real George Osborne before Christmas. We were really pleased that the videos got so much attention, with nearly 35,000 views and 13,000 visitors to the website, including from Conservative Central Office, the Greater London Authority and Barclays! The series also attracted a lot of attention in the media, with 50 articles of press coverage including features in the Telegraph, Guardian, New Statesman and Daily Mail.

Recently Mark Hoban, the minister responsible for this area at the Treasury, stated that the UK government believed that they “must update MiFID to reflect changes in the commodities market but not succumb to a form of populism” on the issue, which suggests that message from The Real George Osborne campaign is getting through!

The Real George Osborne project was trialling a very different approach for WDM to try and reach out to a wider audience. We are doing an evaluation to assess whether WDM should use an approach like this again in future, and if so, ways in which future projects of this type could be improved. We'd really value your group's views on this and if you have time in your next meeting, please can you consider the following questions and send your group's comments and feedback to Heidi (heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk):

- What do you think was good about The Real George Osborne?
- Was there anything that should have been done differently?
- Do you have any comments on the videos?

- Do you have any comments on the website: www.therealgeorgeosborne.com?
- Did your group promote the project? If so, how did you do it (e.g. on Twitter or Facebook), and what feedback (if any) did you get?

Barclays Public Eye Awards

At the end of last year, WDM nominated Barclays for the Greenpeace 'Public Eye Awards' for its role in speculating on food. The 'Public Eye Awards' are timed to coincide with the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos as a way to put the spotlight on the corporate world and the negative social and environmental consequences of their activities.

The naming and shaming award has two categories: the global award (chosen by an internal panel of experts) and the people's award (voted on by thousands of other online activists).

Barclays won the global award at the end of January which has helped to generate additional media exposure on Barclays and its leading role in food speculation. WDM's nomination was covered in the press in the new year in the Daily Mail, the Mirror and the Evening Standard!

New report the financial sector

In January we launched a joint report with Friends of the Earth Europe and some of our other European allies on the food speculation campaign. It highlights how banks, pension funds and insurance companies are increasing global hunger and poverty by speculating on food prices and financing land grabs in the global south. The report, 'Farming Money', analyses the activities of 29 European banks, pension funds and insurance companies, including Barclays, RBS, HSBC, revealing the significant involvement of these financial institutions in food speculation, and the direct or indirect financing of land grabbing. You can access the press release and report via the food campaign news section on our website at www.wdm.org.uk/food

Fairtrade talk

We have updated the food speculation standard talk (power point presentation and word document with talk transcript) for Fairtrade Fortnight. Please feel free to use this as an outreach tool during Fairtrade Fortnight as a way to link our food speculation campaign to Fairtrade issues. If you would like a copy please contact Sarah: sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk



Events

Activists' forum, Glasgow

The activists' forum is open to any WDM members living in Scotland and is an opportunity to hear about our campaign and fundraising plans for 2012 as well as to meet up with other WDM members, in an informal setting.

When: Wednesday 22 February. 6.30pm - 8pm

Where: Glasgow, (location tbc)

At this forum we will be planning for the campaigner conference in May and training needs for groups in Scotland for the coming year. If you are planning to attend, please email Liz in the Scottish office: liz@wdmscotland.org.uk

An economy for the 99%

Ideas, stories and tactics from around the world

What would an economy that really worked in the interests of people look like? This day of debates, workshops and skill sharing will bring together activists from Manchester, Europe and beyond to share ideas for building economic justice movements across the world.

When: Saturday 17 March, 10am-6pm

Where: Manchester Metropolitan University

Speakers include: Dina Makram Ebeid - Popular Campaign to Drop Egypt's Debt, Sargon Nissan - former city trader turned activist, Nessa Ní Chasaide - Debt Justice Action (Ireland), John Christensen - Tax Justice Network

We are co-organising this event with Jubilee Debt Campaign. Book your free place online at: www.wdm.org.uk/99percent or call Katharine on 020 7820 4900.

Sponsored events in 2012

Now is the time to start thinking about a physical challenge for 2012; why not take part in an adventure and raise money for WDM at the same time? We have a range of events planned for next year, from walking to cycling, or design your own! Here's a recommendation from one of our 2011 cyclists:

"Taking part in the London to Paris bike ride in September this year was one of the most enjoyable challenges I've entered, though hard work and energy intensive. It was a great way to raise money for charity, WDM in my case, and after 300 miles on the bike to cycle around the Arc de Triomphe to the end (Eiffel Tower) en masse was truly amazing" *Andrea Kaszewski, London to Paris participant 2011*

London to Paris cycle: 6-10 June

Walk the West Highland Way: 2-7 June

Ben Nevis challenge: 7-9 September

If you like the sound of these check out the available events on our website:

www.wdm.org.uk/support-us/sponsored-events

WDM groups' skillshare in Scotland

Following the success of the WDM skillshare day held last year in Nottingham, the Scottish office is planning to organise a skillshare afternoon at the end of March aimed at WDM groups and members in Scotland and the north of England. It is likely to be a joint event with Jubilee Scotland and Friends of the Earth Scotland. There will be more information about this in the next Think Global, or if you want to be kept up to date about this, please contact Jane in the Scotland office: jane@wdmscotland.org.uk

WDM AGM and conference

When: Saturday 23 June

Where: University of London Union

Our AGM will be held on the morning of Saturday 23 June, with a public conference in the afternoon. Please save the date if you can and we will send more information about the conference as plans develop.

Groups

Groups round up

Leicester WDM ran a climate justice workshop at a Nottingham Justice and Peace meeting in November.

Gerry Sutcliffe MP attended **Bradford WDM's** AGM in early January, giving the group the opportunity to raise issues around food speculation and climate debt with him.

St Albans WDM took part in an African Climate Connection event with other local groups, during the climate talks in Durban.

Oxford WDM showed the film 'Debtocracy' at their pre-Christmas social and are discussing showing films more regularly.

Several groups have been working hard to lobby their MEPs about MiFID. **Derby, Leicester** and **Nottingham WDM** groups co-ordinated to lobby Glenis Wilmott MEP; **Sheffield** and **Rotherham WDM** lobbied Linda McAvan MEP together; **Portsmouth WDM** met with Peter Skinner MEP and **East Cleveland WDM** had a very positive meeting with Fiona Hall MEP. Many more meetings are planned over the coming weeks.

Elections

2012 is an election year for WDM; we will be looking for nominees to stand for both council and as area representatives. Full details will be enclosed with the spring issue of Action magazine and it will also be possible to post nominations on our website from 20 February. Being a council member or an area representative is a brilliant way to get involved in WDM's democracy and to play a key role in steering our campaign direction. If you're interested in either role contact Katharine on 020 7820 4900 or katharine@wdm.org.uk.

Annual subscriptions and surveys

A reminder to send us your completed survey and annual group subscriptions by 28 February. We know that filling in the surveys takes up considerable time in your group meetings but it really does help us to provide the best possible



Central Lancashire WDM and their climate 'chain of debt'

support to groups. If you have any queries about your subs please contact Sarah on sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk

New t-shirts for the new year?

Remember that we have more t-shirts available if you would like to buy some for your group. The t-shirts are WDM's house colour (maroon) with the logo in white on front and back. They are available in small, medium, large and extra-large at a cost price of £8 per t-shirt. If you would like to order any please contact sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk

New and revived groups!

We are hoping to set up a new WDM group in the **Bromley** area this year. If you know anyone who lives in the area who might be interested please ask them to contact Katharine on katharine@wdm.org.uk. We will be circulating information about an initial meeting as soon as it is set up.

Reading WDM is also looking like it has a new lease of life which is great. An action planning meeting took place on 24 January – watch this space!



Press coverage of Rotherham WDM's climate debt action



Shrewsbury WDM's collect messages for their climate 'chain of debt'

Top tips

Some groups have included their MP's contact details on their group website. This is a great idea in terms of encouraging members to contact their MPs. It may also be worth adding MEP contact details, especially as we will be lobbying hard on food speculation over the coming months.

Slideshare is a great online tool for sharing powerpoint presentations and films which may be too large to email: www.slideshare.net/ You can sign up for free and easily upload documents, which you can then link to on your group's website or email links to members or other WDM groups.

Recycle old phones and cartridges

Now is the time when many of us will be thinking about having a good spring clean! If you have old mobile phones or printer cartridges lying around, why not recycle them and help WDM's campaigns at the same time?

For each phone sent to our partner Green Source Solutions, we'll receive up to £40 and up to £2.50 for each printer cartridge. Recycling phones and ink cartridges raised just over £800 for WDM in 2011.

This is a great way to be green and help WDM at the same time too. You can use the envelope enclosed with your copy of Think Global to post them. If you would like more envelopes please either call 0800 328 2153 or email supporterservices@wdm.org.uk

Current materials

Food

- ACTION POSTCARD: This is how banks see our food
- ACTION POSTCARD: Stop betting on hunger
- A2 POSTER: This is how banks see our food
- A2 POSTER: Stop betting on hunger
- CAMPAIGN BOOKLET: Betting on hunger (8 pages, A5)
- BRIEFING: Frequently asked questions
- BRIEFING: Parliamentary guide
- REPORT: The great hunger lottery
- REPORT: Broken Markets
- BRIEFING: Key messages (for groups' use only)
- BRIEFING: Food sovereignty
- BRIEFING: Updated MEP briefing on MIFID ****new****
- BRIEFING: Updated tricky questions ****new****
- TALK: Food speculation and Fairtrade ****new****
-

Climate justice

- A3 LEAFLET/POSTER: Mapping destruction: why the World Bank must stay out of climate finance
- A2 POSTER: Climate debt
- BRIEFING: Time to pay climate debt (6 pages)
- REPORT: Climate loan sharks
- REPORT: The climate debt crisis (48 pages)
- REPORT: The end game in Durban? ****new****
- BRIEFING: UN climate talks; from Copenhagen to Durban
- BRIEFING: Updated tricky questions

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
- BOOKLET: Fighting the cuts, lessons from around the world
- TALK PACK: Talk on WDM's perspective on anti-cuts campaigning

Diary dates

22 February: WDM Scotland activist forum, Glasgow

27 February- 11 March: Fairtrade Fortnight

17 March: An economy for the 99%: activist gathering, Manchester

23 June: AGM and conference

Partner updates

Between Friday 27 and Monday 30 January, hundreds of people in cities across the country took part in a weekend of 'Winter Warm-ups' called by Fuel Poverty Action.

The weekend aimed to challenge the corporate-controlled, fossil fuel addicted energy system that is killing thousands through unaffordable energy bills in the UK, and thousands across the world through climate change. In protests and occupations at energy company offices, local council buildings and housing providers, people warmed up together and demanded affordable, democratically controlled and green energy and housing.