

# THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with the  
World Development Movement



April 2011

World   
Development  
Movement  
Justice for the world's poor

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# Letter from the network team

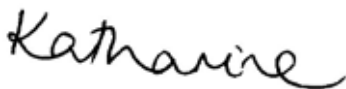
Dear friends,

It's great to have seen so many of you in the month that I've been back in the UK; at 6 Billion Ways (what a fantastic event) and at the March for the Alternative on Saturday 26 March. At the latter we got a really good response from many people whose attention was drawn by our faithful march companion, the WDM monster, this time in the guise of a 'cuts monster'. It's vital for WDM to be making the links between the neoliberal agenda currently being pushed with such fervour in this country, and the free-market policies which have been forced on the world's poorest countries for decades.

In other news, do take a look at a blog post from the World Social Forum on our website, you can also link to audio interviews on the Pambazuka Press website, which WDM supported jointly.  
[www.wdm.org.uk/blog/reflections-world-social-forum-dakar-2011](http://www.wdm.org.uk/blog/reflections-world-social-forum-dakar-2011)

I'm looking forward to catching up with many more of you over the coming months.

Happy campaigning!



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Katharine Talbot  
Network development officer

STOP PRESS\*\*\*\* Campaign success from Jubilee Debt Campaign: A landmark law to protect the poorest countries in the world from profiteering by vulture funds has been made permanent by the government. For more information visit the JDC website - [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/)

## News bites

### Climate justice

- The UN Adaptation Fund met in Bonn at the end of March. The UK government continues to push for World Bank loans for climate change adaptation as opposed to UN grants.
- WDM took part in the global day of action against the World Bank's involvement in climate finance and helped organise a stunt at the World Bank offices in London.

### Food speculation

- The Sunday Times published their story on how MEPs were bribed to weaken banking reforms. Journalists posed as financial lobbyists and approached MEPs offering them large sums of money in return for watering down banking reform legislation. Three MEPs took up the bait and since then two of them have resigned whilst the other has been expelled from his political party.

### Cleaning up the banks

- WDM Scotland will be taking action outside the RBS AGM on Tuesday 19 April, as well as taking part in a People's AGM on 18 April, alongside First Nation representatives, whose lives are being blighted by tar sands oil exploration.

# Action checklist

## Groups

### Climate debt

- Distribute 'send a pound' cards and order more for stalls and events.

### Food

- Take action against Barclays during WDM's month of action in April.

### At your next meeting

- Decide if anyone from your group would like to attend the AGM, and national conference in Oxford on 11 June.
- Think about local people you can contact to react to food articles and press through building a network of support.
- Think about potential affiliates you can contact in your area.

## 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.

### Food

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

## Inserts

- Africa: Exploitation & resistance flyers
- Barclays stunt packs (only for groups which have ordered them)
- Fighting the cuts booklets
- New sign up sheet for events and stalls (groups only)
- Barclays briefing
- Fundraising information (groups only)

# Campaign update: Climate justice

## Still no money for the UNAF

At the end of March the 13th UN Adaptation Fund (UNAF) meeting was held in Bonn. The UK government is still pushing for World Bank loans to help countries adapt to the effects of climate change instead of supporting grants channelled through the UN.

WDM director Deborah Doane wrote a blog post for the WDM website about the UN meeting and highlights the role WDM supporters have had in highlighting the injustice of climate change grants for adapting to climate change. She also explains how we have found that, contrary to what DfID told WDM, there were in fact no legal barriers to delivering the donations to the UN Adaptation Fund. The reality is that DfID is still refusing to support grants through the UN Adaptation Fund, and is instead pushing for loans through the undemocratic World Bank, which is still firmly part of the problem with its continued support for fossil fuel lending. You can read the blog post on the WDM website.

The UK has still not given a single penny to the adaptation fund, and was in fact discussing with other UN members the idea of setting a cap on how much money projects can ask for, because of the lack of money in the fund. In response to the lack of support from northern governments, the UN Adaptation Fund has now set up an online giving website so that individuals can donate to the fund (perhaps inspired by the £1500 given by WDM supporters?).

Deborah also wrote a great blog post for the New Internationalist about the implications of the UK government's lack of support for the UN Adaptation Fund. You can read it here [www.newint.org/blog/2011/03/17/britains-broken-promises/](http://www.newint.org/blog/2011/03/17/britains-broken-promises/)

## 'Free us from fossil fuels' action

On 1 March NGOS, individuals and activists took part in a global day of action against the World

Bank's lending of money to disastrous fossil fuel projects.

Actions were organised in places such as Paris and South Africa, and WDM helped organise an action in London.

WDM staff and supporters joined Christian Aid, People and Planet and the Jubilee Debt Campaign in a stunt at the World Bank offices in London. People dressed up as prisoners and were chained together with balls representing carbon dioxide and coal. The stunt highlighted the World Bank's continued role in causing climate change with its lending for coal power, which has increased 40 fold in the last five years, even at the same time as it trying to become the climate bank. We made a short video of the action which you can watch on WDM's 'youtube' channel.

## The online takeover

This coincided with an online day of action in which people flooded the World Bank's Facebook, Twitter and blog with comments telling them to stop financing fossil fuel projects, and to pull out of climate finance itself. It was a great way of getting our message heard and raising awareness about how the World Bank is funding projects that are damaging for both the environment and the world's poor.

## Moving forwards with the campaign

Over the coming months, the climate debt campaign will continue to focus on the issue of loans for climate adaptation. We will also be broadening its focus to look across the implications of the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds (of which the loans for adaptation through the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience is a part). These World Bank funds, which are being pushed by the UK government, demonstrate some concerning issues for the global south and its struggle for climate justice. It will be critical to ensure the worst aspects of these are highlighted to prevent them from becoming the basis for the new Green Climate Fund.

# Campaign update: The cuts

## March for the Alternative

WDM's trusty cuts monster generated much interest as, with unsatiated greed, he tried to devour public servants and indeed the entire world in his march on central London. WDM staff and groups joined hundreds of thousands of people on the streets of London marching for an alternative to the cuts and we were able to use the interest in our monster to let people know why WDM's work is crucial to the cuts debate. WDM's experience of working with the global south, forced by the world's richest countries to adopt a cuts agenda, means we have clear evidence to show that cuts do not and will not work and will affect the poor and vulnerable of society the most.



Steve on the march with WDM's infamous 'cuts monster'

WDM's director, Deborah Doane, was invited by the TUC to join the party at the front of the march – another opportunity to let people know how WDM can help in the fight against the cuts and to build contacts that can also work with WDM to fight the global cuts agenda that has already devastated the lives of so many in parts of Africa and Asia.

We will continue to build these relationships so that together we can fight the cuts neoliberal agenda at home and abroad. Don't forget to order a copy of the WDM cuts talk – it is only five minutes long so it can be easily slotted into local cuts debates to encourage people to make the links. In addition, we have produced a booklet 'Fighting the cuts; lessons from around the world.' We have enclosed a small number of these booklets with this mailing but if you would like to order more please let Sarah know.

# Campaign update: Food

## Month of action against Barclays

Barclays Capital is the UK's top player involved in food speculation and in the top three globally. Barclays' AGM will be held in London on 27 April and in the run up to the AGM, WDM groups will be holding stunts outside their local branch of Barclays to highlight the Barclays' role in fuelling record high food prices.

20 groups have said that they will organise a stunt – this is fantastic and will really help to raise awareness about Barclays' involvement in food speculation as well as grab media attention.

Stunt packs are being sent out with this month's Think Global for groups who are organising stunts. If you haven't ordered your stunt pack, please contact [catherine.negus@wdm.org.uk](mailto:catherine.negus@wdm.org.uk)

We have also included an insert about Barclays for all groups which provides more details about Barclays' involvement in food speculation.

## Global food prices

Food prices are currently soaring at record levels. In March, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) announced that prices had risen to a new record high. According to the UN FAO's food price index, prices have risen for the 8th consecutive month to the highest level since the index was started in 1990. On Shrove Tuesday, we used pancakes to demonstrate that food prices are rocketing at these high levels and managed to get coverage in the Independent as well on the US business channel, CNBC.

## Corporate lobbying in Europe

On 20 March, the Sunday Times published their story on how MEPs were bribed to weaken banking reforms. Journalists posed as financial lobbyists and approached MEPs offering them large sums of money in return for watering down banking reform legislation. Three MEPs took up the bait and since then two of them have resigned whilst the other has been expelled from his political party.

The story cannot be accessed online but you can read our summary of the story on our website: [www.wdm.org.uk/blog/banking-reform-bribery-exposed-european-parliament](http://www.wdm.org.uk/blog/banking-reform-bribery-exposed-european-parliament)

On the same weekend, an organisation that WDM works with – Spinwatch - released their new report on secret lobbying by Goldman Sachs in the UK and Brussels. The report exposes:

- The extensive links between Goldman Sachs and the Conservative Party;
- Political donations totalling £8.5million to British politicians in the past decade from Goldman and ex-Goldman people;
- Goldman Sachs' immense lobbying machine in Brussels, including active membership of over a dozen financial sector lobby groups;
- The bank's lobbying campaign to undermine political reform on derivatives;
- How Goldman Sachs' lobbyists tried to undermine amendments in a key report on derivatives.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from: [www.spinwatch.org](http://www.spinwatch.org)

These investigations demonstrate what we're up against. The banks have some of the most well-funded and powerful lobbyists in the world and they are working hard to stop reforms to their speculative activities. We will continue to campaign to act as a counterweight to the banking lobby and call on our elected representatives to stand up to the banking lobby.

## Food roundtable event

WDM co-hosted a food industry roundtable event in March where NGOs, organisations and businesses from the food industry came to discuss ways to influence the EU proposals on food speculation. It was an interesting discussion and participants identified key actions that could be taken to influence regulatory proposals. We will now be following up with the contacts that we have made and to identify opportunities for further action.

# Campaign update: Cleaning up the banks

## Climate Week: 21 – 26 March

Climate Week was a showcase of Britain's ambition and confidence to tackle climate change but with some eyebrow-raising financial backers not least 'oil and gas bank' RBS. It's important to acknowledge positive climate action, but providing a dream greenwash opportunity to the UK bank that provides more finance than any other to the fossil fuel industry is just not on. Lots of others agreed:

- Comedian Alistair McGowan, author Iain Banks, writer and environmentalist Tony Juniper and twenty other groups published a WDM-organised open letter (covered by the Independent, Telegraph, Herald, Scotsman and others) in protest over RBS's financing of the coal industry. Alistair McGowan said, "It's high time RBS put its money where its mouth is, and stopped bankrolling the fossil fuel industry".
- Platform, WDM, nef and others published new research showing that RBS is the UK bank that is most heavily involved in finance to the world's major companies extracting and burning coal, providing finance worth almost £8 billion since the 2008 bailout.
- RBS's attempts to spruce up its dirty image earned themselves People & Planet's 'Greenwash Coup of the Year' award and an oily die-in outside an Edinburgh city centre branch.

We support Climate Week but hope that next year the organisers will avoid providing green credentials to companies and financiers whose actions undermine the global fight for climate justice.

## New RBS report

Platform, the environmental campaigns group, has published a new report with the help of WDM. The report, '**Dirty Money: Corporate greenwash and RBS coal finance**', compares RBS' environmental rhetoric with the bank's financing of coal companies, and examines the efforts of civil society to date to pressure the bank to adopt more climate-friendly policies.

You can read the full report in the 'clean the banks' section of the WDM website.

## RBS AGM actions – 19 April 2011

The RBS AGM will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 19 April at their global HQ in Edinburgh. Last year we protested outside the RBS AGM, went inside to ask difficult questions with a Canadian First Nation activist and help our own People's AGM.

This year, we'll again have First Nation's representatives working with us and we plan once again to highlight the environmental destruction and breach of human rights that tar sands mining in Canada (and around the world) is causing – and that RBS is financing it with our money. We'll also be drawing attention to the fact that while RBS is almost entirely publicly owned, we still have no say in how they are investing our money – not least through being excluded from their AGM.

## Take action

Run a stall and collect photo petitions. There'll be a briefing on this with more info soon.

People's AGM – 18 April: despite the public rescue of RBS with more than £45Bn and an 83% government stake in the bank, taxpayers have no say in how this majority publicly-owned institution is run. More details very soon.



WDM activists hold a stunt outside an RBS in London

# Events

## Africa: Exploitation and resistance

This year we're collaborating with Pambazuka Press to put on a conference about Africa in Oxford with some great international speakers. Full details on the leaflet enclosed and at [www.wdm.org.uk/africa-conference](http://www.wdm.org.uk/africa-conference). Please get in touch with James ([james@wdm.org.uk](mailto:james@wdm.org.uk)) to get more leaflets sent out and/or an email flyer.

**When:** Saturday 11 June

WDM's Annual General Meeting is technically a separate event, but will take place immediately before the conference (at 10am) in the same venue. More details on that at [www.wdm.org.uk/agm-2011](http://www.wdm.org.uk/agm-2011)

## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Talk directly to your future politicians: Help keep climate change on the agenda at the Scottish elections this May. Climate Cafes are an informal and engaging way to ask your parliamentary candidates how they plan to tackle climate change if they are elected in the Scottish elections this May. For more information and a map for events near you see:

[www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-elections](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-elections)

## Scottish elections

WDM was one of the NIDOS members that organised a Glasgow hustings on international development, poverty, climate justice and debt on 14 March. With almost 100 people in the audience, the candidates faced some thought-provoking questions.

WDM is also involved in the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's pre-election work, with informal 'Climate Café' hustings in key constituencies. There'll also be the first ever online political debate about climate change. On Wednesday 13 April, between 7.30 and 9pm, the debate will be broadcast live over the internet. You can take part by posting realtime questions and comments to party spokespeople. For more info see: [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland).

## Stop Climate Chaos

Stop Climate Chaos will be asking MPs to ensure the government delivers on the Climate Act which so many people (including WDM groups) campaigned to create and strengthen. To find out if there is a public meeting taking place near you visit [www.stopclimatechaos.org/10/aug/big-connection-climate-map](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/10/aug/big-connection-climate-map)

## Reporting back

### 6 Billion Ways

Despite a few last minute hitches with speakers, 6 Billion Ways on 5 March was an enormous success. Just over 1700 people attended during the day, with many sessions oversubscribed despite large room capacities. A huge range of topics were covered, along with films, art exhibitions and music. Speakers from the UK and the global south shared perspectives, and many of the participants told us they really appreciated the educational content of the day, the cross-fertilisation of issues, and the sense that the event was geared towards building a broad movement for progressive change.

A short film about the event is available on the website, along with photos, video and blogs which our 'citizen journalists' produced on the day: [www.6billionways.org.uk](http://www.6billionways.org.uk)

### Scottish campaigners' convention 2011

More than ten years since scholar-activist Susan George spoke at the first WDM Scotland event she returned to Glasgow to give the same incisive insight into the coming together of our economic, social and environmental justice challenges.

Sixty people packed out this year Scottish campaigners' convention venue to hear her talk and take part in our workshops. This year we tried to balance in-depth policy and campaigns for the head with some more light-hearted approaches for the heart. Activist, poet and researcher Danny Chivers helped bring out the poet in us all to write our own creative piece.

# Groups

Caroline, WDM's direct marketing officer, visited **Derby WDM** to give a talk on her trip to Kenya for our food campaign; this event was very well attended and it attracted lots of people new to WDM.

**Bexhill & Hastings WDM** held a very successful joint WDM & Bexhill Fairtrade event, with Heidi, one of WDM's food campaigners, speaking to a packed out hall.

Many WDM groups attended a Fairtrade Fortnight event entitled 'Has Fairtrade asked for enough?', held at the London School of Economics, with Deborah speaking on the panel.

**Slough WDM** held two stalls during Fairtrade Fortnight and also gave away free Fairtrade samples at a Slough Co-op Film Society screening.

**Manchester WDM** distributed food action cards at a local anti-cuts demonstration in George Osborne's constituency, Tatton.

**St Albans WDM** put on a display in St Albans central library during Fairtrade Fortnight and held a stall on 5 March. Some members of the group also lobbied their MP, Peter Lilley in Harpenden, on 26 March.

**Oxford WDM** held a stall at the Witney Fair Trade market, and succeeded in getting a large number of action cards signed. The group have also recently met with their MP, Nicola Blackwood.



**Sheffield WDM** hold a food stunt with house built out of food packaging

**Portsmouth WDM** aimed to get people thinking about unfair subsidies at a Fairtrade curry evening, giving out special flyers and Fairtrade Foundation leaflets.

**Coventry WDM** put on an event focusing on gambling on food; one group member wrote a sketch and the event was suitable for all ages, including a quiz on food, a sequence of slides showing people affected by food price rises, and background information about the campaign. The group also held a fairtrade wine tasting event in conjunction with a local volunteer run theatre.

**Worthing WDM** are very involved in the new(ish) Worthing Transition Town movement and recently held a successful Seed Swap afternoon with a speaker from Grow Organic and the local agricultural college. The group also held a Traidcraft coffee morning during Fairtrade Fortnight.

**Horsham WDM** took part in a Horsham Fairtrade stall in the town centre during Fairtrade Fortnight.

**North Kent WDM** held a stall in Rochester cathedral during Fairtrade Fortnight.

## Mobilising in the South West

WDM's South West co-ordinator, Dan Iles, reports back on the first three months in his role:

With group membership rates suffering in various places across the county, the task of finding the right way to revitalise groups is paramount if WDM is to hold on to its vital groups network. With this in mind, my job to mobilise more activists for local groups in the South West has been a significant trial run. In Bristol, we have seen a very successful event on food sovereignty, with WDM's new food campaigner Christine Haigh speaking alongside contributors from local community food projects. This event was packed out with 70 – 80 people and there were good opportunities for attendees to participate in discussion.

Elsewhere in the South West; Gloucestershire has been busy publicising its latest speaker event, Brixham has had a successful Fair Trade Fortnight, East Dorset had a refreshing AGM and I am please to announce the birth of a new group in Taunton. The format of organising an event that includes local campaigns around community food issues, followed up by an action planning meeting has been very successful. This has helped to tap into other networks of activists around food issues and encouraged them to have a more global approach to food systems.

Multiple publicity channels have been effective at attracting lots of fresh attendees. Using social media and the WDM website, flyering on stalls, emailing all relevant local activist groups and putting up posters in progressive areas, cafes and communities has all acted to reach out to people that previously weren't aware of WDM or our campaigns.

At this mid point in my project, I am optimistic that each group will be successful in finding new blood to complement the vibrant and determined members they already contain.

### **Top tip: Making an event participatory**

Next time you organise a speaker event, instead of arranging the usual 'rows of chairs to face a panel' format, try putting the chairs into groups of small semi circles. Then instead of having a question and answer session at the end of the talk, ask each group to discuss the main points brought out by the speaker and arrive at one question/point to feedback.

This was the method used at a recent speaker event in Bristol. What was so effective was that it made the atmosphere far more informal than it might otherwise have been. Attendees that were unfamiliar with the group were allowed to freely participate with others and it was a great way of breaking the ice. The traditional format of a panel addressing an audience with time for fleeting questions at the end fails to engage the often highly experienced and enthusiastic audience that come to an event. This type of event format might not work for every speaker (the traditional questions and answer format might better suit

more technical presentations), but I highly recommend it for experienced and campaign based speakers.

### **Got everything for a stall?**

**Oxford WDM** have put together a handy checklist for stalls, including a rundown of materials; the key actions which will be on the stall, plus key messages.

This is a great way of dividing up responsibility within a group. One person can put together the checklist and ensure that all materials are ready, and then others can run the stall on the day, feeling very well prepared! **Oxford WDM** have kindly let us put one of their checklists up on the website, so feel free to use this as a template. You can find the checklist in the network resources section of our website.

[www.wdm.org.uk/community-pages/wdm-network-resources](http://www.wdm.org.uk/community-pages/wdm-network-resources)

# 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)
- GAME: Human blackjack (offline version)

## 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
- VIDEO: Climate debt action outside DfID, available at [www.youtube.com/wdmuk](http://www.youtube.com/wdmuk)

## 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
- BOOKLET: Fighting the cuts, lessons from around the world. **\*\*new\*\***

# Diary dates

**April:** Food month of action against Barclays

**13 April:** Scottish campaigner convention, Renfield St Stephen's Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow

**11 June:** WDM's annual general meeting

**11 June:** Africa, Exploitation & Resistance: national conference, Oxford

## Partner updates:

Jubilee Debt Campaign: No dictator debt for South Sudan

At the start of 2011, the people of South Sudan voted to become the world's newest nation. But there is a danger that South Sudan could inherit some of the North's \$35 billion of dictator debt, which includes over \$1 billion to the UK. You can take action, asking the UK government to support a debt-free start for South Sudan on JDC's website:

[www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)