

# THINK GLOBAL

## Act locally with the World Development Movement



March 2011

World   
Development  
Movement  
Justice for the world's poor

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# Letter from the network team

Dear friends,

6 Billion Ways is fast approaching and over a thousand people have registered for it. With top-class international speakers discussing issues ranging from activism in Africa to the cuts, and climate change to Palestine, I hope to see many of you there. Look out for the talks on climate justice and reclaiming the global food system, and don't forget to pop by the WDM stall and say hello.

Over three thousand people responded to our action regarding the government's aid review which is brilliant, a big thank you to all who took part. There's a lot to look forward to as we start gearing up for our month of action against Barclays in April (see more on page seven). Being one of the biggest British traders in commodities, we're hoping many WDM groups will join us in targeting them during the month of their AGM.

We've got quite a few people interested in starting a local WDM group, so check the groups section on page ten and find out if there is a potential new group near you or any of your family and friends.

And finally, we'll be welcoming Katharine back to the office on 1 March which will be great.

Happy campaigning!



Sarah Reader  
Network coordinator

## News bites

### Climate justice

- Campaigners in Nepal have issued a statement urging the government of Nepal to "stand by with its positions on climate finance and not to accept any loan on climate change".
- On 19 February people in Bangladesh organised a protest urging the government to reject the World Bank's loan for climate adaptation.

### Food speculation

- Over 3300 people took part in WDM's e-action to respond to the European Commission's proposals to regulate speculation on food prices. It was WDM's most successful ever online action!
- WDM has announced a month of action against Barclays in April, to coincide with their AGM. Barclays Capital, the investment arm of high street bank Barclays, is one of the biggest UK-based banks involved in food speculation.

### Cleaning up the banks

- This month WDM members and staff have been putting the heat on MPs as decisions on the new green investment bank (GIB) are hashed out by government.
- WDM members in Inverness met with the treasury's second-in-command Danny Alexander MP to lobby him to rein in RBS's investment in fossil fuels.

# Action checklist

## Groups

### Climate debt

- Distribute 'send a pound' cards and order more for stalls and events.
- Organise a 'World Bank out of climate finance' action.

### Food

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

### At your next meeting

- Start planning an action for WDM's month of action against Barclays in April.
- Talk about holding a 'World Bank out of climate finance' stunt.
- Think about local people you can contact to react to food articles and press through building a network of support (see page 8 for more information).
- Think about potential affiliates you can contact in your area.
- Arrange group travel for the TUC March for the Alternative on 26 March.

## 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

- The big climate reconnection: key messages (groups only)
- Building a network of support (groups only)

# Campaign update: Climate justice

## Resistance to World Bank loans

Since Cancún, heat has been building around World Bank loans for adaptation across Asia. Campaigners in Nepal have issued a strong statement saying “We urge the government of Nepal to stand by with its positions on climate finance and NOT TO ACCEPT ANY LOAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE. We also oppose the World Bank on pledging of loans for adaptation and resilience to the nations that needs immediate financial support to adapt to adverse effect of climate change. This is intended to devalue and defame the ongoing climate funding process under the UNFCCC mechanism”. If you are on Facebook, please can you join their campaign which is linked to the WDM Facebook page.

On 19 February, people from eleven civil society networks in Bangladesh created a human chain outside the national press club. This was to urge the government to reject the World Bank’s PPCR (Pilot Project on Climate Resilience) loan in respect of climate adaptation. The protest was covered by Bangladesh’s national papers.

## Broadening the campaign: CIFs

Over the next year we’re going to be broadening the focus of the campaign and looking across the whole of the World Bank’s climate funds, called the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs). The UK is a major contributor to these funds, which look set to cause more harm than good for the world’s poorest people, who are already suffering from the devastating impact of climate change .

As well as the World Bank’s adaptation programme forcing loans on countries such as Bangladesh, the World Bank is using the CIFs to push many other problematic policies. The CIFs are meant to have been shut down by 2012. However it is becoming increasingly clear that the UK government is intending to make this fund the model for the proposed new Green Climate Fund that was announced in Cancún, which will be set up over the next year.

In February, Eurodad (a European debt and development network which WDM is part of) released a report questioning the World Bank’s legitimacy in having any role in climate finance. The report, ‘Storm on the Horizon’, states that:

- Only one sixth of the pledged funds will be delivered as grants.
- Over one third of CIF funding is channelled to the private sector. Yet there are no clear safeguards to ensure that the private sector (which always puts profits first) will address the needs of the poor.
- Countries that receive climate finance aren’t always the most vulnerable countries, and the rules of the fund may prevent developing countries being able to decide on their own pathways for sustainable development

You can find the report on Eurodad’s website at [www.eurodad.org](http://www.eurodad.org)



The Bangladeshi protest against the World Bank’s loan.

## Briefings from southern partners

Several civil society organisations which focus on climate justice have put together a set of briefing papers to help different audiences understand various topics which have been discussed at international climate change negotiations and their real world impacts.

These briefings provide an insightful analysis of the impacts of climate change from a southern perspective. You can find copies of the briefings on the climate debt section of the WDM website.

## Climate justice at 6 Billion Ways

Look out for the panel discussion 'What is climate justice?' at 6 Billion Ways. This will be a unique opportunity to hear international speakers discussing climate debt, false solutions such as carbon trading, and how climate change is an economic justice issue. Featuring speakers from Jubilee South (the Philippines), El Salvador, Larry Lohmann from The Cornerhouse and chaired by Kirsty Wright, WDM's climate campaigner.

**When:** 5 March, 10.30-11.30am

**Where:** 6 Billion Ways, Whitby Street venue

## The Big Climate Reconnection

Over the next few months Stop Climate Chaos is hosting the Big Climate Reconnection as a follow up to the Big Climate Connection that took place last November. Campaigners from organisations that are part of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition will link together to lobby MPs ahead of the energy bill that is currently going through parliament. They will also be calling for the government to shift away from funding dirty coal through the World Bank and instead put the funds towards clean energy solutions.

This is a great opportunity to make sure that you let your MP know that you don't see any role for the World Bank in climate finance. We have included the key demands and lobbying messages as in insert in this issue of Think Global. If you want to find out more about what is going on in your region and how you can get involved, please see:

[www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-big-connection](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-big-connection).

## Send a Pound

As the global campaign against the World Bank's PPCR loans for climate adaptation is starting to come together, the 'send a pound' action remains very important. It's clear that DfID misled us about the fact that they could not pass the money onto the UN Adaptation Fund, so we will continue to call on them to pass the funds on themselves. Please continue to encourage others to send a pound, especially if you can think of other networks who may be interested in the campaign, such as your church groups, transition town groups or local UN associations. Contact Rosie if you need more cards by emailing [rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk](mailto:rosie.rogers@wdm.org.uk) or calling 020 7820 4900.

## Campaign update: The cuts

WDM's experience campaigning against the neoliberal policies and forced privatisation the UK government and has inflicted on the global south in the past, offers a useful analysis and support for local groups who are now fighting the cuts. We can offer groups a talk or material for a talk about the links between the government's current austerity drive and the history of forced liberalisation. If you would like more information about this, please contact Effie by emailing [effie@wdm.org.uk](mailto:effie@wdm.org.uk)

WDM's stall at 6 Billion Ways will focus on this cuts analysis, linking the local, national and international fight for change. Drop by and say hello to our staff and group members.

## March for the alternative

WDM will be joining the biggest march the TUC has organised for years, the 'March for the alternative: jobs, growth and justice'. Taking place on 26 March, the march will counter the government's arguments that there are no alternatives to the spending cuts which will damage public services and put more than a million out of work.

Assemble 11am at Victoria Embankment, where Temple Place meets Surrey Street, from where we will march to a rally in Hyde Park. Look out for the WDM cuts monster and big WDM banner. Please send any placard suggestions to [effie@wdm.org.uk](mailto:effie@wdm.org.uk).

# Campaign update: Food

## European regulation

Thanks to all those who took part in our urgent e-action to respond to the European Commission's proposals to regulate speculation on food prices. It was WDM's most successful ever online action, with just over 3300 people taking part. This has sent a really strong message to the Commission that ordinary people, not just bankers, are interested in this issue, and will make it harder for the proposals to be watered down.

We are expecting the final proposals to be published by the commission around June and following this they will be discussed in the European parliament and by the Council of Ministers. Later in the year there will be opportunities to ensure that MEPs support the proposals – we'll let you know when we've got more details about this.

## Expanding our network of support

Food price rises are gaining an increasing amount of UK media coverage but we need the link between rising food prices and speculation in financial markets to be made clearer. This would help us to gain support for regulation of food speculation and ramp up public pressure for the campaign.

We need to build a network of expert and influential people such as academics, local journalists and financial writers in local communities that groups can develop an ongoing relationship with. We can then ask them to take actions such as responding to blog posts, media articles and write letters in response to developments on the campaign. By asking a more diverse network of people to comment on food speculation, we can push this issue further up the public agenda.

We have included a briefing with this copy of Think Global to give you some ideas on who to approach in your local area as well as what you can ask them to do. You can also download it from the Think Global section of our website.

Some groups already do this anyway, for example East Cleveland WDM group responded to an article in Farmer's Weekly which quoted a spokesperson from Goldman Sachs saying that regulation would add to food price volatility. The group wrote in to dispute the article and presented the evidence base to back up their view.

We are hoping that local groups can extend the network of people that we can ask to help us to raise this issue in the media. If you would like some advice or have any questions, please contact Christine or Heidi by emailing [christine.haigh@wdm.org.uk](mailto:christine.haigh@wdm.org.uk) or [heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk](mailto:heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk)

## Month of action against Barclays

One of the biggest UK-based banks involved in food speculation is Barclays Capital, the investment arm of high street bank Barclays. In February, Barclays announced profits of £6bn, the majority of which came from Barclays Capital. Barclays' AGM will be held in London on 27 April, and we're designating April as a month of action. We're hoping that actions around the country will highlight the role of banks, like Barclays, in fuelling record high food prices.

We'd like WDM groups to hold a local media stunt at a local Barclays' branch anytime during April to raise awareness of Barclays' involvement in food speculation, and to help build pressure on the need to rein in excessive speculation on food prices.

### The stunt idea:

Hold a fake food market stall, with basic food like rice, potatoes, pasta and bread but each food item has a big food tag attached with a high price on it. For example, a bag of pasta will be £500 – this will represent how food price rises for people in developing countries can mean spending their weekly wage on food.

If you have a willing volunteer in your group, you can even have someone who is the 'market caller' – shouting out the prices!

The stunt pack includes:

- stunt instructions
- a template press release
- banners to use outside your Barclays' branch
- business card-style flyers that you can give to passers-by to let them know about the impact of food speculation and Barclays' involvement in it
- high food price tags

The stunt packs will be available from the end of March so we can send them out with your April issue of Think Global. If you would like to receive a stunt pack, please let Catherine know by 14 March. Catherine can be contacted on 020 7820 4900 or at [catherine.nequs@wdm.org.uk](mailto:catherine.nequs@wdm.org.uk)

We are also planning a stunt in London on the day of the AGM – more details of this will be available in next months' Think Global.

## Campaign update: Cleaning up the banks

This month WDM members and staff have been putting the heat on MPs as decisions on the new green investment bank (GIB) are hashed out by government. WDM are calling for the investment criteria of the publicly-owned bailed-out banks, like the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), to be aligned with those of a GIB. This would boost the power of green investment and create a step change in clean financing. In other words, we want the government to cure RBS of its oil addiction!

WDM members in Inverness met with the treasury's second-in-command Danny Alexander MP to lobby him to rein in RBS's investment in fossil fuels. Edinburgh group members met with Mark Lazarowicz MP who is shadow minister for international development and WDM staff met with Ian Murray MP who is a member of the Environmental Audit Committee currently running an inquiry into the GIB.

At a recent inquiry evidence session Ian Murray quizzed Vince Cable, secretary of state responsible for the creation of the GIB, as to whether the government would consider intervening in the bailed-out banks to create more green investment. The answer was still no!

RBS will still be allowed to continue to invest in tar sands and other fossil fuels.

### RBS-sponsored climate week

In March a national event called 'Climate Week' may be coming to somewhere near you. It's a Red Nose Day-style community event where people are asked to organise events in their communities and workplaces celebrating positive action on climate change. This is great but is being sponsored by RBS – the UK bank that has financed more fossil fuels than any other! We don't plan to let this go unnoticed.

If there are events happening in your local area why not go along and ask a question about why RBS is being allowed to 'greenwash' its reputation, or organise your own event highlighting the problems with RBS' involvement. Read our Climate Week briefing to find out more, available at [www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/rbs-making-climate-weak](http://www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/rbs-making-climate-weak)

After climate week we are planning stunts, actions and an event around the bank's AGM in April, and we would love for you to take part. Look out for details in next month's Think Global.

# Events

## 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

The full programme is now available at [www.6billionways.org.uk](http://www.6billionways.org.uk) If you haven't booked in advance you can still turn up on the day, but leave plenty of time to register.

## Vote Global

International development hustings

**When:** Monday 14 March 2011, 6.30-8pm

**Where:** Glasgow University, Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre

SNP, Scottish Labour, Scottish Liberal Democrats, Scottish Greens and Scottish Conservatives will all tell us their party policies on poverty, aid, climate finance and debt and answer your questions.

If you plan to attend, please email

[info@nidos.org.uk](mailto:info@nidos.org.uk)

## Even the Rain: World Water Day

Exclusive UK preview screening of the film 'Even the Rain' for World Water Day. Followed by post-screening discussion with author, activist and fellow of the Transnational Institute, Susan George, plus Dave Watson (UNISON) and film critic David Archibald.

**When:** Friday 18 March, 6pm.

**Where:** Glasgow University, Gilmorehill, 9 University Avenue,

**Price:** £5 suggested donation on the door.

In association with the World Development Movement, UNISON Scotland and the University of Glasgow.

## Visions of global justice

Join Susan George at the Scottish campaigner's convention 2011.

New thinking and age-old skills on change-making for social justice. Come to WDM Scotland's annual campaigners' convention to hear world-renowned political scientist Susan George, learn how to use stories to win campaigns, find out about WDM's campaigns for justice on hunger, climate and the banking system in 2011 and even write your own campaigning poem.

**When:** Saturday 19 March, 10am- 4.15pm

**Where:** Renfield St Stephen's Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow

**Price:** Free plus £4 donation for lunch

To book your place email

[office@wdmscotland.org.uk](mailto:office@wdmscotland.org.uk)

## SCCS Climate cafes

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)

# Groups

## Groups' roundup

**Brighton WDM** held a really successful 'hunger casino' in the centre of Brighton along with Global Xchange, a group of young people from Nigeria and all over the UK. The event was so popular that people were queuing to sign the food action card!

**Oxford WDM** met with Tory MP, Nicola Blackwood in early February to talk about the food campaign.

**Macclesfield WDM** also met with their MP to talk about food speculation.

One of our **South East London WDM** members represented WDM and helped out at the Ecumenical World Development Conference.

**Manchester WDM** helped promote the event 'Making Food Fair' which featured WDM director Deborah Doane. It was a really successful event and so busy they had to turn people away. An excellent blog post was written about Deborah's talk which you can find by searching "Pineapples: the symbol of a skewed global food system" on the Oxfam website.

**Bradford WDM** are holding a Fairtrade event on 5 March and two 'Divine' cocoa farmers from Ghana will be joining them.

**Lingfield and Dormansland WDM** held a talk with Caroline from WDM on her experiences in Kenya.



**Brighton WDM** and young people from Global Xchange gather at the stall

Many groups will currently be busy organising for Fairtrade Fortnight and are involved in local stalls, putting on public talks and decorating bunting to highlight this year's focus on Fairtrade cotton.

## Potential new groups

We're at an exciting stage for WDM's network of groups and activists as potential new groups pop up across the country. If you know anyone who lives near the following places who might be interested in getting involved with WDM, get in touch as there might be a new group there soon!

- Aberdeen
- Basingstoke
- Inverness
- Lancaster
- Taunton
- University of London-wide group

Contact Sarah by calling 020 7820 4900 or emailing [sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk](mailto:sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk) for more information.

## Film for sale: The End of Poverty

**South East London WDM** have got twenty copies of the film 'The End of Poverty' for sale for £5 each. It's a confrontational, feature-length documentary that questions why poverty still exists. The film interviews Nobel Prize winners Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz, author/activist Susan George, Eric Toussaint, Bolivian Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera and more. See [www.theendofpoverty.com](http://www.theendofpoverty.com) for more information.

It's a hard-hitting, interesting film which could be great for group film screenings.

To reserve a copy please email [judith@barrettjohnston.free-online.co.uk](mailto:judith@barrettjohnston.free-online.co.uk)

**South East London WDM** will be screening the film in March.

**When:** 4 March, 7.30pm

**Where:** St Mark's Centre, Greenwich South Street, SE10 8TY

## WDM affiliates

We are currently strengthening our affiliates programme. Affiliates are local or national groups and organisations that support WDM in both campaigning and fundraising. These range from local trade union branches, to churches and local faith groups, to national networks.

For groups, WDM's relationship with affiliates can be really useful for promoting local events and building support for our local campaigns.

We will be including an affiliates leaflet in a coming issue of Think Global. If there are any local organisations or groups that you think might be interested in becoming an affiliate do get in touch with them or contact Sarah at [sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk](mailto:sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk).

## Top tip

*From Cambridge WDM when gathering signatures against RBS's tar sands involvement:*

The best people to ask for petition signatures are those who aren't on the move. This means people who are leaning against a pillar, or window-shopping, or lighting up, or between mobile phone conversations, or tethering a bike, or turning an honest penny as a living statue. The living statue's signature was the high point of the morning, eclipsing even the monikers of the parliamentary candidates, and we wished we'd had a camera with us when he signed.

## March for the alternative

Jobs, growth, justice

Join WDM staff and supporters on the biggest march the Trades Union Congress has organised for many years.

**When:** 26 March 2011, 11am

**Where:** Meet other WDMers on Temple Place, near the junction with Surrey Street. This is close to Victoria Embankment where the march will be starting.

If you would like more information or have any questions email Effie at [effie@wdm.org.uk](mailto:effie@wdm.org.uk).



**FREE EVENT**  
**DEBATES MUSIC**  
**WORKSHOPS**  
**FILMS ART**



## Saturday 5 March

9.30am-Midnight at Rich Mix

35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA

### Speakers include:

Caroline Lucas MP, Pablo Solon, Lidy Nacpil, Rob Newman, Samir Amin, Omar Barghouti, Dave Randall, Mark Serwotka, Hilary Wainwright, Patrick Bond, Nina Power, Ronnie Kasrils, Sue Branford and many more.

### With sessions on:

Tackling climate change... Beating public spending cuts... Ending occupations in Afghanistan and Palestine... Strengthening democracy... Curbing consumerism... Fighting global poverty... Building activism and resistance... and much more...

### Plus Movimientos party with DJs and live music, 8pm-Midnight

Register now at [www.6billionways.org.uk/register](http://www.6billionways.org.uk/register) or call WDM on 020 7820 4900.

Contact Mital at [mital.patel@wdm.org.uk](mailto:mital.patel@wdm.org.uk) for the e-flyer.

6 Billion Ways is organised by the World Development Movement, War on Want, Rich Mix, People & Planet, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Friends of the Earth and City Circle.

## Diary dates

**28 February- 13 March:** Fairtrade Fortnight, across the UK

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

**14 March:** Vote Global: International development hustings, Glasgow

**18 March:** Even the Rain: World Water Day screening, Glasgow

**19 March:** Scottish campaigner convention, Renfield St Stephen's Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow

**26 March:** TUC march for the alternative: Jobs, growth, justice