

Think Global

Act locally with the
World Development Movement



May 2010

World 
Development
Movement
Justice for the world's poor

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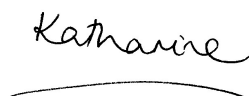
Letter from network development officer

Dear Friends

Have we finally rattled the Royal Bank of Scotland? Last Friday WDM was invited for a meeting with the Chair of RBS during our week of action, targeting the bank's invidious investments in tar sands projects in Alberta, Canada. As this newsletter goes to print it remains to be seen how productive that meeting will turn out to be...but it's certainly an interesting development in a campaign which has seen all kinds of tactics employed, from twitter to direct action. Of course WDM is far from the only organisation campaigning on this issue. We have been working alongside Platform and People & Planet for a year now, and grassroots activists from climate camp, Rising Tide, the tar sands network and many others in the UK have been working in solidarity with First Nation campaigners from Alberta, whose Indigenous communities have been directly and adversely affected by the tar sands oil extraction.

Overall the campaign is a brilliant example of the innovation, imagination, passion, perseverance, canny use of technology and sheer hard work which activists bring to so many issues. It's inspiring and humbling, and I think RBS have finally realised what they're up against...

All the best,



Katharine Talbot
Senior network development officer

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News bites

Clean up the banks

- Just before the start of our week of action RBS finally responded to WDM's requests for a meeting; is this genuine concern about the bank's activities or merely greenwash – watch this space to find out!
- George Poitras and Clayton Thomas-Muller, Canadian First Nations representatives who are being affected by tar sands extraction, attended WDM Scotland's campaigner convention in Stirling on 17 April, speaking to campaigners throughout the day as well as holding a stunt outside RBS at lunchtime and speaking at a screening of the film 'Dirty Oil' in the evening.

General election

- WDM group members and activists have been attending and organising hustings events throughout April, and contributed towards getting climate change on the agenda during the leaders' televised debate on development on 22 April.

Action checklist

Groups

Climate justice

- Keep an eye on Kirsty's blog to hear the latest from Bolivia - www.wdm.org.uk/climate

Clean up the banks

- If you held a stunt during the RBS week of action, please send us your photos so we can add them to our slide show on the website

General election

- Send us feedback and photos from any hustings events you organise or attend

Who should I cheer for?

- Decide if you would like to run some WSICF activities during June and let Sarah know if you would like an activity pack

At your next meeting

- Decide if anyone from your group will be attending our activist gathering in June
- If you haven't already work out who can be your group's web officer and send Pontus the relevant info (see more below)
- Is there a Transition Towns group near you? If so why not think about making contact with them
- Decide if you need any new membership leaflets ahead of the June issue of Think Global, if so contact Sarah to order some

Activists

Climate justice

- Keep an eye on Kirsty's blog to hear the latest from Bolivia - www.wdm.org.uk/climate

General election

- Send us feedback and photos from any hustings events you organise or attend

Inserts

- Top tips on recruiting new members (group contacts only)
- RBS leaflets (group contacts only)
- How to respond to climate change deniers

Campaign update: Clean up the banks

RBS week of action

Scotland kicked-off the RBS week of action at our annual conference in Stirling to which we had invited keynote speakers George Poitras and Clayton Thomas-Muller – both Canadian First Nations representatives who are being affected by tar sands extraction being carried out by the world's biggest oil corporations on a massive scale in Alberta, Canada. Tar sands are the dirtiest, most carbon intensive of all fossil fuels and Canada is being used as the testing ground for tar sands extraction. If it proves economic there, then the industry may move to other parts of the world such as Madagascar and Democratic Republic of Congo where other tars sands deposits have been identified.

George spoke of the battle local people had in getting official recognition of the health problems, such as a substantial rise in cancer, that tar sands were causing. As an activist who has begun to travel abroad to tell people about what has been happening in Alberta, he also spoke of how he had been threatened by oil company officials and had felt the need to leave his job and position as a Mikisew Chief in order that others' jobs were not threatened. Clayton Thomas-Muller called the tar sands project 'the biggest consolidation of corporate power in human history' and told us to act not out of charity, but out of solidarity, in the knowledge of the implication that this project, and projects like it would have for our own and our children's futures.

At lunchtime we held a stunt and media photocall (inspired by ideas from the Glasgow local group) outside the local RBS branch with WDM members dressed as bankers, asking passers-by, now also 'shareholders' of the bank, to vote by putting their 'money' into sustainable projects or the dirty projects that RBS is currently investing in, such as tar sands extraction. Other campaigners, dressed as cleaners, attempted to 'clean up the bank' using mops and buckets. We got a very positive response from Saturday shoppers in Stirling as well as a full page piece in the Sunday Herald the next day.



****Newsflash****

Several WDM groups in England have been holding media stunts outside their local RBS branches on 24 April and 28 April, using the opportunity to raise awareness of the issue with passers-by and taking some great photos. These can all be seen as a slideshow on our website at www.wdm.org.uk/clean-bailed-out-banks/week-action-against-rbs-investments-tar-sands

In London members of WDM & People & Planet gathered outside RBS in the heart of the City next to the Bank of England, and were joined by a JCB digger emblazoned with a banner reading 'Get our money out of blood oil'. The digger raised lots of interest from the public (and eyebrows...) as it did four circuits of the Bank of England, before travelling to the Treasury for more photos and finally to the WDM office in Oval.



As this issue goes to print, the **RBS AGM will be taking place in Edinburgh**. Canadian tar sands campaigner and First Nations member Eriel Tchekwie Deranger will be attending the RBS AGM on 28 April to speak to shareholders there. Along with Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth Scotland, People and Planet, and SEAD we will be outside the venue (in our smart suits of course – we are shareholders after all!), ‘welcoming’ attendees to the AGM with our banners and flyers.

In the evening we will be holding an alternative AGM – or ‘Public Shareholders Meeting: Cos its our bank now!’ nearby, with confirmed speakers including Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, Simon Chambers (maker of a documentary on RBS-financed bauxite mining in India), Richard Gould of Orkney Sustainable Energy, and Kevin Smith from the think-tank PLATFORM. It is shaping up to be a great day out in Edinburgh for new RBS public shareholders!

Deborah, WDM’s director, will be meeting with the chair of RBS, Sir Philip Hampton, and the RBS head of corporate sustainability Andrew Cave, on Thursday 29 April. As Kate, our press officer, asks in the related news piece she wrote, is this meeting ‘PR spin or genuine concern?’

Visit www.wdm.org.uk/news/rbs-invites-us-meet-days-agm-protests-pr-spin-or-genuine-concern to read the full article.

The week of action will end with more groups holding stunts outside local branches of RBS, with banners and oily footprints galore. The North London group are planning on doing a ‘bank crawl’ around Camden and Islington, dressed as cleaners to ‘clean up the banks’ as they go. Please do send us photos of your stunts so we can add them to our slide show.

Many thanks to all the groups who have been holding fantastically eye-catching stunts!

Campaign update: General election

In Scotland...

‘Ask the Climate Question’ question time events have been going well in Scotland with good attendance and some interesting evenings of debate. WDM Scotland has also been working with a coalition of international development organisations in Scotland to hold a ‘Think Global’ hustings in Glasgow covering international development issues on 27 April; just before Think Global goes to print. Candidates attending will include Andrew Mitchell (Conservative MP), Shadow Secretary for International Development; and John Barrett (Liberal Democrat MP), Shadow Under-secretary for International Development.

In England...

WDM groups around the country have been organising their own hustings events, in order to put parliamentary candidates on the spot when it comes to their policies on social justice issues. Hustings have been run by WDM groups in Ayr, Kendal, Exeter, Rotherham, Watford, Bradford and Richmond & Kingston. Groups have also been attending other events, particularly ‘Ask the Climate Question’ hustings, and some have met with their parliamentary candidates individually or written them letters, asking for a response on our issues.

Please do send us any feedback you have, particularly on how candidates have responded to any of our three key questions at hustings events.

Campaign update: Climate justice

The People's conference on climate change and Mother Earth rights

Climate justice campaigner Kirsty Wright is currently in Bolivia at the People's conference on climate change and Mother Earth rights. Kirsty has been blogging about her experiences, her blogs are well worth a read but if you haven't had a chance to look or you don't have internet access here's a brief overview. All blogs are available at <http://www.wdm.org.uk/climate>

21 April: This morning saw the inauguration of the People's conference on climate change and mother earth rights. A crowd of thousands massed, a mixture of people from across the five continent of the world, creating a quilt of colour between Indigenous dress and flags raised high as people awaited their host, Evo Morales, the first Indigenous president of (what is now called) the 'plurinational' state of Bolivia, in spite of having one of the largest Indigenous populations in Latin America.....

"In Africa, the environment is our life," declared the African representative from Nigeria "Now I've seen the beautiful land of Bolivia I see why you love mother earth...climate justice is the way forward, and by mobilising we can resist this destruction and save this world. We reject false solutions like market solutions because the market is causing the problems of the world.".....

Evo arrived to cheers that in the UK are generally reserved for film stars and boy bands. He walked amongst the crowd before taking to the stage, and opening with a call of "Planeta o Muerte!" (Planet or Death). "Without equilibrium between people, there will be no equilibrium between humans and nature" said Morales, as he condemned the failure of Copenhagen "Copenhagen wasn't a failure for us, but a failure

for the developed countries" without which, he went on, we wouldn't be here at this conference.

23 April: This morning I saw Naomi Klein speak about climate debt. She referred to what she called the 'Kumbaya effect', "the kind of environmentalism that erases difference and claims that everyone will be affected by climate change in the same way, 'We're all in this together. We all have grandchildren, we all have to just hold hands and save this fragile blue planet'" she mimicked. "On one level it's absolutely true...we are all affected by climate change. But we're not all affected in the same way or on the same time frame." In Bolivia she pointed out, climate change is not perceived as something happening in the future in the same way that its perceived in the north, but something that's happening now, in real time as crops fail and glaciers that provide much of the countries drinking water irreversibly melts away before their eyes.....

It is clear that rich governments are not concerned by climate change in the same way as people in the global south. Not only do they have the resources to cope, but neither have they had to undergo the same structural adjustment programmes that have reduced capacity to ensure people's basic needs can be maintained as has happened in the global south. "We need to bring the reality home", Naomi Klein called to people from the north. "At its most basic level, climate change is about reframing environmentalism as not just being about polar bears but about being the most pressing human rights issue of our time and, fundamentally, being about inequality. We have to find a way to tackle climate change that does not exacerbate inequality." This is where climate debt comes in. As a speaker from Nigeria said today, "Climate debt is not just a financial matter. We are talking about righting historical wrongs."

Campaign update: Who should I cheer for?

Some of you may remember the 'Who should I cheer for?' (WSICF) campaign we ran during the last World Cup in 2006...This year we are reviving the campaign and making it bigger and better! The idea is to put a different slant on the World Cup by looking at all the team countries' development and human rights records; from the number of women in government to average life expectancy.

The main focus of this campaign is a specially designed micro website giving all the information listed above and much more, on each country playing in the World Cup.

We think this also offers a fantastic opportunity to get new people involved in WDM, and we're suggesting that groups put on pub nights, quizzes, stalls and any other events you can think of using the materials in the WSICF pack. For example, you could organise a pub quiz night on a evening when a World Cup match is on TV and advertise it in your local pub, you may

manage to get a few unusual suspects involved in your group....

- Leaflets (giving information about WDM and WSICF)
- Posters (to publicise your event)
- Beer mats!
- Badges
- Quiz (featuring a mixture of WDM and football related questions)
- Guide giving suggestions for how you might make the most of WSICF to promote your group and recruit new members
- Membership forms

We are planning on sending WSICF packs out in the June issue of Think Global. **If you would like to order one please let Sarah know by Friday 21 May.**

News & events

40th Anniversary Activist gathering & AGM – 19/20 June, Sheffield

As mentioned in the February issue of Think Global, we are in the midst of planning for our exciting activist gathering in Sheffield in June. An outline of the programme is below to give you an idea of what to expect. Plus we are delighted to confirm that our two guest speakers are Paul Mason, BBC Newsnight's economics editor and author of 'Meltdown: The end of the age of greed', and Sue Branford, an expert on Latin America who will give a talk on social movements.

Saturday 19 June

10.30am – 6pm: A day of talks and workshops on global justice issues and practical campaigning skills; including a skill-share session specifically aimed at giving local groups the chance to share experiences and tips for effective campaigning.

12pm: Our AGM (with talk on WDM running concurrently for non-members)

7pm: 40th anniversary party, with a buffet, bar and live band

All events above will take place at St Mary's conference centre in Sheffield (less than 15 minutes walk from the train station).

Sunday 20 June

Join us for a walk in the Peak District, led by Sheffield WDM; this will be a five to six mile walk

between train stations, we will aim to be back in Sheffield by about 3pm.

You will have received promotional flyers for the activist gathering in the April issue of Think Global. If you would like more flyers to promote the event locally please contact James.

Remember you can book online at www.wdm.org.uk/activistgathering

Training days

We have now run two successful training days on media and lobbying and group member feedback has been very positive. We have another training day on Saturday 22 May in Glasgow and a further session on Saturday 9 October. Full details of both days are below, please contact Sarah to book your free place.

Please feel free to promote these events to other local groups in your area, they are a good networking opportunity too!

Media and online campaign training day // Glasgow // 22 May

Learn how to ensure you get really effective local press coverage, plus an insight into the world of online campaigning and how to make it work for your group.

When: Saturday 22 May, 10.30 to 4.30 approx.

Where: Glasgow (venue tbc)

Trainers: Pontus Westerberg (WDM web officer), Joy Francis from The Creative Collective

Lobbying training day // Manchester // 9 October (provisional date, tbc)

The workshop will give you a chance to explore and practice the skills needed to be a great lobbyist.

We'll cover:

- *What is lobbying, how do we do it and where does it fit in your campaign?*
- *How to develop a lobbying strategy*
- *The five 'W's of lobbying - Who, what, why, where, when*
- *Planning for a meeting with a power holder*

- *Practising good communication skills*
- *Practising lobbying your chosen power holder and receive constructive feedback*

When: Saturday 9 October (tbc)

Where: Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester, M14

Trainer: Kathryn Tulip, Seeds for Change

Festivals

The recent welcome sunshine augurs the start of the festival season! If you haven't already made plans to hold stalls at a local festival then why not look back at the lists of festivals we sent out in the March issue of Think Global? If you're running a festival stall during June you could use the special 'Who should I cheer for?' materials we're producing for groups, as above.

London to Paris bike ride

We have several intrepid cyclists now signed up for the first London to Paris sponsored bike ride: 18 -22 August, and there are still places available for the 8-12 September ride.

Why not take the opportunity to enjoy a bike ride through some beautiful English and French countryside and raise money for WDM at the same time?! **The deadline for signing up for the September event is 31 May.**

If you would like to sponsor any of our cyclists, (which include WDM's director, Deborah) go to their Justgiving pages at the links below:

<http://www.justgiving.com/sportyjon> - Jon Magidson

<http://www.justgiving.com/Deborah-Doane>
Deborah

<http://www.justgiving.com/Nicola-Stewart>
Nicola Stewart

<http://www.justgiving.com/samandfreddielondonparis> Samuel Joseph and Freddie Barrass

Put the fun into run whilst raising money for WDM's work

WDM is looking for people to take part in sponsored running events with a difference. If you want to support our vital campaigns for justice for the world's poor, then why not take part in one of our fancy dress 5km runs?

Super heroes run

Join over 1000 other 'super heroes' in either London or Manchester and support our vital work. Both male and female super hero costumes will be supplied on the day, so there is no need to worry about what you will wear...

Where: Greenwich Park London
When: Sunday 13 June at 10am (arrive at 9am)
Minimum fundraising target £100

Where: Heaton Park Manchester
When: Sunday 26 Sept at 10am (arrive at 9am)
Minimum fundraising target £100

Santa run

Join over 2000 festive 'Santas' in London's Greenwich Park in the lead in to Christmas and help us raise money for our campaigns in 2011.

To request your registration pack for any of the above events just call 0207 738 3311 or email: andrew.taylor@wdm.org.uk

Groups

Recent activities

April has been a busy month for WDM groups; dominated by the RBS week of action and general election hustings events. See above for more detail!

Group webpages

Remember to contact Pontus with the information below to get your new group website off the ground:

1. Please choose one person within your group to be web contact
2. That person should email Pontus - pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk when they are ready to start with the following info:
 - a) The name of the group as you want it to appear in the URL and on the website (eg, <http://groups.wdm.org.uk/oxford>)
 - b) The email address that you want associated with the site (eg, wdmshffield@googlemail.com)

3. Pontus will set up the site and email you back when it's ready for you to add content, giving you full info about how to access the website, along with guidelines etc

4. You let Pontus know when you have created all the content and you want your new site to go live

5. Pontus will update links on the main WDM website and set up a URL forwarding from your old website.

Pontus will be more than happy to give you a hand at any stage in the process above.

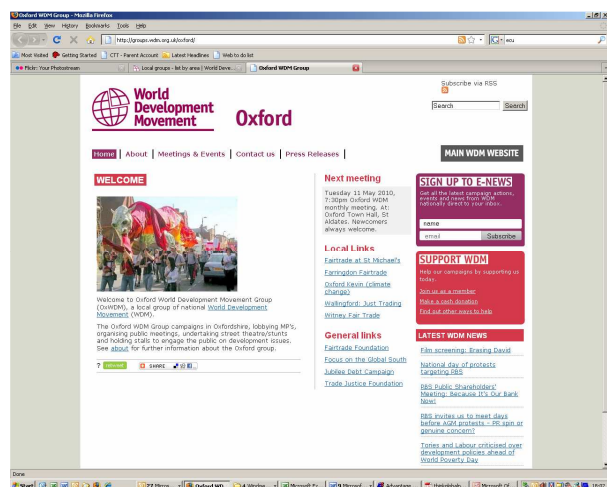
If you'd like a preview take a look at these two sites or check out the snapshot below...

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/glasgow/>
<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/oxford/>

Pontus will be removing any old group websites from the main site by the end of July so we do encourage you to set up your new website before then. If you have any queries

or you'd like any help with your new site please contact Pontus.

- Be invited into the SMK Alumni programme, enabling you to attend talks and events organised by SMK



New membership leaflets

We are in the process of re-designing and printing new membership leaflets, these will be ready in early May and we will post a batch to all groups in the June issue of Think Global. However if you are organising any events in May and need leaflets earlier please contact Sarah, stating how many you would like and we will post them to you as soon as we can.

Transition Towns: Making the link

We know that quite a few WDM group members are already involved in their local Transition Town group and there is clearly a cross-over between the issues both groups work on, one example being peak oil and tar sands oil extraction. We feel that it could be to the benefit of both organisations to initiate some collaborative work. Whilst Transition Towns are not set up to campaign, more to find local practical solutions to the issues thrown up by climate change, there is an overlap in skills; press coverage for example.

We encourage you to get in touch with your local Transition Town, if there is one, and start a conversation about possible joint work. You can find contact details of your nearest Transition Town group at www.transitiontowns.org. If you do not have internet access and would like details, please contact Sarah.

Sheila McKechnie campaigning awards

Are you campaigning on an important issue at a local, national or global level? Would you like support to be a better campaigner?

An SMK Award is for people who are just starting out as campaigners and want to take their work to the next level.

Apply now at www.smk.org.uk/smk-awards-2010 or if you know someone else who might benefit from an award you can nominate them on the same website in less than two minutes!

Deadline for applications: Midday on 28th June

What do award winners receive?

Over six months winners will receive the following programme of support:

- Be invited to a high profile awards ceremony
- Receive one-to-one coaching from a highly experienced campaigner
- Receive mentoring or shadowing sessions with experts in your field
- Receive public affairs and media coaching
- Take part in an intensive and inspiring residential skills-building weekend

WDM logo

We have refreshed the WDM logo for 2010! If you are using the logo on any event publicity materials or your regular newsletter please use the new version which you can download from the website on the Community pages at www.wdm.org.uk/community-pages/wdm-network-resources



If you would prefer us to email you a jpeg of the logo please contact Sarah.

WDM area reps

We are in need of new area reps for the North-East and South-West regions, where there are currently gaps. In addition, the reps who cover the West Midlands and South-East have been doing so for some time and would be happy to hand over the baton!

The role of WDM area rep is crucial in supporting our network of wonderful groups; it is not an overly onerous role, involving two face to face meetings a year and one tele-conference (on Saturdays), as well as contacting the groups in your region before each meeting to find out how

they're doing. It is a flexible role which can be adapted to the strengths and skills of any individual who takes it on.

If you are interested in supporting WDM's network in this way, and gaining some valuable experience at the same time (or if you know anyone who would be perfect for the job!) please contact Katharine.

Inserts

We have included a hand out on 'top tips for recruiting and retaining members' in this month's issue of Think Global (group contacts only). We are aiming to send out a 'top tips' guide in each issue over the next few months, to be added to your groups handbook folder, to support your activities. If there is a topic you think we should be covering please let Katharine know.

All these materials will also be available online at www.wdm.org.uk/community-pages/wdm-network-resources

We have also enclosed a hand-out giving the low down on what to say to climate change sceptics if you are unfortunate enough to run into any on a stall/in the pub/at work. We hope it's useful!

Diary dates

22 May	Media and online communications training day, Glasgow
19/20 June	Activist gathering, AGM and 40 th Anniversary party, Sheffield
9 October (provisional date, tbc)	Lobbying training day, Manchester