

# Think Global

Act locally with the

World Development Movement



October 2009



**World  
Development  
Movement**

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# Letter from the network development officer

Dear friends

As many of you will know we are currently going through a campaign review period; to an extent this review has been forced upon us because unfortunately WDM has been hit by the recession in the same way that almost all charities and NGOs have been. Our projected income for the next two years is less than we could have foreseen even 18 months ago and hence we have some difficult choices to make, based on a realistic look at our resources.

We are extremely grateful to the many group members who sent us their comments on the new campaign options (all nine of them!) I know the timescale for this was very short and I apologise for that; unfortunately it was unavoidable because of the need to develop strong campaign plans and budgets for 2010. It has been hugely helpful for us to have your thoughts about how campaigns can work, both for you at a local level and for WDM more widely. The range and depth of the responses we've received is a testament to our groups' wide-ranging knowledge of our issues and obvious experience of successful campaigning; both interesting and humbling to read.

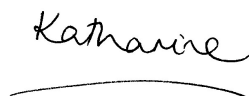
On a separate note, sadly WDM is losing two members of staff this autumn. Tom Davies, our trade campaigner, left last week and Vicky Cann, trade policy officer (who has been with WDM for almost 5 years), is leaving in mid October. Both Vicky and Tom are going on to exciting new roles but they will of course be hugely missed by all of us. Heidi Chow will be taking over Tom's campaigner role until Christmas; Heidi has been working on the trade campaign since its launch and will be happy to talk to any of you about trade queries.

Our head of fundraising and communications, Amanda Schofield, recently went on maternity leave and is being covered by Lorraine Groves who comes to WDM with a wealth of fundraising experience.

Thank you again for responding so rapidly to our request to feedback – it is vital for us to have our groups' thoughts on our campaigns for the next two years.

Apologies to our activists that we were not able to involve you in this consultation; the short timescale and logistics made it very difficult to do so.

All the best



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## Contacts

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# Action checklist

## Groups

### Climate change

- Discuss whether you would like to contact your MP and hold a climate justice stunt during November

### Trade

- Discuss whether you would like to hold a WTO stunt on 28 November
- Write to Baroness Ashton

### Financial crisis

- Send our new "clean up the banks" action card to the Chancellor, and order more to distribute locally
- Write to your MP and urge them to sign Early Day Motion 880

### At your next meeting

- Decide if you would like to organise fundraising events or membership drives
- Discuss your ideas for WDM's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary events
- Decide if you would like a climate debt talk

## Activists

### Climate change – in Scotland

- Complete the e-action calling on MSPs to reconsider their support for the planned new power station on Hunterston

### Trade

- Write to Baroness Ashton

### Financial crisis

- Send our new "clean up the banks" action card to the Chancellor, and order more to distribute locally
- Write to your MP and urge them to sign Early Day Motion 880

### Inserts

- Clean up the banks action card & briefing
- Activist survey
- Template letter to Baroness Ashton
- G20 leaflet (northern England & Scottish groups only)
- Current materials list

# Campaign update: Climate change

## The coal vigil

After months of fantastic coal campaigning as part of the Big If campaign, World Development Movement activists joined other organisations in a vigil outside the Department for Energy and Climate Change to mark the end of the government's consultation on coal, which closed on 9 September.

Ed Miliband was enticed out of his office by the sound of classic anthems as diverse as the Beatles (*Let coal be*) and Pink Floyd (*All in all it's just more CO<sub>2</sub> in the air*) that had been transformed into coal songs by the 'disciples of justice'! The crowd stood beneath giant COAL KILLS letters and pictures people had chosen of the things that would be at risk if Kingsnorth went ahead. Ed Miliband confronted the crowd, who quizzed him on his coal policies. Ed was clearly impressed by the depth of people's knowledge on the issue. You can get a glimpse of the 'coal kills' choir and download the 'disciples of justice' song book from WDM's website at [www.wdm.org.uk/coalvigil](http://www.wdm.org.uk/coalvigil)



## Scottish coal update

WDM Scotland and Friends of the Earth Scotland held a successful event at the Scottish Parliament earlier this month aimed at policymakers, parliamentarians and investors, that looked at the financial risks of investing in unabated coal. MSPs, Scottish Government officials and industry representatives attended the event to hear

presentations from Duncan McLaren of Friends of the Earth Scotland and Nick Mabey, Chief Executive for E3G.

We also have a new e-action on our website calling on MSPs to reconsider their support for the new coal-fired power station planned at Hunterston in Ayrshire: <http://www.wdmScotland.org.uk/action/CoalAction.htm>

Hunterston coal-fired power station has already been included in Scotland's National Planning Framework, and a planning application for the plant is expected soon. Local opposition is growing, and there are plans for legal action. WDM groups in Glasgow and Ayr are planning joint action to support local opposition to the power station in the coming months.

## The climate clinic exhibition

As we write, we're in the midst of party conference season. We'll be touring an exhibition of all the Big If actions that have taken place over the past few months around the conferences, to make sure that opposition to more dirty coal can't be ignored within party ranks. The exhibition was created in conjunction with other organisations, and includes press coverage of some amazing local actions from Cornwall to Scotland. It also features highlights of mass demonstrations against new coal, including the recent Mili-Band and the E.ON march in Coventry earlier this year, and highlights some daring pledges taken by WDM supporters as part of the Big If.

The exhibition will be on display in the Climate Clinic, a fringe event taking place at the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Tory conferences. It which aims to encourage 'party leaders, ministers, renowned scientists, opinion formers, environmentalists, low-carbon

associations, business leaders and the public' to debate the issues around climate change, and push for political action. Deborah will be helping to show people around the exhibition after coal events taking place as part of the Climate Clinic. We'll report back in the next issue of Think Global.

### **Climate Justice report and action card**

In the run up to Copenhagen, we're joining with activists from the global south to call for climate justice. We want to ensure that we get the message out there that climate change isn't just an environmental issue – it's an issue of economic and social injustice. Those that have done the least to contribute to climate change are now bearing the worst impacts, and costs, of climate change. And in the negotiations on a global climate deal, rich countries are pulling the same dirty tricks that they have done through WTO negotiations, trying to blame developing countries for not going far enough, when they themselves are taking little or no meaningful action.

Campaigners and politicians from the global south are insisting that to achieve a just solution to climate change, the north must recognise its 'climate debt' to poor countries. This debt covers two areas: an 'emissions debt' because of our disproportionate historical and current emissions, and an 'adaptation debt' because of our contribution to the devastating effects of climate change.

Rather than recognising this as a debt, northern countries are insisting that any funding for southern countries to pursue low carbon development is controlled by the World Bank. They are also pushing for the expansion of carbon trading at Copenhagen, instead of promising the real cuts in carbon emissions at home that are needed. WDM is publishing a report on climate debt in November – and also look out for James O'Nions' article on climate justice in the autumn edition of Action magazine.

We're also going to be launching a climate justice action card in the run up to Copenhagen. The action card will be made up of two parts – one which represents an

IOU to southern countries, and another representing a bill to the UK government. These cards will be included in the November mailing but will be available before. Please contact Maddy by emailing [maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk](mailto:maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk) if you would like to order these action cards in advance.

### **Take action: MP stunt – planning ahead for November**

To ensure our climate justice work is heard as loud and clear in the run up to Copenhagen, we are suggesting a simple stunt with your MP that groups can do during November after the release of the Climate Debt report. This will also be a useful opportunity to get local press coverage which can set the terms of the debate around rich countries needing to take the lead in climate action ahead of talks in Copenhagen this December.

**Idea:** We've designed this stunt so that it will hopefully be quite straightforward to organise. The idea is for your group to set up a meeting with your MP where you group can hand over a giant 'climate debt' invoice whilst asking him to pass on the message to Brown before he goes to Copenhagen. It will also be an opportunity to hand him a copy of the Climate Debt report or briefing and have a short meeting about why you are so concerned about this issue.

**Timing & resources:** If you want to take part in this stunt, please email [maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk](mailto:maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk) by 19 October (if possible in terms of the timing of your groups' meeting). We can send out a giant invoice to you, along with a briefing, copies of the report, and a template press release. We can also give you advice about contacting media if this is helpful. To ensure the meeting can happen during November it would be useful to contact your MP now. The report is due to be released during the first week of November but it would be fine for the stunt to take place anytime during November.

## Climate debt talk

If you would like a WDM staff member to visit your group to give a talk on climate debt, please let Maddy know, at [maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk](mailto:maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk). This talk will be available from mid October onwards.

## Mobilisation for Copenhagen

A number of WDM group members have already organised their travel to Copenhagen and will be joining thousands of others in demonstrations calling for Climate Justice. WDM staff will be inside the conference centre following the negotiations, and outside taking part in mobilisations and holding workshops and stunts.

If you are interested in coming to Copenhagen, or you are already going and

want to meet up with us there then please contact Maddy at [maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk](mailto:maddy.evans@wdm.org.uk) or call us at the office. We will also try to fill you in on all the different events that are taking place in Copenhagen during the summit as details become available.

We're also hoping to run a workshop at the [Klimaforum](#), a civil society forum taking place in Copenhagen during the summit. This session will look at how economic injustice has forced some southern countries into high carbon development paths and the ways that the northern countries have taken far more than their fair share of atmospheric space leading to a highly unequal world.

# Campaign update: Trade

## Lobbying MEPs

Next month we will be calling on the MEPs who signed our trade pledge earlier in the year. We will be asking groups to write to their region's MEPs to ask a question in the European Parliament (both those MEPs who signed the trade pledge and those who have not).

Any individual MEP can table a question to the European Commission and the Commission has an obligation to provide an answer. It is a way to force the Commission to produce a reply on a subject that it may not want to answer and is also a useful way for MEPs to inform and alert the Commission about concerns and issues that require more attention.

Next month, we will supply you with the wording for the questions as well as a briefing written specifically for MEPs. The briefing is intended to accompany your letter and will help MEPs to understand how free

trade has affected poor countries and how the lessons of the global economic crisis need to be learned and applied to European trade policy. Further details and materials will be supplied to you in the next mailing.

## Appointment of a new European Commission

At the time of writing, the timetable for the appointment of a new European Commission is still unclear due to the uncertainty around the Lisbon Treaty (there will be a second Irish referendum on 2 October 2009). Once we know, we will be informing groups who have key MEPs in their regions to help scrutinise new appointments.

## Take action: WTO Stunt

In order to highlight the importance of international development issues around the WTO ministerial meeting happening from 30 November to 2 December, we are

encouraging groups to hold media stunts on **Saturday 28 November**. We have chosen this date because demonstrations will be taking place in Geneva on that day and therefore your actions will be in solidarity with those happening right outside the talks.

**Idea:** Photo stunt involving group members holding a tug of war: one side represents corporate interest and the other side represents farmers in the global south. One person will represent the WTO and will join the side of the corporates which will tip the balance in their favour enabling them to win the tug of war.

Those representing the WTO will be wearing suits and holding a sign saying 'WTO on the side of big business', those representing farmers will be wearing jeans and t-shirts and holding a sign saying 'WTO out of agriculture' or 'Farmers against the WTO'. The farmers' side will be supported by group members ideally wearing WDM t-shirts and holding 'Justice for the world's poor' placards.

**Location:** Anywhere that will be busy and will attract public attention, potentially a market (Christmas and fairtrade markets might already be taking place on 28 November). You could always have bars of fairtrade chocolate on your stall to lure people in!

**Aims:** The stunt has two aims: to get local press coverage and to engage members of the public as they pass by.

**Resources:** We will send you the following materials in the November issue of *Think Global* which you will need for the stunt:

- Template press release
- Template letter for passers-by to sign
- Tricky questions about the stunt and the WTO
- WTO rep sign
- Farmer rep sign

You will need to get hold of a rope for the tug of war as well the respective costumes.

You may also wish to add a basket of goods such as bananas or coffee (hanging from the rope) to add to the visual effect of the stunt but this is not essential.

You should already have 'Justice for the world's poor' posters to turn into placards (as sent out in the 'Big If' packs) but if you need more just let us know.

If you have any questions about the stunt please contact Katharine or Heidi (heidi.chow@wdm.org.uk)

### **Take action: Write to Baroness Ashton in the run up to WTO talks**

Between 30 November – 2 December 2009, the ministers from WTO member states will be gathering in Geneva. While this is supposed to be a 'house keeping' meeting, there is a threat that it might be used to try to finalise the Doha round of negotiations.

The current Doha deal on the table is opposed by farmers' groups, trade unionists and civil society from around the world. The concerns of developing country governments have not been addressed and they must not be forced into signing a deal because of concerns regarding the global economic crisis.

Write a letter to express your concerns about the trade talks at the WTO to Baroness Ashton, EU Trade Commissioner. Rather than enclosing a template letter we have provided you with some guidance on structuring your letter, as individual letters are always more effective.

NB: This action is aimed at individual activists but of course we are more than happy for groups to send the letter too.

### **Economic Partnership Agreements**

If you are interested in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) or the proposed EU-India trade deal, we have partnered with Traidcraft to produce two briefings for MEPs on these wider European trade issues. Both briefings are

available on the website if you want to read up on either of these topics <http://wdm.org.uk/depth-trade-information>. (The links are at the bottom of the section called "Trade briefings")

## Financial crisis

### Clean up the bailed-out banks

Following the global financial collapse in 2008, bailed out banks received billions of pounds of taxpayers' money. Now this money is being used to finance deals that could cost the earth and human lives. WDM believes that public money should not be used to invest in companies and projects which are fuelling climate change and are linked to human rights abuses. The government should ensure public money is not invested in such projects. But the government has not.

This is why WDM, and two other campaigning organisations, PLATFORM and People and Planet, have launched a legal action (judicial review) against the Treasury for allowing the public money poured into the Royal Bank of Scotland to be invested in energy companies and projects linked to climate change and human rights violations. The first stage of the process has been successful, with a high court judge granting WDM a full hearing on 20 October to make the case. If this is successful,

## Matters of Interest

### Phulbari campaigner injured in protest

The World Development Movement was shocked and saddened to hear that Professor Anu Muhammad was one of a number of

### Stall flyer

If you are planning an event or a stall in the coming months, please remember to order the new A4 stall flyer which is a visual aid intended for use on stalls to help explain the impacts of unfair trade deals on individuals in the global south. Please contact the office on 020 7820 4900 to order these materials.

the court will go on to decide whether the government has breached its own rules on investment of public money. This is the first legal action to challenge the way the Treasury is managing our money in the bailed-out banks and is seen by many as an important test case.

Enclosed in the mailing are action cards so that you too can call on the Chancellor to ensure that all bailed-out banks are required to abide by the highest environmental and human rights standards when they invest taxpayers' money. An on-line alternative is also available on the website – [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk).

You will also find a 'Clean up the bailed-out banks' briefing in this mailing – it looks at the government's bail-out of the banks and WDM's legal challenge against the Treasury.

For more copies of either please email [wdm@wdm.org.uk](mailto:wdm@wdm.org.uk) or call 020 7820 4900.

protestors injured by police during a recent peaceful demonstration in Bangladesh. Professor Muhammad, who is Secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral

Resources, was protesting against the decision by the Bangladesh government to grant offshore oil and gas exploration deals in the Bay of Bengal to two international companies.

Professor Muhammad has long been an opponent of the Phulbari open cast mine in Bangladesh, proposed by UK company Global Coal Management Resources, which would force more than 50,000 people off their land and threaten the water supplies of a further

100,000. Peaceful protests in Phulbari against the mine in 2006 resulted in 3 protestors being killed. Until a recent turnaround, the UK

government publicly supported the proposed mine.

The World Development Movement worked closely and successfully with Professor Anu Muhammad on the Phulbari campaign and hosted his visit to the UK in December 2008, when he met with MPs, NGOs and the Bangladeshi community to raise awareness of the proposed Phulbari mine.

The Phulbari campaign highlights the importance of WDM's work in putting people before profit and working in solidarity with partners in the global south. If you would like to send a message of support to Anu please do at [anujuniv@gmail.com](mailto:anujuniv@gmail.com).

## News & events

### Climate Justice speaker tour

As well as the report and action card, the World Development Movement, Friends of the Earth and Jubilee Debt Campaign are organising a speaker tour on Climate Justice. Speaker Mohammed Shamsuddoha (Equity Bangladesh) will speak at each event, accompanied by other international speakers.

Not all dates and locations are finalised yet, but you can check the website for updated information, at [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

The line up so far...

- Monday 16 November: Newcastle, Venue: University of Newcastle
- Tuesday 17 November 7pm: Glasgow, Venue: Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP
- Wednesday 18 November: Birmingham or Leeds, TBC
- Thursday 19 November: London Venue TBA

- Friday 20 November: Brighton, Venue: Community Base, Queens Road, Brighton
- Sunday 21 November: Manchester (Shared Planet conference, University of Manchester)

### Put People First counter-conferences

On 7-8 November, G20 finance ministers will reconvene in St Andrews, Scotland. On Saturday 7 November there will be Put People First Alternative G20 conferences held in [London](#) and St Andrews.

For more information visit: [www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk/autumn/whats-next/](http://www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk/autumn/whats-next/) or, for the Scottish event, [www.g20standrews.org](http://www.g20standrews.org) (see more information about events in Scotland below)

### G20 update – Scotland

Saturday 26 September saw the launch of 'the Road to the G20' – a series of public meetings looking at trade, debt and climate justice in the run up to the G20 at St. Andrews organised by

WDM Scotland in coalition with international development and environmental NGOs, faith groups and trade unions. Julian Oram from WDM, along with Nick Dearden (Jubilee Debt Campaign) and John Christenson (Tax Justice Network) spoke to an enthusiastic audience in Edinburgh all of whom pledged to help publicise and build for the G20 finance ministers meeting in St. Andrews in November.

During October there will be two question-time style events: one in Douglas Alexander MP's constituency, and the other in Alistair Darling MP's constituency. Although Alistair Darling has said he is unable to come to any constituency meeting on the economy in 2009 we have found some inspiring speakers to put forward their alternatives to the politicians' 'business as usual' solutions.

Finally, on Saturday 7 November while the G20 men in suits are up the road in their posh hotel, we'll be bringing together some big thinkers on better ways to rebuild economies, control money and protect the people and the planet. We'll also be arranging a photo-stunt on the beach to send a message to the finance

ministers. We'll need as many people as possible to come along and will send out more details soon.

The coalition has produced a G20 'guide to action' that gives more information on the events planned, our key asks, and how you can get involved. Download a copy from the website: [www.g20standrews.org](http://www.g20standrews.org)

## The Wave – climate marches

On Saturday 5 December Stop Climate Chaos is organising a march through London ahead of the climate talks in Copenhagen and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland are hoping 10,000 people will demonstrate on the streets of Glasgow on the same day.

Visit [www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland/](http://www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland/) for information about the Scottish march  
Visit [www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave) for information about the London march.

WDM will be out in force in both cities with our placards and flags, please do join us.

## Groups

### Recent group activities

**Winchester WDM** recently succeeded in getting their 1000<sup>th</sup> Stop Water Wars card signed at a joint stall with Portsmouth. This is a fantastic achievement; the Winchester group really has been single-handedly keeping the government on its toes on this issue.

**Oxford WDM** held a coal stunt in central Oxford in mid September; dressed as power stations the group really grabbed the attention of Saturday morning shoppers and succeeded in getting 50 Big If pledge cards signed as well as media coverage – a really successful stunt!



**Brighton & Hove WDM** took part in a climate change event entitled 'Isn't it bonkers' on Sat 26 September and the next day at the Labour party conference they re-enacted the creative coal v renewables tug of war stunt they did earlier in the summer.

**Manchester WDM** are planning on unfurling our giant 'climate change kills' banner during the Conservative party conference; that should certainly get our message across to parliamentarians.

**Volunteer needed**

WDM is looking for a volunteer to help with our outreach and engagement with faith groups. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this exciting opportunity please review the position description on our website at <http://wdm.gn.apc.org/jobs> or call the office on 020 7820 4900.

**New area reps needed**

As you know each of WDM's ten regions has a volunteer representing the interests of groups and individual activists within their region. We are currently looking for new reps in the following regions:  
 North-East  
 South-West  
 South-East

This role offers a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the heart of WDM's democracy and

is crucial in supporting and building up groups within our regions.

*"I have been a Rep (job-share) since 2005, and thoroughly enjoy the role... not least getting to travel round the country for a couple of meetings each year! It's always really inspiring, educational (and often intriguing!) to hear about the huge range of campaigning activities groups across the country get up to; and I find it invaluable having the closer contact with the office and the network officer that the role entails. It is extremely rewarding being part of the Movement's democracy, and (hopefully) helping work towards strengthening the network and organisation in its goals.*

*It's not a huge time commitment, nor does it require any additional special skills, so if you are an active group member and at all interested, do talk to a current Rep."*

Kate Etheridge – London area rep (job share)

If you are interested in finding out more about what the role involves please contact Katharine at [katharine@wdm.org.uk](mailto:katharine@wdm.org.uk)

**Diary dates**

18 - 25 October	One World Week
7 – 8 November	G20 finance ministers' meeting in St Andrews, Scotland Put People First counter conferences in London & St Andrews
16 – 21 November	Climate justice speaker tour (various locations, see above)
28 November	WTO stunt day
5 December	'The Wave' climate marches in London and Glasgow
7 – 18 December	Copenhagen climate summit

**\*\*\*\*\*The list of current materials appears as a separate insert this month\*\*\*\*\***