

# Think Global

Act locally with the

World Development Movement

**No  
new  
debt**

  
**World  
Development  
Movement**  
Justice for the world's poor

  
**JUBILEE DEBT  
CAMPAIGN**



September 2010

  
**World  
Development  
Movement**  
Justice for the world's poor

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# Letter from network development officer

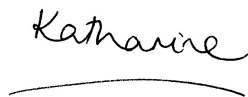
Dear friends

MPs may have been taking their holidays over the past six weeks but campaigners have been working hard: Our food campaign launch received the highest levels of media coverage WDM has had since Make Poverty History in 2005; groups have been taking to the streets and festival fields with the 'stop betting on hunger' action cards; and WDM Scotland has been keeping our RBS work on the political agenda.

The coming months look set to be busy with a plethora of events taking place in October (see our events section on page 8). Whether it's comedy, food experts, films or lobby training, it's all going on in the autumn!

We'll be ramping up the pressure on politicians with regard to our 'no new debt' campaign over the next two months, in the run up to the international climate talks in Mexico at the end of November. I'm also aiming to visit lots of groups in September and October so I look forward to seeing some of you soon!

All the best,



Katharine Talbot

Network development officer

## News bites

### Climate Justice

- Climate finance is set to be a key issue ahead of the next round of international climate talks in Cancun which start at the end of November, and there is a global week of action for climate justice from 10-17 October – an ideal opportunity to put pressure on MPs ahead of Cancun.

### Clean up the banks

- The Camp for Climate Action took place in Edinburgh at the end of August, focussing on RBS' role in financing tar sands projects. Actions around the city coincided with a Greenpeace ship sailing into the Arctic circle to draw attention to highly risky oil drilling taking place in this pristine environment; the company drilling the well is Cairn Energy who have been financed by.....RBS.

### Food

- Over 1000 people pledged to call the Financial Services Authority during our week of action in July, asking them to take action against Goldman Sachs' gambling on hunger – a fantastic response. We also received a huge amount of media coverage during the week of the campaign launch.

# Action checklist

## Groups

### Climate debt

- Post the 'send a pound' card and distribute locally
- Organise a 'writing to Andrew Mitchell' session for your group
- Set up a meeting with your MP to talk to him/her about climate finance

### Food

- Distribute our new food action card and order more from the office, we have plenty!
- Write to your MP about food speculation. See guidelines on our website - <http://www.wdm.org.uk/stop-bankers-betting-food-and-causing-hunger/ask-your-mp-support-regulation-food-speculation>

### At your next meeting

- Decide if you would like to run a World 'piggy' Bank stunt during the week of action and if so order your stunt pack from Katharine.
- If you have yet to set up a website, decide who in your group could take this on and contact Pontus for help and advice.

## Activists

### Climate change

- Post the 'send a pound' card
- If you have a Lib Dem or Tory MP write to them about climate debt (see enclosed guidelines)

### Food

- Sign our new food action card and order more from the office, we have plenty!
- Write to your MP about food speculation. See guidelines on our website - <http://www.wdm.org.uk/stop-bankers-betting-food-and-causing-hunger/ask-your-mp-support-regulation-food-speculation>

### Inserts

- Jubilee Debt Campaign action cards and education report (report groups only)
- Climate debt tricky questions briefing
- Coalition MP letter bullet points
- Template press release (4 versions) – groups only
- World Bank versus UN article & table
- Climate debt action pockets (100 per group, 1 per individual)
- Climate debt poster (groups only)
- Food campaign media round-up (groups only)

# Campaign update: Climate justice

## Hunterston

The fight against new coal in Scotland is heating up. Amazingly more than 14,000 people officially objected to the proposal for a new climate-wrecking coal-fired power station at Hunterston in Ayrshire, calling on the Scottish Government to reject the application. WDM ran an e-action on this during July and August, resulting in 150 objections from our campaigners. You can see WDM's formal objection at:

<http://www.wdm.org.uk/news/wdm-objects-new-coal-hunterston>

## No New Debt

The UK's position on climate finance has not changed since the new government came into power. The coalition government is still planning to take money from the aid budget for climate finance, and is using these funds to build up new debt for the global south, by providing loans through the undemocratic World Bank. So far, the UK has not given a single grant to the UN adaptation fund.

Climate finance is set to be a key issue ahead of the next round of international climate talks in Cancun which start at the end of November, so now is a crucial time for us to speak out against our government giving new climate loans. By providing funds as capital to the World Bank, the UK government has ensured that money can only be redistributed as loans. This is a policy that is currently only being pushed by the UK, meaning we have an important role to play in changing this. The UK government has also been one of the rich governments central to pushing for the World Bank to be in control of climate finance, so action here in the UK could really help to make a difference both in terms of these funds and also in terms of a solution to the international negotiations that has justice at its heart.

From 10-17 October a Global Week of Action for Climate Justice will take place around the world.

This is an important time to demonstrate strong pressure ahead of the Cancun talks, letting the coalition government know that we won't let them backtrack on their pre-election pledges around grants not loans, and use climate finance as a way to simply lock in existing global inequalities.

We have a whole range of new actions coming up, and it would be great to have as many groups involved as possible to ensure that our calls are heard by MPs across the country and get passed up to development secretary Andrew Mitchell, who will make the decision on how to spend pre-allocated funds for climate finance, and energy and climate change secretary Chris Huhne, who holds responsibility for the international negotiations.

## Take action

### Send a Pound:

Send a Pound is based on a famous action that happened during the drop the debt campaign. People sent in £1 to Gordon Brown during his time as chancellor, asking him to use this to cancel third world debts. The action was made famous when Gordon Brown's own mother sent him a £1! It also caused quite a stir in the treasury who didn't know what to do with the money.

We are reviving the same action, this time with people sending a pound to development secretary Andrew Mitchell at the department for international development, asking him to use it to support grants through the UN adaptation fund rather than loans through the World Bank. As the UK has not yet given any grants to the UN adaptation fund, it will be really embarrassing for them on the international stage to only pass on the donations from members of the public, without adding any additional grant.

To ensure that this action is as powerful as possible, we have developed a range of ways to bring it to life.

### **Send a pound yourself**

To start, please get everyone in your group to send a pound to Andrew Mitchell. You can do this using one of our pre-prepared action pockets (enclosed with this issue of *Think Global*), but it would be even more powerful to send a hand written letter. Why not have a group letter writing session as part of your meeting? It doesn't have to be a long letter, and really only needs to cover the key points mentioned on the action card, but it is always so much more powerful when people take the time to write a letter themselves.

### **Mobilising in your community**

Please try and get as many people as you can to send a pound: set up a stall, or ask people in your workplace, church, or any other community group that you think may be interested. You could also contact other campaigning groups, such as the local UN association groups which would work really well as this is about supporting a UN fund.

### **Target your MP**

Meeting with your MP and asking them to give a pound to the UN adaptation fund is a great way to start a conversation within the ranks of their party. This is also a great way to get some media coverage for the campaign, and also to raise awareness about your group. We have written a series of draft press releases: there's a version if your MP does give a pound, and then versions if they don't that have been tailored depending on whether your MP is Labour, Liberal Democrat or Conservative.

### **Spread the word**

For the week of action (10-17 October), we have an idea for a stunt for local groups. The concept is to represent the World Bank by using a 'piggy' bank, representing the way the World Bank is set up in the interests of rich countries. We will send groups piñata piggy banks that represent the World (piggy) Bank. These will be filled with gold chocolate coins, representing the pounds that people in your community and around the country will have sent in to Andrew Mitchell to go to the UN adaptation fund. When the piñata is broken, the pounds will fall into a bucket representing the UN adaptation logo.

This could happen wherever you think works best for your area – it could be outside your MP's office, or in the town centre. Also, because this is quite a fun stunt, it will also provide a great opportunity to get more people to sign up to the campaign, so it would be good to run a stall at the same time asking people to add their name to the call for no new debt.

We will be putting together stunt kits for any groups that want to take part in this stunt. As well as props, we will also include information on media advice. **Please let us know as soon as possible if your group would like one of these kits, ideally by 20 September, by emailing Katharine on [katharine@wdm.org.uk](mailto:katharine@wdm.org.uk).** This will give us time to make the kits and send them out to you in time for your stunt during the week of 10 – 17 October. We will also send out advice on getting local press.

### **Materials**

We have enclosed the following to support your climate debt campaigning:

- Climate debt tricky questions
- Article on the World Bank v the UN fund
- Template press releases (four versions depending on whether the MP has given a pound or not and which party they belong to)
- Send a pound action 'pockets'
- Climate debt posters (1 per group)
- Bullet points for writing to MPs (as below)

### **Letters to coalition government MPs**

Thanks to everyone who wrote to Liberal Democrat and Conservative MPs last month asking them to write to Chris Huhne (secretary of state for energy and climate change) and Andrew Mitchell (secretary of state for development) regarding their policies on the World Bank and new debt for climate finance. Please let us know if you hear back from them. If you have not yet written to your MPs on this it would still be really useful to do so. Please see the attached sheet with more information on this – we suggest different talking points for each MP depending on their party's current position in the coalition and also on their pre-election promises.

## Campaign update: Food

### Stop betting on hunger campaign hits the news

The public launch of the food campaign in July brought WDM one of our biggest recent media responses, with strong articles in many papers including the Guardian and the Daily Mail, and WDM campaigners interviewed on Newsnight, Radio 4's Today Programme, and Al-Jazeera's Counting The Cost.

Included with this month's *Think Global* is a selection of the best media coverage for campaigners to use on stalls, at meetings with MPs, or anywhere else it's useful to show that the media are taking the issue of food speculation seriously. This pack was requested by the London WDM groups; if you have an idea for something that would help you campaign more effectively, please let the office know.

### WDM supporters get through to the FSA

Over 1000 people pledged to call the Financial Services Authority, asking them to take action against Goldman Sachs' gambling on hunger – a fantastic response.

You can read the experiences of some of the WDM campaigners that made the call at <http://www.wdm.org.uk/action/shop-goldman-sachs-regulator>

Thanks to your calls, we were invited to meet with two of the FSA's commodities and derivatives policy experts. While, as you might imagine, the FSA doesn't go far or fast enough, they did agree that excessive speculation is a problem. They also confirmed that their expert advice has a crucial role in shaping UK government policy, so your calls for action will be heard at the heart of that process.

### Kenya trip

At the end of July, WDM staff James O'Nions and Caroline Griffin visited Kenya for two weeks. They were primarily there to investigate the impact of the 2008 food crisis on Kenya's poor majority, in order to help better communicate our Stop Betting on Hunger campaign. They met residents of some of Nairobi huge slum districts, as well as street traders, small-scale farmers, academics and campaigners. They were assisted in planning the trip by a colleague from the Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN), Kiama Kaara.

The trip was very successful in adding to our knowledge of the myriad impacts of high food prices, and you will be seeing the results in WDM communications soon. James and Caroline were also able to speak to Kenyan campaigners about other issues, including climate debt and the continuing impact of IMF and World Bank imposed structural adjustment, reinforcing our existing dialogue with activists in the global south. You can read their blog posts from Kenya at [www.wdm.org.uk/blog/kenya](http://www.wdm.org.uk/blog/kenya)

## Campaign update: Clean up the banks

Working with indigenous communities in Alberta, Canada, WDM's campaign work in Scotland this year has highlighted how RBS has been using taxpayers' money to finance projects and

companies that are wrecking the climate and abusing human rights around the world. We've now also shown how RBS could become a green investment bank and help the move towards a

low carbon economy which would create thousands of new green jobs.

At the end of August people from all walks of life set up the Camp for Climate Action in the grounds of RBS global headquarters in Edinburgh, to ramp up the pressure on RBS to stop its climate wrecking investments. During climate camp activists carried out a range of actions, succeeding in getting an impressive level of press coverage.

As well as focusing on RBS headquarters and branches, some activists targeted Cairn Energy which received £117 million of loans and equity last year from RBS, almost half of which directly enabled oil drilling off the Greenland coast to start. This drilling is particularly controversial because the area hasn't been exploited for oil before and has only been made possible as climate change has caused icebergs in this region to melt. The BP Deepwater oil spill has clearly shown the dangers of offshore drilling and it's argued that Cairn don't have the experience to deal with accidents in the previously pristine and extremely environmentally sensitive Arctic. A spill in the area would be almost impossible to clean up due to the thick ice.

At the same time, hundreds of WDM supporters wrote to the chancellor George Osborne calling for RBS to become a green investment bank. The previous government let RBS get away with it. We're calling on the new chancellor to put a stop to it and to turn RBS into the Royal Bank of Sustainability.

For more information see [www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/cleaning-scotlands-banks](http://www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/cleaning-scotlands-banks)

## Materials

*Make it Happen*, a new public-friendly report for stalls on how and why RBS should turn from climate change funders to green economy financiers is available from [iain@wdmscotland.org.uk](mailto:iain@wdmscotland.org.uk) or you can download it from: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/scottish-campaigns/cleaning-scotlands-banks>

WDM Scotland has produced a new 'cleaning up the banks' campaign postcard, focussing on RBS's dirty investments, aimed at chancellor George Osborne. Contact [iain@wdmscotland.org.uk](mailto:iain@wdmscotland.org.uk) for copies. This postcard goes well with *Make it Happen*. There's also an e-action to the Chancellor at [www.wdm.org.uk/scotland-campaign-actions](http://www.wdm.org.uk/scotland-campaign-actions)

## Events

### **The Tar Sands; how desperately chasing the last drop of oil threatens an ecological disaster in Alberta, Canada and risks global runaway climate change.**

Special Guest Speaker: Chief Al Lameman of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation.

This talk and drinks reception is being organised by the Co-operative, in partnership with WDM Scotland, Friends of the Earth Scotland and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

**When:** Friday 17th September 2010 at 7.30pm

**Where:** Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh

Entry is free; to attend please register at [www.tarsands.org.uk](http://www.tarsands.org.uk) or call 0131 243 2700.

### **Take One Action Film Festival: 23 September to 3 October**

This year WDM Scotland are screening three thought-provoking films as part of the Take One Action Film Festival in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Our three films are *Climate Refugees*, *Hunger* and *Sweet Crude*. As always, there'll be audience

discussion after the film and we'll be providing panellists, including climate justice campaigner Md Shamsuddoha, live via Skype, from Bangladesh.

For dates and times of our film screenings, see: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/events/wdm-scotland-take-one-action-film-festival>

We are also running a series of linked events which are aimed at going beyond the screen - exploring the issues in more depth and giving you the chance to make the change you want to see happen.

For more information about our talks and workshops: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/events/wdm-scotland-autumn-events>

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### **Joking for Justice**

Join WDM for a night of top notch stand up comedy, all in aid of our vital campaigns to win justice for the world's poor.

**Line-up:** Tony Law, Andrew O'Neill, Liam Mullone, Francesca Martinez, Kent Valentine, Hils Barker, Charlie Talbot

**When:** Thursday 7 October, doors open at 7pm, show starts at 7.30pm

**Where:** Dingwalls, Camden, London

Tickets cost £15 (plus booking fee) and are available through See Tickets – <http://tiny.cc/jokingforjustice> or call 0871 220 0260

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### **Free lobby training – Manchester**

- The nuts and bolts of MP lobbying
- How to lobby your MP on food speculation and climate debt
- Asking tricky questions and more!

**When:** Saturday 9 October, 10.30 - 4.30

**Where:** Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester, M14 5JP

Free entry; lunch provided  
To book your place email [Katharine@wdm.org.uk](mailto:Katharine@wdm.org.uk) or call 020 7820 4900

### **'Robin Hood strikes back' at the Edinburgh World Justice Festival**

Join the merry band of Scotland's leading anti-poverty and development NGOs (including WDM) and trades unions for an absorbing afternoon of discussion, activities and thought-provoking talks. Find out how today's rich are still taking from the poor, and how we can all be a little bit more 'Robin'.

**When:** Sunday 17 October, 1.30 – 4.15

**Where:** Augustine United Church, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Free event, we will be providing a light lunch, by donation.

Please book your place by emailing: [office@wdmscotland.org.uk](mailto:office@wdmscotland.org.uk)

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### **The bankers' addiction that's starving the world's poorest people**

Public meeting focussing on our campaign on food speculation

**When:** Tuesday 26 October, 7pm

**Where:** Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1

#### **Speakers:**

Jayati Ghosh, professor of economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Deborah Doane, director, World Development Movement

Another to be announced

Free entry

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### **The Big Climate Connection – Stop Climate Chaos constituency lobby**

Stop climate chaos is running a constituency mass lobby on the 5-6 November. The plan is to get different groups to join together to lobby their MPs on key issues ahead of the international negotiations.

To find out more, including how you can get involved in organising a lobby in your areas, please go to [www.thebigclimateconnection.org](http://www.thebigclimateconnection.org) We'll include more information in next month's issue of *Think Global*.

# Groups

## Support for groups

A reminder about various resources and support we can offer:

**Groups project fund:** we can offer funding to groups on a matched funding basis (eg if your group requests £100 we would ask that you provide £100 from the group bank account). You might find this particularly useful for large one-off costs such as venue hire, or a big mailing.

**Logos for stall:** we have produced square waterproof logos for groups to use on stalls to make your presence as bright and visible as possible! Contact Sarah if you would like to order a set of two.

**Websites:** if you have yet to set up your group website please contact Pontus on [pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk](mailto:pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk) for help. We know that websites really do make a difference to the local profile of groups so do take the time to set one up.

**Skill-share on website:** Please send us tips on successful activities you have organised, so that we can add them to the skill-share section – email Katharine.

**Network email list:** We have now set up an email list [wdmlocalgroups@lists.riseup.net](mailto:wdmlocalgroups@lists.riseup.net). All group contacts are on this list, plus individuals who asked to be added. This list is designed for group members to ask questions and to share positive experiences – please do make the most of it! If you would like to be removed from the list at any time just let Katharine know.

## Talk on food speculation

We are creating a talk on our food campaign which is specifically designed for WDM group members to give to other local groups, such as Fairtrade Town groups or Transition Towns. This talk will include a powerpoint presentation, a

script and copies of the press coverage we have received for the campaign. The talk will be ready by mid October. Please let Sarah know if you are planning on giving a talk in your area and would like a pack.

## Groups' news

**Manchester & Warrington WDM** groups held a joint media stunt outside RBS in central Manchester focussing on tar sand investments; group members represented the UK government (in the guise of George Osborne), the tar sands industry and RBS, spoke to lots of passers-by and handed out leaflets and action cards on cleaning up the banks. The group have written some helpful hints on doing a similar action which are available on our website at <http://www.wdm.org.uk/community-pages/share-skills-effective-campaigning>



**Bexhill & Hastings WDM** celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a garden party and talk from climate campaigner Kirsty, on her experiences in Bolivia. **Oxford WDM** held a stall at the Cowley Road carnival in early July and will be running a fundraising pub quiz at the start of September. **Portsmouth WDM** members were very active in

organising Portsmouth Green Week, in addition to running a stall at the Green Fair and taking part in the discussion panel after a screening of the film *Blue Gold: World Water Wars*.

**St Albans & District WDM** held a stall at the Festival of Life in early July and will be running another at Earthworks in early September. **East Dorset WDM** held a very successful stall at the Tolpuddle festival. **Sheffield WDM** came up with an ingenious plate spinning game to demonstrate the effects of speculators gambling on food prices at their stall in early August.

**Coventry WDM** braved torrential rain and wind to hold a stall at the August Green Fayre and succeeded in talking to lots of people about the food campaign. **Bristol WDM** held a stall at the annual Amnesty garden party; always a well attended event.

## Local networking

As mentioned above, it may be worth contacting local groups such as Fairtrade Towns or Transition Towns to ask if they would be interested in hearing more about our food campaign. Another idea is to find out if there is a farmers market in your area by visiting the site [www.farmersmarkets.net](http://www.farmersmarkets.net). You may be able to hold a stall at the market or potentially distribute campaign materials via a producer or veg box delivery company. As mentioned in the August email update, Green Drinks is a great way of meeting like-minded people in your community and maybe recruiting some new members for your group! Visit [www.greendrinks.org/UK](http://www.greendrinks.org/UK)

## Writing blogs

Do you have your own blog or would you be willing to write for WDM's blog? If yes please do get in touch with Pontus on [pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk](mailto:pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk). We're really keen to get more group members and activists involved in our website in this way.

## Diary dates

10 September	'The Yes Men Fix the World' – film screening, Kettering
28 September	'Climate justice: think global, act local' – public meeting, Bristol
17 September	Tar sands public meeting, Edinburgh
23 Sept – 3 Oct	Take One Action film festival, Edinburgh & Glasgow
7 October	'Joking for Justice' - WDM comedy night, London
9 October	Lobbying training day, Manchester
17 October	'Robin Hood strikes back' – talks & discussion, Edinburgh World Justice Festival
26 October	The bankers' addiction that's starving the world's poorest people – public meeting on food, London
5 – 6 November	The Big Climate Connection – Stop Climate Chaos constituency lobby

# Current materials

## Live materials

### Food

- Stop betting on hunger action card
- Stop betting on hunger poster
- Betting on hunger booklet (8 pages)
- Frequently asked questions
- Glossary of terms
- The Great Hunger Lottery report (36 pages)

### Climate justice

- Climate debt action card
- Send a pound action card
- Climate debt poster
- Climate debt briefing
- Bullying and bribery in Copenhagen report
- The climate debt crisis report

### Banks

- Clean up the banks action card
- Greening the bailed-out banks briefing
- 'A bank for the future' report
- 'Towards a royal bank of sustainability' report
- 'Cashing in on tar sands' report
- Out of time – the case for replacing the World Bank and IMF report

## Materials – no longer live

- Trade pledge card
- Phulbari action card
- No new coal card
- £10 climate debt action card