

“Concern for justice has brought together people of faith to campaign against third world debt for over 10 years – the impact we’ve had on the world has been monumental. When faiths come together they can achieve extraordinary things – just look at every struggle for justice over the last century.

*I hope people of all faiths will be encouraged to join us and **make a real difference.**”*

Nick Dearden, Director JDC

Jubilee Debt Campaign **Successes**

- ✓ \$100 billion of debt cancellation over the last ten years means tens of millions of people are now receiving basic health care and education.
- ✓ Haiti’s debt **CANCELLED** after the earthquake.
- ✓ The UK is the first country to legislate to end the **VULTURE CULTURE** of firms buying up third world debt and suing countries in extreme poverty for extortionate profits.
- ✓ Raising the issue of **CLIMATE DEBT** to help poor countries combat Climate Change.
- ✓ Campaigning to stop **DODGY DEALS** – ensuring that Export Credit Guarantee Department Projects don’t pollute or impoverish developing countries, but benefit their people.



Photo: Joanna Brown/Jubilee Debt Campaign



Nelson Mandela addressing the crowds in Trafalgar Square, 2005.

*“Like slavery and apartheid, **poverty is not natural.** It is man-made, and can be overcome by the **actions of human beings.**”*

Nelson Mandela, 2005

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**JUBILEE DEBT
CAMPAIGN**

Multifaith project



www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/faith
www.jdcmultifaith.org

What is the JDC Multifaith Project?

Faith groups have always been core supporters of Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC). The JDC Multifaith Project was launched in 2009 to strengthen the campaigning work of JDC. It is the first UK campaign where **ALL faith groups are invited to join together to take action for justice on global poverty and share concern for the effect of debt on the poorest countries of the world.**



The challenge

In May 1998 70,000 people formed a human chain in Birmingham to demand that world leaders **drop the debt** of countries in extreme poverty.

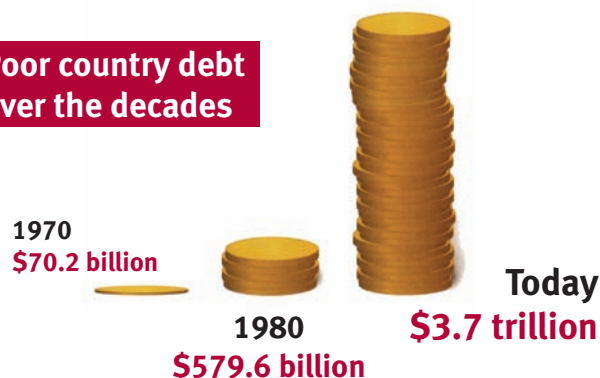
More than ten years later \$100 billion of poor country debt has been cancelled because of Jubilee Debt Campaign and many lives have been transformed. **But the debt crisis is not over.**

Millions of people in the poorest countries are still struggling under a massive debt burden, paying out to rich countries instead of investing in health, education and other essential services.

Creditors have delivered only a fifth of the debt cancellation needed to raise people above the 'ethical poverty line' of \$3 per day.

Much wider debt cancellation is urgently needed to tackle global poverty.

Poor country debt over the decades



Did you know...?

- The total external debt (money owed to foreign companies, banks or governments) of developing countries is now more than **\$3.7 trillion**.
- To allow the poorest countries to fight poverty, JDC calculate that **\$400 billion** worth of debt urgently needs to be cancelled.
- Today, following the financial crisis, more African countries are at risk of 'debt distress' than at the time of the Gleneagles G8 summit in 2005.
- Half the people in Bangladesh live on less than \$1.25 per day yet **Bangladesh spends more each year on the interest on its debt than on health.**
- Pakistan's debt is almost a third of its Gross Domestic Product. JDC is concerned that it is receiving money for flood relief through loans rather than gifts outright.

For every **\$1** developing countries receive from developed countries in aid...



...they return **\$5** in debt service repayments

There is a place for you in the JDC Multifaith Project

In your prayers

In your giving

Through your congregation/mosque/temple/synagogue/gurdwara/church

With young people

In schools, colleges and universities

In approaching your MP, the government and decision makers

Could you:

- Hold a JDC event in your place of worship
- Deepen understanding of global poverty and debt in study and prayer groups
- Help us create special prayers and faith resources
- Contribute to our website and newsletter
- Join us to organise:
 - JDC speaker meetings for the Multifaith Project in Birmingham
 - a JDC youth and student multifaith conference
 - a JDC multifaith women's seminar in Birmingham
- Take action on global poverty and debt: join our campaigns and undertake one JDC fundraising event
- Link with your local JDC group (find it on www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)
- Provide a contact for your place of worship to take action on debt.

Contact JDC for support and resources and to find out more. See over for details.