



Economic Justice Forum Report
2 June 2006

Introduction

The first Economic Justice Forum was held from 11.00–17.00 on Friday 2 June 2006 at the BOND offices in London. There were around 60 participants from MPH licensee organisations.

BOND has committed to running twice-yearly Economic Justice Forums in order to facilitate the continued involvement of the full range of organisations that were part of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** in 2005. The Forums are a space for exploring and debating current issues of economic justice and collective campaigning.

Morning Sessions

There were two sessions in the morning, focused on monitoring the pledges of 2005.

The first was a “speed campaigning” session in which participants were brought up to date on the 2005 demands on aid, debt and trade by the issue-based networks and informed of future plans.

The latest updates on each of the campaigning issues can be found on the websites of each network:

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk

www.tjm.org.uk

www.bond.org.uk/policy/ukan.htm

The second session was a chance to reflect on our learning from 2005, to inform 2006 and 2007, drawing particularly on the Firetail campaign evaluation report of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**.

You can download a copy of the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** Campaign Evaluation Report from the BOND website.

www.bond.org.uk/campaign/mph.htm#evaluation

Afternoon Speeches

The afternoon was focused on the UK as part of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP).

Three speakers spoke and took questions:

- Kumi Naidoo, General Secretary of CIVICUS and Chair of GCAP;
- Sotiris Koukios of HAID Greece, one of the European representatives on GCAP's International Facilitation Team;
- Kel Currah of World Vision International, from the GCAP Month of Mobilisation Taskforce.

Some themes from this session:

- Planning for GCAP began in late 2004 and what emerged in 2005 was not a movement but the beginnings of a movement
- Big increase in global public awareness during the course of 2005, the challenge is to translate this awareness into consciousness
- There's a need to build GCAP's diversity at national platform levels, especially with non-Christian faith groups and unions
- GCAP supported the UK during its big year in 2005, but now the UK needs to support GCAP now that the political focus has shifted to other countries
- In the USA the ONE Campaign is trying to make sure the government keeps its promises on the aid budget, in a very difficult political environment
- Northern Ireland is setting up a GCAP platform and wants to incorporate local poverty issues to its call, like MPH Canada
- Internationalisation of campaigning – e.g. UK campaigners travelling to Germany in 2007

Practical Plans for the Month of Mobilisation

GCAP has called for a worldwide month of mobilisation to be launched on 16 September 2006, coinciding with the World Bank / IMF annual meetings, and building up to a climax on a Global White Band Day on 17 October 2006, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Participants split into groups to consider various questions associated with planning for the month of mobilisation. The questions are marked in italics, and the answers that groups came up with are bulleted.

1. The UK national framework / national activities

Is it feasible to tie in existing events during the month and link them to GCAP's call through the use of the white band symbol or a common strap line?

The Global Economic Justice Networks propose that the kick off date for the month of mobilisation in the UK be 14 September, as Christian Aid are leading a march on HM Treasury. Do people support this, rather than 16 September as recommended by GCAP?

What support is needed for organisations and groups to prepare for the month of mobilisation?

What actions do we want our supporters and wider public to take during the month? How can we promote them in a way that they are visibly linked to a common cause/agenda?

What should happen on Global White Band Day on 17 October?

- Link with international actions
- Link up existing activities through the use of the white band
- Use a line of information to formally link in
- Include lead up events
- Christian Aid event: up to them, but happy for them to connect to month of mobilisation
- Needed:
 - Toolkit/pack
 - Speakers list for month
 - Boundaries of the month of mobilisation – which actions are part of it
 - Active support, money and staff time from NGOs – who's in and commendations
 - UK GCAP representative
 - Facilitation group to make it happen
- 17 October:
 - Visual, high impact, symbolic

- Breakfast in Trafalgar Square in white
 - Mandela?
 - In Edinburgh
 - White band wrapping
 - Reps of all the GCAP coalitions together in one place
 - Human chain – global – here with local flavour
 - Timed silence to link local actions together with global actions
- Tie in existing events with simple statement on the month of mobilisation and use of white band
 - Include the Christian Aid event in the month
 - Develop a good calendar of existing events so activists can link in
 - IMF and World Bank governance and conditionality as starting theme
- Common strap line?
 - “Keep your promise to make poverty history”
 - 14 September start date: definitely *yes*
 - Add DSEI to the calendar
 - Link in World Food Day on Monday 16 October
- White band symbol is good – recognised
 - Perhaps we need a common white band logo
 - A menu of white band strap lines? – let’s not get hung up on this – focus on the *symbol*
 - Test a range of messages
 - Events don’t need to be ‘platform’ events – they can be led by specific organisations
 - www.justoneworldcup.org Launch in August – worldwide awareness of GCAP messages and values
- Sending in bands – who to?
 - Tying in the Christian Aid event on 14 September a good idea
 - Needs organisation and planning
 - Needs a toolkit – at least to know what to expect now
- Tying in existing events to the month of mobilisation is feasible – but it will take a lot of work – can there be coordination from all the different NGOs?
 - Fine to start on 14 September – but both dates require careful coordination
 - What support is needed? Early information sharing and increase on resources
 - Actions for supporters to take during the month – one message, different actions – e.g. “deliver on promises”
 - 17 October: Trafalgar Square – link up with events in South around the world
- Yes to tying in existing events – with white band and strap line – e.g. “acting against global poverty”
 - No strong feelings of 14 September or 16 September as start date – but at launch of mobilisation we need white bands and a focus on GCAP

- Support needed:
 - Clear asks (policy platform)
 - Branded materials
 - Good notice of events / timetable on website as soon as possible – with people continually adding bits
 - Coop Bank might give support
- Action for supporters: easy email/text/card action for maximum reach
- Lots of local events (in every constituency, involving MPs?) especially in the weekend of 14/15 October
- Use branding – white band and slogan
- Hand in of emails/texts/cards and visual stunt – post-it notes as reminders? final demand? someone in chains going to town hall?

2. Local action, inc. campaigning groups & union branches and regions

What support is needed for local campaigning groups and union branches/regions to prepare for the month of mobilisation?

Does it make sense for the weekend of 14/15 October to be a weekend for local action/events, before Global White Band Day on Tuesday 17 October?

Are there any simple, practical things that national organisations could do to support local action in 2006 and 2007?

- What local groups want is clarity about *what* they're being asked to do and *why* they are being asked to do it
- Presumably the reason to have action on weekend of 14/15 October is to remind people that the issues have not gone away, and to show global solidarity
- The weekend of 14/15 October can build up to World Food Day and then the Global White Band Day media stunt
- Can existing local groups be encouraged to re-engage and reach out to union branches/regions? Encourage activists to make contact
- MP action in constituencies (before the party conferences) – not just Labour
- For 17 October – sculpture of white band testimonials from South (refugee groups, written recordings from southern faith groups, events)
- Weekend 14/15 October = mobilisation / group action
- Tuesday 17 October = individual and workplace/school action
- We need:
 - Toolkit, etc.
 - Leaflet on main messages and actions for the month
 - Joint materials
 - Clear plans – *now*
- National organisations need to:

- Not underestimate supporters who want to do coalition actions locally
- Build annual day into long term planning and work together to promote it
- Local campaigning groups need:
 - A sense that it is all part of one movement with
 - white band
 - one-line, e.g. “keep promises – to end poverty”
 - the international dimension
- Are we distributing more white bands or not?
- Note: second week in September is a little crowded, but it’s OK to make it the start of the month of mobilisation
- We need white bands! – advice on where to source/manufacture them
- Celebrity support
- Actions to ‘hand in’
- International coordination
- Knowing what’s going on globally and media support to communicate it to press and public
- We need:
 - Clarity of message
 - One main action
 - Good summary (on website) of what was *achieved* in 2005
 - Good examples of solidarity and southern case studies – of actions, achievements and needs
- Yes to using the weekend of 15/16 October
- National organisations need to support local groups by:
 - sharing examples of good practice
 - not sending too many different messages
- Local groups need:
 - As early warning as possible! – it’s already late
 - More PR resources
- Yes to using the weekend of 15/16 October
- National organisations need to support local groups by:
 - Providing lots of information
 - Access to celebrities / high profile people / good spokespeople to use in media outreach

3. Messaging and the UK public

What is the best way of using the white band in the UK in 2006?

Will people wear white bands? What would these look like?

How should we market GCAP to the UK public?

How should we use the media to promote the month of mobilisation?

- Clarity is needed on messages – there are lots of *events* but no *messages* – what are the asks?
- Continuity – 2005-2006 – different UK groups – globally
- “The Band is Back” – encourage people to wear the band during the month
- User guides on how to use white bands
- A new slogan on the bands?
- How will the UK do press work in the month of mobilisation, particularly 17 October, given lack of capacity?
- White bands
 - Past date? – wrist bands
 - But it is the GCAP theme, so we can’t ignore them
 - Some symbol for the annual moment – white band linked
 - People make their own white band – schools
 - Solidarity bands from other GCAP organisations
 - Lots of different styles – competition
- Marketing GCAP – in the month of mobilisation, a rolling fast around countries
- K.I.S.S. – white bands
- As in 2005 – circling things with white bands, from very small to very large
- National organisations should show their support for GCAP by using the symbol – e.g. on websites
- People will wear white bands – there could be a range of white bands – e.g. fair traded
- GCAP should be marketed as a vehicle for solidarity with the South
- Possible strapline – “GCAP to achieve MDGs” – “GCAP to tackle poverty”

4. Connecting with European Plans

What actions should take place for the month of mobilisation at the level of GCAP Europe?

What should be the focus of the pan-European effort?

What level of communication does there need to be between GCAP Europe representatives and organisations in the UK? e.g. updates through the twice-monthly Global Call e-newsletter and reports posted on the BOND website?

- Start now with messaging to build to 2007
- Alison Marshall to link to GCAP Europe
- UK is a part of GCAP Europe

- Joint petition – 1,000,000 signatures
- Join in with the proposed name and shame action
- Get involved with the European poll action
- Updates through the Global Call newsletters
- Do we have the technical capacity to link up through TV / screens / live footage?
- Shared and *updated* website with resources / broadcasts / podcasts
- Go with the flow (it's a bit late for new ideas)
- Ask coordinating groups what they want

5. Solidarity with the South

What do people in the UK need to know about what is happening across the South to feel informed and connected?

What level of communication does there need to be between southern GCAP platforms and organisations in the UK?

How best can the UK support southern campaigning?

- If we are acting in solidarity with the South, we need information channels to find out what the South is doing
- In the build up to 17 October, the information and stories, positive and adverse, need to circulate around GCAP, e.g. recent story of Ethiopian GCAP staff imprisoned
- Give exposure to southern spokespeople in the North to give flesh and credibility for UK audiences
- How will we get information?
- Joint footage
- Make the media aware of worldwide action
- Celebrity engagement
- Compile worldwide events list, like the one we have now for the UK
- Show the impact of MPH and GCAP in the South
- Make the southern link exciting!
- Thanks to the public – tell people what the southern campaigns have achieved
- Capture what's going on in the South and relay it to our supporters – use internet technology
- Solidarity actions linking specific events in the South and North – e.g. World Food Day
- Avoid the Live8 failure to give public exposure to southern voices, cultures, etc.
- Idea: radio phone-ins from the South

- Identify campaigns that link North and South – e.g. southern EPA campaigns
- Maybe link up with specific countries / organisations in countries
- Reps from countries involved in the month of mobilisation
- See what others are doing
- Communicate the global picture
- Involve southern groups in the UK, and groups led from the South
- Link to international events in the UK
- Link to black history month in the UK
- 2007 – abolition of the slave trade issue – but use carefully – and check what other organisations are doing already
- Use new technology and global messaging
- We must support the GCAP people imprisoned in Addis Ababa
- Some of the white band money should go to southern civil society
- How do we find out what is happening internationally so that we can give it profile in the UK?
- www.whiteband.org
- What would be useful to southern campaigns? What do they want?
- Linking – but how? What's the process?

Wrap Up to the Day

A final session in the afternoon wrapped up the day and looked ahead to what needs doing next...

Recap from the Group Work

Groups summarised the best or most urgent thoughts from the group work:

- Worldwide calendar
- Urgency in the planning program
- Keeping promises
- Feasibility of the global mobilisation
- Broadcasting: do we have a strategy for that?
- Large screens to link different events in different places?
- Media: who is doing the media work?
- Celebrities?

G8 in Russia in July 2006

- Collective G8 Send Off Action is planned for 13 July 2006, before Tony Blair heads off to the G8 Summit in St Petersburg on 15 July
- The idea is that a giant yellow post-it note is affixed to key political buildings (e.g. 10 Downing Street) in every G8 country on the same day to draw attention to development issues at the summit
- People were asked to come forwards to help organise this action – get in touch with Tom Allen (tallen@bond.org.uk) if you want to help.

GCAP Month of Mobilisation

- In terms of the month of mobilisation the gap in what needs organising is very much at the end of the month – i.e. 17 October and the weekend building up to it
- People need to go back to their organisations and networks and say: here's the framework for the mobilisation, what can our organisation add to it?
- People also need to come forwards to make things happen during the month of mobilisation – a list was circulated for people to sign up to – contact Tom Allen (tallen@bond.org.uk) to be added
- In November 2006 at the next Forum, it will be important to assess how the month of mobilisation went, to see if the momentum was successful

Germany 2007

- Germany chairs the EU and the G8 in 2007
- GCAP has proposed a focus of June/July for mobilisation in 2007 – so a different global white band day from 17 October?
- General support at Economic Justice Forum for activity in summer 2007

Economic Justice Forum Evaluation Forms

Timing and date: what worked and what didn't?

- OK – even arrived on time from Manchester by train
- Late for G8 Russia and anniversary of Edinburgh discussion
- Fridays difficult for long distance travellers
- Midweek better than Friday
- Fine
- Timing ok
- All excellent
- No complaints
- Fridays difficult
- Very good, going for a drink after was a great idea!
- Started a bit late even though people had been told to be on time
- Very good
- Fine for me
- Good bit planning for Oct!
- Worked well
- Both timing and date were very good
- Good day good timing
- Good
- Timing – perfect start time for organisations out of London, everything was kept tight all day – very good
- Good for me but train delayed!
- Not enough networking time
- Friday good.
- Speed campaigning great
- Perfect timing. Travel on trains on Friday slightly more expensive but not a big issue
- All good, very well structured
- Timing difficult / impossible to get here for 10.30-11
- Friday difficult for cheap train tickets
- A late start is good for me, travelling from Nottingham by rail, as it costs £50ish less to catch the 9.59 train rather than any earlier train
- Fine and very nice place
- Mostly fine. A slightly later start might let those of us out in the sticks get a cheaper fare – but I can't see people being too keen on staying till 6.

What changes would you make to the structure and timing of the event?

- Overall – well-organised and excellent pre-briefing
- Two meetings in one room is not ideal
- Need more time for afternoon break out session to brainstorm and plan
- Too many questions in afternoon workshop
- More time with GCAP panel, good productive discussion
- Good structure

- Rearrange the starting time from 11am to 9.30 am so that we have more time
- None
- More food at lunch time
- Very good but on the month of mobilisation time too short. Needed an assigned facilitator to do time-keeping + coordinate discussion or one question per group
- None, good mix of small groups and bigger sessions
- Good pace, got lots covered, productive!
- I missed the morning but afternoon very fruitful. Final session a bit too unstructured, needed more warning for opportunities to volunteer
- The session on global, European and GCAP seemed long. A long time to sit still and listen. A break would have been good.
- 1 hr lunch
- good to have updates but move the presenters not the groups!
- It's good to provide a space for local groups and national organisations to come together but makes for odd planning dynamics ... if local groups are to be invited, needs to go beyond the groups of networks.
- Not sure how useful the first breakout was
- Thought it worked very very well
- Forward planning rather than reflection
- Start at 12 noon – not on Fridays!
- Structure was good
- Although I like casual informality, I could have done with a bit more instruction for the morning session. I went to the right session but after it finished I just drifted into ...
- The structure gave us a chance to hear a lot of people's view. Very well organised
- Could we generate a little less paper?
- For the afternoon break out session when we had all the groups looking at all the questions maybe we could have had each group concentrating on one question for 10 mins, to make sure nothing gets left off by everyone

Content: what was valuable?

- Updates from networks were very valuable
- GCAP overview very valuable
- Couldn't stay for afternoon session
- Interesting to see if people wanted more Q&A time
- Morning session not very helpful
- Best session was international representation and presentation
- Calendar is fantastic!
- Update on trade and debt
- Consideration given to hold national plans link to local
- Discussion agendas were great! Group exercise was a very good approach
- Getting a global perspective of the fight against poverty
- Good mixture of plenary, being addressed and opportunities for discussion

- Just right. Any possibility of summary of aid, debt, trade workshop?
- Input from GCAP and BOND facilitation.
- Questions were very structured which meant the day was very focused but should have had yes or no questions rather than discussion points
- GCAP update
- Aid, debt, trade update – aware of most of this already
- Speed coverage of issues nice idea
- Kumi excellent
- GCAP speakers from South Africa + Greece very useful
- Is there a UK GCAP? Id not what is the UK umbrella for those outside the UK?
- Exchange of information
- Panel discussion, great to hear about GCAP work internationally. Also liked the group system and feedback from each coalition network in smaller groups
- GCAP speakers + coalition presentations, doing this in round robin worked well. Kumi is a fantastic motivational speaker
- Good, lots of inspiration
- Opportunity to catch up with others
- Good session with international speakers + afternoon session very good
- Good structured work group. All good especially GCAP speakers
- International input. Combination of discussion group and plenary
- Lots of ideas and it was good that we had been sent the GCAP info in advance
- Perspective from those directly involved and those at the periphery
- Great to hear from those directly involved in GCAP outside the UK
- Love the idea of 'The band is back'

Content: was anything missing?

- Clear message – brand – demand
- Shouldn't we be looking forwards to Germany 2007? If we wait till November it will be too late
- Climate and how it relates to debt, trade, aid and HIV. This is very important
- Too England centred – more regional reps
- Could have done with a clearer pack (set of results) of the progress of debt, aid, trade. Felt that these presentation were of mixed standard
- In plenary speakers should stand to be seen by everybody
- 3 pm session – too rushed, groups were so diverse that it was difficult to cover anything properly in the time allowed. Each group having a designated facilitator would help
- there was no explanation of the month of mobilisation, it was assumed we knew what it was, and I didn't: felt lost!
- Too much to be discussed in one day
- Too much to fit into one day. Would have been good to have more discussion but just too much for the time allocated.
- Nothing, stands out, all good. Can't think of anything missing

- We spent a lot of time discussing the Sep/Oct events without being told the significance of the timing

Date of the next Forum?

Two different dates were proposed (Friday 3 November and Monday 6 November) and although it was close more people voted for **Monday 6 November (11am to 5pm)**. Please put the date in your diary.

Suggestion on timing

Most people thought the timing on 2 June was fine and suggested we do the same at the next meeting (Monday 6 November 11am to 5pm).

Theme of the next Forum, including political speakers

- An analysis of the priorities from the South would be brilliant
- MDGs – how do we bring them back as a “commitment” (plus UN assessment of progress)
- Mandelson – or EU Commissioner on trade – or Minister for Europe (on trade failure – no point in asking FCO or DFID)
- German ambassador
- Germany G8 2007 – invite speaker/organiser from German civil society coalition
- Still like to suggest asking a small cross party group of MPs to interact – even issuing and open invite to MPs. I think we are missing the chance of developing influential allies. It’s a change from assuming we always need to put politicians on the spot! (which we need of course)
- Real planning for next year around Germany and later session to let people debate details
- Gordon Brown
- Someone from BMZ
- How ‘growth’ is not working for the poor – New Economic Foundation. And the need for a new ‘global financial architecture’ which takes on board that environment is the structure within which this new global economic structure should be determined
- Organisations should be more ‘demanding’ of non-elected, unaccountable bodies (WB, IMF, G8)
- Gordon Brown
- Disability needs to be included as a specific campaign. Debt and disability
- Hilary Benn and all the other politicians you tried to get for today
- Bring poverty campaigning in as one big name, like GCAP?
- Hilary Benn and Secretary for trade
- Set all fine ... from poverty, debt, HIV-Aids etc
- Margaret Becket – MDGs
- Need more coordination between meetings and information ...
- Gender and poverty
- Women’s rights
- Plans for 2007

- Hilary Benn, Peter Mandelson, Margaret Becket
- New media
- Helping local groups
- Gordon Brown
- Planning for 2007
- Experiences of southern campaigning + how north has helped
- Middle/long term planning for 2007
- A random thing ... I'd like to see dialogue between TJM / CORE and a group called Accountability who work with business for CSR, but back the volunteer approach
- Comparison between amount of money spent in arms and amount spent in aid
- Highlight poverty of women who make up 70% of world poor and lack of representation in decision making – financial / trade
- July 07, next steps, planning ahead
- Access to useful (+ simple) briefing documents
- A voice from the corporate world to hold accountable for corporate responsibility
- Look forward to 2007 – realign if necessary
- Margaret Becket would be very good
- A voice from big business?
- Learning from past 6 months
- Focus on trade + what is happening – core learnings from MPH that need to be addressed beyond just the TJM
- Focus on German G8 planning
- Input from GCAP
- Trade minister?
- Strengthening links with South
- George Bush, Bono, Bob
- Planning for next year, can't start too early
- Solidarity with the South – more southern speakers
- Training speakers / advocates from community groups – links to domestic issues
- Peter Mandelson. But better to focus on group discussion, peer learning etc than listen to political speakers – especially if we only have to forums a year
- Politicians better in organised event in Sep/Oct, question time etc?
- Planning further ahead, particularly in terms of issues. Open structure for discussing these issues
- Opposition spokespeople (at least to show engagement and one day they might be in government (though let's hope not!))
- Maybe media, producers, editors
- Building on success – positive action – achievable plans
- PR, editing, psychology, fundraising, world development, human rights
- Bush, Blair, Brown
- Key agency people, explaining how they are interacting with the larger campaign

- Some time – not the whole day – to debate in small groups the priorities for campaigning over the next 10-20 years. What do we want to achieve? What changes in the world will ... with development issues etc. I feel very much that we should look at these sort of issues rather than practicalities of campaigning.
- Peter Mandelson
- Official from WTO
- It's got to examine what happened in the month of mobilisation, hasn't it?
- Anyone with power in these areas I guess. How about someone from the Development or Trade directorate. General in the Commission / chair or leading member of British or European Parliamentary Committees on those matters
- Also please email around the names of people who ended up in coordinating Committees
- How do new organisations join?

Global call newsletter

- Keep a feedback mechanism for regional activities
- What is it? Not seen it – get JDC and WDM newsletter but not mentioned
- Have only seen one edition (March). For a first edition definitely on the right lines.
- Suggestions/feedback from GCAP Europe / update form event calendar etc. – 'key actions this moth' – one of the major issues we've had in the past is learning about events a week or two in advance, making it difficult to do anything. If a timetable of these sort of campaigns could be included to help us gear up if we are interested, that would be great.