

Economic Justice Forum

11.00–16.00, Friday 30th March 2007



This Forum was hosted by BOND,
in association with Jubilee Debt Campaign,
Stop AIDS Campaign, Trade Justice
Movement, TUC and the UK Aid Network.

Economic Justice Forum

11am–4pm, Friday 30th March
BOND, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL

10.30 Coffee/tea

11.00 What can poverty campaigners learn from the struggle against slavery? (Aidan McQuade, Director, Anti-Slavery International)

11.30 2nd June: The World Can't Wait! Your Voice Against Poverty (Claire Seaward, Oxfam)

12.20 19th April: Trade Justice Action (Anne Callaghan, TJM)

13.00 Lunch (provided)

13.45 Speed campaigning session: key concerns and priorities on the aid, debt and AIDS campaigns

14.30 How do we campaign on economic justice in the context of climate change? (Angelique Orr, Practical Action; Benedict Southworth, WDM)

15.00 Tea/coffee break

15.15 17th October and International Week of Action on Debt (Ben Margolis, Oxfam; Trisha Rogers, Jubilee Debt Campaign)

15.30 Discussion: 17th October and Week of Action on Debt

15.50 Wrap Up

16.00 End

Brief Write Up

In the morning, Aidan McQuade, Anti-Slavery International, gave an engaging talk on slavery and the anti-slavery struggle.

A few points that he made:

- Slavery occurs at the intersection of poverty and discrimination, e.g. within many poor communities in India. There is a tendency for poor communities to enslave, making it a troubling issue for development.
- 12 to 27 million people live in slavery, according to ILO figures.
- During anti-slavery struggle, moderate change like the legal abolition of the transatlantic slave trade did not in itself lead to the abolition of slavery, but it changed public opinion, paving the way for more radical change, mostly led by slaves themselves.
- The founders of the anti-slavery movement took on a system that was fundamental to the working of the economies of the North – this audacity of ambition is what campaigners often lack now.
- Anti-slavery struggle illustrates the general need to keep up the pressure – once you remove one blockage in the system, that blockage then reappears somewhere else.

There were also presentations on The World Can't Wait (www.yourvoiceagainstopoverty.org.uk) and the 19th April TJM action (www.tjm.org.uk/event2007.shtml) and updates from the economic justice campaigning networks.

In the afternoon, there was a session discussing climate change and its implications for economic justice campaigning.

Some bullet points from that session:

- “Climate change threatens to make poverty permanent” – Bangladeshi colleague.
- “We betray everything we’ve tried to do on debt, trade and aid unless we also act on climate change” – David Golding, Make Poverty History North East.
- As campaigners we need to balance the need to invoke optimism and hope against the awful magnitude of the threat. The threat is negative, but the action you can take is positive.
- Carbon emissions audits can throw up surprising results – Christian Aid’s recent CO2 audit showed that their publications produced more emissions than their flights.

There was also some discussion about 17th October, the GCAP day of mobilisation for 2007, which is also part of an international week of action on debt.

A few points from this session:

- 17th October is a working week day – build on this and make it work.

- Talking about the mid-point of the MDGs actually makes more sense in the autumn, rather than 7th July as has often been suggested, as the original Millennium Conference was in the autumn of 2000.
- Information needs for local activists: succinct summaries for handing out at campaigning events on what has happened and what needs to happen, in terms of policy change.
- “Make Poverty History was not our one and only chance – it is an ongoing permanent project, and we want you to be involved each and every year!”

Evaluation Forms

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

Timing was brilliantly managed- sad that it was so short with such a great want to discuss issues further

Good

Friday is the most expensive day on which I can travel, at 11.30- ish is as early as I can arrive on a (relative) cheap ticket. Very sorry to have missed Richard

Fridays are difficult are difficult for regional campaigners (expensive) and an 11.00 clock starts makes it impossible for NE England, without overnight stay.

All fine

30/03/07 10 - 4, but sorry I missed the 10 –12. Everything felt rather rushed but plenty to follow-up on later

List of attendee would be useful to have on arrival in the pack. Names of organisations rather small: difficult to read- could have bigger letters.

All excellent and well before the summers events so it gives us time to share info with others.

Good

Ideal for me

I had no problem with the time or date

Fine

Really useful to find out more about campaigns actions

Ok I planning but started late. Better time keeping needed.

Great. Slightly late start helpful. All day event good as gives a chance to focus and network.

Fine. More time in each room in speed campaigning session.

Programme basically good. But sessions could have been longer. A high profile speaker- or perhaps better publicity, to attract new organisations – could have brought more people. Very good ideas to sit cabaret style with the number we had.

Date ok and no difficult with timing. The speed campaigning session felt to overloaded with info and are v. difficult to digest

Changes to structure and timing?

More time. Easier said than done.

Good. It was strange coming straight after swanwrck this year- different values.

I think I am out of the loop since changing my Email. The date of this forum was in my diary but not flagged up by anyone I received emails from. Please add me to all your list! arylyn raynerbrownmoss.wanadoo.co.uk

Structure is fine. Timing, not as low?

None. Important that start time is 11.00 so those coming from outside London can attend.

Perhaps longer tea breaks, which people can use for discussion there isn't time for? I'd be comfortable staying on until 5pm if it worked for others.

Very good day. No changes.

None

I found the whole day to be useful

None

Session on "what we can learn from the struggle against slavery" didn't address that question.

None

All. No

Longer- 30 minutes each- for speed campaigning sessions. 45mins for other sessions to give more time for questions and discussions. Getting tables to "buzz" worked well.

No change to timing. The gathering around the table was better than sitting in rows. Structure ok.

Content: what was valuable, what was missing?

Learning about future campaigns and how to prepare for them.

Details of campaigns and forward thinking- always interesting.

Good to include more rather than less. Very good to include climate change with mpn, a lot of people responded to being told what to do. With so many key dates on offer directions are lacking.

We had an item on trade campaigning, but not a update, in contrast to the aids/ debt/ aids areas

All great – loads and loads to cover but that's an inevitably. I think

It was all valuable to me! Speakers were good and other leaflet and titbits were also useful to take away for later follow up.

Lovely biscuits

I like the fact that we were given information rather than doing loads of workshops. I found all the talks we had including the one on slavery really useful. Nothing missing.

V.good exchange of info. Very informative and useful

Speed campaigning very useful. Session on climate change – great.

I thought all the talks were valuable. I would of loved to have workshop style sessions, where you can choose where to find out more about a particular topic (to spend more time in a campaign / topic of interest.

All good. More time for discussion

All info useful

Very useful briefing on campaigns and forthcoming events.

Incredible valuable. All presentation very good and well presented. Speed campaigning slot a great idea.

High profile speaker – missing. Also was valuable, not rushed.

Information sharing and interactive presentation helpful. Brainstorming helpful on table and could be developed

Suggestions for content of next forum

More talk on climate change, enjoyed that although never fully understood the link between trade and cc, unless it is a simple injustice link. Liked the idea of brainstorming ideas for future campaigns – maybe a little more on cucell group working to brain storm there ideas

Making wealth history- living more simple. Redefine wealth/ -water, community- not money. Redefine developed/ the light of over consumption. Why do we use financial? To evaluate life standards.

Reinforce all that has already been said and done. Demonstrate how? Conflict contributes to poverty and climate change.

Allow networks their discretion

(Perhaps predictably) would appreciate more space to explore climate change and related issues. Speed campaigning could possibly be more interactive? Felt quite "info download".

More or joining up issues like climate change with other issues today.

I think building on the anti-slavery speaker, an opening session on lessons to learn from other campaigns. E.g. lesson from the campaign against apartheid.

Something about ways of getting our message across in visual ways etc. I think we need to move away from just getting a lot of people together. Drama? People (complaining)? (Illegible) of the steaks (as life a dollar a day) Topics: has we work with campaigners from the south climate change/ development. Thanks a lot.

Future coalitions?

Further explanation of what organisations are doing internally (i.e. Christian aid audits) re. Climate issues would be very helpful.

Perhaps more on climate as it affect other issues.

Travel expenses for non-work time attendee. Fair-trade sugar. (Not sure about the teas and coffee was it?)

Agriculture, food and hunger

Assuming its before 17th October, briefing on actions then.

Could the presentation be emailed or put online after the event? Could we have fair-trade teas and coffee and not plastic cups!

Quite apart from discussion about ways to raise awareness and generate number/ pressure via events could there be more scope to explore tipping points, pressure points within the issues which could effect change- there are log that will make sure the whole lot shifts

New secretary for international development to speak.

It seems odd to have people from Scotland and Newcastle travelling to London for the forum. Would it be possible to have alternate forums in the midlands or further north? The next forum most review the June /October events and is there place for? Presentation from the big music events e.g.?? Convert people. We do need to working collaboratively with them.