

Economic Justice Forum

10.30–17.00, Monday 6 November 2006



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

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Agenda

- 10.30 Refreshments
- 11.00 Introduction (Richard Bennett, General Secretary, BOND)
- 11.15 Speed campaigning session: key concerns and priorities
- A question and answer session to get up to speed on trade justice, debt, aid and HIV/AIDS
- 12.20 Monitoring and celebrating the Global Month of Action (Tom Allen, BOND)
- 13.00 Lunch (provided)
- Afternoon: Campaigning Priorities for the Future**
- 13.45 Campaigning priorities to 2010 and beyond: breakout session (Glen Tarman, TJM)
- 14.20 Economic Justice Campaigning in 2007, with
- Uchenna Ekwe, Nigeria Labour Congress
 - Jeff Powell, Bretton Woods Project
 - Nerea Craviotto, WIDE and GCAP Europe
 - Ulrich Schlenker, VENRO, Germany
- 15.15 In depth discussion: campaigning in 2007 (Alison Marshall, BOND)
- Structures for effective UK joint campaigning in 2007
 - Planning for public mobilisation on 2 June 2007
 - Action on the German presidency of the EU and G8
 - Local groups and local action in 2007
- 16.30 Tea/coffee break
- 16.40 Plenary (Alison Marshall, BOND)
- 17.00 End

Introduction

The second Economic Justice Forum was held from 11.00–17.00 on Monday 6 November 2006 at the BOND offices in London. There were around 50 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.

Speed campaigning session

The first session was “speed campaigning” with participants being brought up to date on the plans and issues of the networks. You can also visit the websites of each network:

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk

www.tjm.org.uk

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

Monitoring and celebrating the Global Month of Action

The second session was on monitoring and celebrating the Global Month of Action. People were asked to read the draft Global Month of Action Evaluation for the UK, and then points were taken from the floor about the Global Month of Action:

- Lack of focus for some local groups, compared to 2005
- Preference for political actions rather than standing up from many local groups
- Message not clear – why were we standing up?
- Awareness raising is good, but need more action
- Linking up with the South is positive and necessary
- Toolkit very helpful
- Could have done with more notice generally, particularly for trade unions
- Needed substantial political message behind the Stand Up action
- Great for churches

The Global Month of Action Evaluation Report for the UK has been modified in the light of these comments.

For the full Month of Action Evaluation Report see:

www.bond.org.uk/pubs/campaign/GMOAevaluation.doc (63 KB)

Campaigning priorities to 2010 and beyond

The afternoon was focused on planning for 2007. The first session was a half an hour discussion looking at possible scenarios for economic justice campaigning in 2020, and achievable victories for the movement by 2010.

The rationale for this session is that we need to think more about our collective long term visions for economic justice campaigning, going beyond the usual short and medium-term planning.

Long-term visions are largely absent in our sector beyond vague statements about a better world. And yet many campaigners know that on key issues, such as establishing just rules and processes for mediating debt disputes, for international trade, for international corporate regulation and for ensuring adequate funding for development, we are at the beginning of a long-term endeavour.

Discussion was based around a visioning paper, and a number of simple questions.

Visioning paper:

www.bond.org.uk/pubs/campaign/2020visioning.doc (59 KB)

Question form:

www.bond.org.uk/pubs/campaign/visioning_form.doc (23 KB)

Group 1 (Glen, Karl, Helen W)

What possible scenarios do you see providing the context for campaigning on economic justice in 2020?

- Climate change – risk of rich world turning inwards
- One superpower globally – but increasingly challenged by China. Is there a connection to resources and conflict?
- Links between conflict, resources and local (not global) environment
- Rise of non-European powers with their own trading partners, resource needs, etc.
- Need to link up with Asian social movements
- Was 2005 a high watermark on global campaigning?
- How do we engage with the “citizenship” curriculum generation?
 - meet them where they are?
 - do what they want to do?
 - empower them to take their own actions?

What do you think is achievable in the UK and globally as breakthroughs for economic justice and the anti-poverty movement by 2010?

2008

- UN International Year of Sanitation
- MDGs – including gender and children’s voices
- Trade – best outcomes on WTO; EPAs best outcomes; right to redress – have to have won by 2010; have to “win the political argument”

2010

- Universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment
- On track for 0.7% – 0.51%
- Halfway to target on UK child poverty
- Free healthcare in small nucleus of African countries
- Political uncertainty post UK election, so all current commitments need to be verified

Is it useful to have this longer view as part of building our collective discussions?

- Technological advances to provide solutions, and also new problems
- Don’t forget the bread and butter issues – water, toilets, education, health, etc.

Group 2 (Trisha)

What possible scenarios do you see providing the context for campaigning on economic justice in 2020?

- War on Terror and its
 - erosion of campaigning space
 - increase in surveillance
 - increase in xenophobia
 - but opportunity to see economic injustice as an instigator of disaffection and terrorism
- Ethically structured trade
- Lack of sense of community and community responsibility in the UK – “I am the centre of the universe” mentality – but not so true in the rest of the EU and wider world
- The way the EU develops – if democratic deficit shrinks this will present more opportunities
- Expansion of the EU (and Fortress Europe)
- Evolution of human rights and development policies in EU
- Rise of China and India and other emerging markets and change in psyche of EU and US

What do you think is achievable in the UK and globally as breakthroughs for economic justice and the anti-poverty movement by 2010?

- Less acceptance of double standards; more people seeing ourselves as One World
- More travel leading to more international understanding
- Need to find a paradigm accommodating environmental as well as development needs
- Meeting 2010 Kyoto targets
- Reasonable progress to MDGs, but inequalities are huge
- Structures for responsible lending – acknowledgement of illegitimate debt
- EPAs to have a development focus
- More debt cancellation
- Universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment (only if TRIPS reformed)

Is it useful to have this longer view as part of building our collective discussions?

- Yes – very useful
- All organisations need to have long term strategies and share these (at headline level) with campaigners – it is frustrating for campaigners not to see the long-term plan
- Organisations also need to be flexible/opportunistic
- Easy to be pessimistic – important to share the good news and celebrate success
- Need more time to do it properly – and need people from wider sectors (business, academics, etc)

Group 3 (Polly)

What possible scenarios do you see providing the context for campaigning on economic justice in 2020?

- Increased strength of southern campaigners
- Southern campaigners direct voice to the media – does this cut out northern campaigners?
- Impact of ethical consumer growth
- Generation Y – new campaign tactics/environment?
- Migration – impact on aid
- Climate change – impact on economic justice / sustainability
- Impact of terrorism: focus on security, not economic justice
- Rise of middle income countries, power situated away from G8, so different campaigning methods
- Rise of regionalism
- Ideological/political shifts: US government, UK election, Latin America, African elections, etc.
- Difficulties for cohesive campaigning – how do we agree between multiple voices? – who has legitimate voice to represent?

What do you think is achievable in the UK and globally as breakthroughs for economic justice and the anti-poverty movement by 2010?

- Building on MPH interest – adding *depth*
- Politicising big (HIV/AIDS) funders
- Aid money going via governments
- Preparation for 2020
- Debt – more action, like Norway declaring debt illegitimate
- Trade – hold current position, stop multilateral situation unravelling
- Improving access to basic services part of campaigning
- HIV/AIDS – better access to (generic) medicine linked to aid going through governments, building infrastructure

Group 4 (Alison)

What possible scenarios do you see providing the context for campaigning on economic justice in 2020?

- Environment – more laws; individual carbon allowances; more regulation of corporates (positive)
- Coming out of a period of Conservative rule (negative)
- More campaigning on global governance
- Nation states in demise – more local/global boundaries
- India, China and Brazil stronger; US weaker
- Mass migration and identities
- Increase in faith/spiritual identity
- Increase in cost of transport – trade will look different – increase in localism – increasing use of electronic communications

What can we influence most?

- Who owns our climate re justice? individuals not corporations
- Issues with global governance of institutions
- Brazil Russia India China (BRIC) solidarity with LDCs – or divide and rule?
- Natural resource extraction – terms of relationship?
- Accountability and democracy of global institutions and new ones

- Engage and influence Conservatives
- Democracy under threat: Singapore approach

What do you think is achievable in the UK and globally as breakthroughs for economic justice and the anti-poverty movement by 2010?

- Strengthened articulate global civil society
- Change in IMF voting rights – progress towards security council change
- ILO / global union federation strengthened call – core labour standards in WTO (WTO may not exist) – increased sign up to labour rights and core labour standards
- Present what we want for our multilateral trading system
- Kyoto II – 2008 – breakthrough on *implementation*

Economic Justice Campaigning in 2007

In the second session, four speakers spoke and took questions:

- Uchenna Ekwe, Nigeria Labour Congress
- Jeff Powell, Bretton Woods Project (jpowell@brettonwoodsproject.org)
- Nerea Craviotto, WIDE and GCAP Europe (nerea@wide-network.org)
- Ulrich Schlenker, VENRO, Germany (u.schlenker@venro.org)

Some themes from this session:

- As we approach the mid-point of the MDGs next year, the conditions being imposed on African countries by the World Bank and IMF are undermining any progress, particularly privatisation
- Issue of governance is key to achieving the MDGs – including global governance of institutions like the World Bank and IMF
- IMF and World Bank are as weak as they have ever been in three or four decades – financially weak and weak in terms of legitimacy as they are boycotted by the big Asian and Latin American borrower governments, and suffering an intellectual crisis
- Next 18 months sees a strategic review of the IMF, with some space to bring issues to the table
- Next 3 years sees the World Bank renegotiating its funding from northern governments, key meeting in February, a chance to push for further reform of the Bank
- July 2007 is tenth anniversary of Asian financial crisis – southern-led campaign to “sink or shrink” the IMF
- “Gender and poverty toolkit” planned from GCAP in 2007
- The German G8 agenda will include Africa and the world economy
- The German campaign is Deine Stimme Gegen Armut (Your Voice Against Poverty) and will include creative ways for supporters in other countries to lend their voice to German efforts next year – see www.g8-germany.info

You can download a copy of Ulrich Schlenker’s presentation here:

www.bond.org.uk/emailings/campaign/DSGAPresentation.ppt (6.23 MB)

In depth discussion: campaigning in 2007

This session was introduced by Alison Marshall, BOND.

You can download a copy of her presentation here:

www.bond.org.uk/emailings/campaign/2007framework.ppt (49 KB)

A proposal for a top-level mobilisation slogan was also presented, the ‘When?’ idea, and discussion on this was incorporated into the following sessions. Since then there has been further discussion on the top-level mobilisation message, which will now be based around “Your Voice Against Poverty”, like the German campaign for 2007.

People split into four groups, each looking at a different aspect of planning for 2007:

- Structures for effective UK joint campaigning in 2007
- Planning for public mobilisation on 2 June 2007
- Supporting/going to Germany in 2007
- Local groups and local action in 2007

Structures for effective UK joint campaigning in 2007

A paper outlining a proposed framework for campaigning in summer 2007 was circulated in this session:

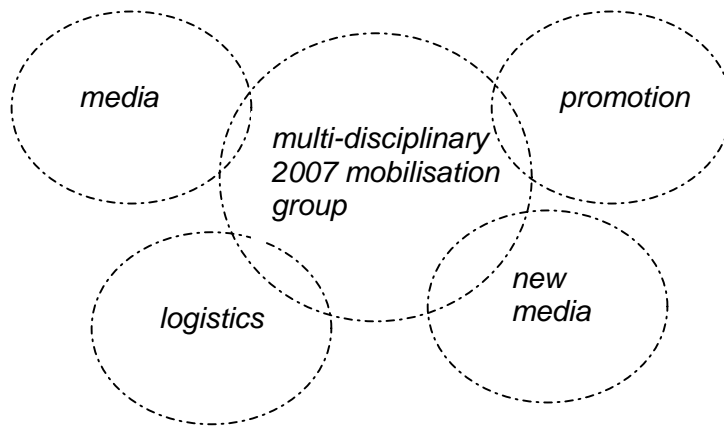
www.bond.org.uk/emailings/campaign/24oct_campaignframework.doc (59 KB)

Principles

- Make what we’ve already got work better, make it manageable
- Clearer decision-making
- Clear communications
- Clear how to get involved, with limited number of groups each with a clear remit/aim/delivery

General points

- New media group can support, it needs to be tied into decision-making and formal reporting structures though
 - Our capacity to deliver is limited – e.g. logistical scoping; media coordination; new media; common basic assets early on, e.g. toolkits
 - How can we enable organisations to consult / get involved?
 - 2nd June event – Team 1; 7th July planning – Team 2
 - What happens after summer 2007? (lesson from 2005)
 - Be realistic about capacity
 - Conversation with GCAP re 7th July, rather than necessarily the UK running a big event, etc.
 - 27th June is Glastonbury – opportunity
 - Need clarity for policy/government targets
 - Need a calendar of “by when” dates and deadlines circulated
 - Learning from autumn 2006: the way a new initiative can come in late and wobble us and make life difficult – e.g. Stand Up! Be alert to managing this.
-
- Network working groups and their relation to working groups depicted
 - Agree terms of references for mobilisation group soon!
 - Early hiring of “central” coordination staff
 - Send in comments on “When?” and other mobilisation ideas
 - Networks can help with demand headlines



Planning for public mobilisation on 2 June 2007

Aim

- Show UK government what is needed
- Keep the promises + do more
- Solidarity with Germany

Target

- UK government and PM

2nd June

- *Not* in Edinburgh!
- One city – otherwise, huge cost – mobilise in one place
- What is the aim? – impact at that point
- Educational events alongside
- Regional and local needs to link to political message and central
- Needs to gain publicity
- Build something – what? Deliver to Germany. White band?
- Mass lobby in their constituency
- “Did you make poverty history?”
- “Making poverty history”
- Concern on campaign messages / clarity on target
- Built up events around the UK needed, towards central send-off on 2nd June
- Gathering of voices / linking up with voices

When?

- “Did you make poverty history?”
- Like a plea, instead of campaign
- With no second line, what does it mean?
- “Poverty still isn’t history”
- Keep your promises is getting out of date
- Concept of “When?” is good – could do something impactful

- Maybe not the right word – we like the concept of a question, but *not* when?
- Regions – less London-centric – engage others
- How to get media coverage
- Send off plan
- Twinned towns with Germany [through LGIB?]
- Ensure international media
- Regional warm ups – link with essential key MPs – signatures
- “If I were PM and going to G8 I would...”
- Build Up – collecting voices – petition
- Link to international – messages/video – advocasts

Supporting / going to Germany in 2007

UK visits to Germany?

- Some concerns from Germany – will the UK push their agenda?
- *But*, working together is important (in preparation process) and visits are very welcome
- Focus perhaps on one person? GCAP? – I don’t understand this
- Germans to set the tone
- Contingent from UK likely to be small: what and where? E. g. Rally in Rostock on 2nd June, cultural event on 7th

Kirchentag (protestant meeting 6th to 10th June in Cologne)

- High profile – many churches – up to 100,000 participants
- important event for protestant spectrum
- focus on justice and poverty
- opportunity to highlight link: 1999 G8/Kirchentag in Cologne = Start of HIPC to 2006 again Cologne (Kirchentag)/ G8 in Germany

Events around G8 in Heiligendamm

- Big rally in Rostock on 2nd June Rally – large before G8 on 2nd, smaller during G8 on 7th, 2nd June probably more important as it is before start of G8
- Alternative summit at Rostock (5th-7th June, tbc)
- “P8” cultural event near Heiligendamm on 7th June
- 9th June – Palestine Day (possible priority issue in UK)

Other

- Petition (Deine Stimme)
 - Longest Click Ad (online)
 - White bands
 - People’s advert (newspaper)
 - GCAP globally – what are they planning?
 - Partners in the South – involvement?
 - Use of media
- } Inclusivity and access an issue here

Local groups and local action in 2007

Would many individuals want to go to Germany?

Probably not – how much did German movement want external support? Problem about travelling to Germany to protest for action on climate change. Will event in Germany appear small after Edinburgh/Gleneagles?

2nd June – clarity over primary aim – politicians, public, media – as this affected view of what was appropriate.

Include reporting back from South – what has been done, what needs to be done
How about large linked events in several cities? Global/local teleconferencing (this links to the 'call' idea)

General feel of a month of action offering local activity before national activity.

Month of action or one day?

Real division of opinion here – some like the menu of a month of action; others put off because they think they are being asked to act for a month.

Focus on a day emphasises global dimension.

There's a communication challenge – how do people find out about it? Can big agencies agree on one action? Energy is dissipated because of lack of cohesion.

Concluding Remarks

A number of points were aired in the final plenary session:

- In terms of planning for summer 2007, terms of reference and structures need to be in place as soon as possible
- Overall, the Forum gave 'When?' a mixed positive reception – it needs exploring/developing further, along with other ideas
- Behind the top line slogan, the mix of key issues needs discussing/refining – have we got the right mix?
- How exactly are we going to talk about "poverty and climate"
- Transport for events in summer 2007 – planning needs to start now, and transport needs to be *green*
- Reporting back after everything is important, especially from southern voices

Evaluation Forms

Timing and date: What worked and what didn't

- Could have been 10am to 4pm
- Would have liked longer discussion on 2020
- Could have started at 10.30am
- Speed campaigning worked well
- Good, would have been helpful to have long term paper earlier
- Not enough time to ask questions in the speed campaigning
- Good to have straight after Climate Chaos
- Fine, apart from being after the weekend of "I Count" demo
- Good

- Date fine, slightly earlier start and earlier finish would be better
- Clear agenda, couldn't make all day so useful to see when bits most relevant to me were on
- Good
- Fine
- Speed campaigning – provided good opportunity to focus quickly on key issues
- Timing good, pleased with the late start due to travel concerns – length of event also good
- Fine – very useful well organised day
- Venue, timing and date suited me – for the provincials like me the map was a great help
- The mix of presentations – group work – reflection – report back went well. The timing kept discussions tight.

What changes, if any, would you make to the structure/timing of the event

- Afternoon tea break earlier!
- Longer for looking ahead and brainstorming
- More time for discussion on long term would have been helpful
- More time for networking
- Earlier to allow more time for speed campaigning
- Speed campaigning – move the presenters rather than the groups
- 2020 vision – not long enough
- Structure very good – session of about right length – keep interest and attention going
- None, seemed to run smoothly
- Speed campaigning – in fact we had very little time for questions or discussion so maybe we didn't really need to be in small groups – I thought the actual updates on the four topics were very useful and the literature provided was good

Content: What was valuable? Was anything missing?

- Lack of climate change input in the morning but understand that was unavoidable
- Wonderful to hear from Uchenna Ekwe about issues in Nigeria
- Very interesting, perhaps longer on speed campaigning and less time on evaluation of month of action
- Not sure about the value of all the speakers on 2007 panel
- It would have been good to have an opportunity to discuss needs for support on antipoverty campaigning more generally – not just on lead up to 2 June
- Day was very helpful but it would have been helpful for those from outside the centre to have clearer picture earlier of different agencies/networks positions.
- Very good opportunity for input – good information but a slight feeling that we were deliberately not discussing areas of difference. Probably very valid reasons for this as they may be taken up in other contexts, but if they are it's important that the debate is well signposted.
- Vision setting was good
- Good update on campaigns
- Good panel speakers
- Speed campaigning good
- More time for current campaigns would have been good
- Valuable: planning/long term/ideas
- Missing: advance notice and agenda

- Speed campaigning fab. Need more time for it. Also possibly more than 4 stations
- Not as much energy as last time?
- Plans for 2007 – more on climate change – linkage with campaigning on poverty
- In terms of planning for the year/decade ahead felt this content could have been spread over a day giving the opportunity to discuss the four areas for campaigning in 2007 individually.
- Thought the session on campaigning priorities was useful and got us all to think more widely – it would have been helpful in an ideal world if we'd had the paper to read before
- Session on campaigning in Germany was good – I didn't really get so much from the other talks
- Visioning exercise valuable (if strapped for time)
- Panel of speakers didn't really focus on what I was expecting them to – i.e. concrete plans/ideas for global campaigning next year (except Ullrich)
- Speed campaigning sessions and handouts very useful
- The European and global context in afternoon panels was valuable
- As always, presenters for whom English is a second language can be indistinct – microphones seem a bit over the top for a smallish room but might be helpful next time
- Immediate availability of presentation notes would be good

Date of next Forum

Friday 30 March 2007

Suggestion on timing: (Starting/ending times, etc)

- Slightly earlier start and finishing?
- 10-4
- fine
- timing was good, speed campaigning good, outcome of discussion session not that clear – both before a session and afterwards – i.e. to frame the discussion and then to know the outcomes from the session ??? – do all people attending know that there are Networks of networks and heads of campaigns meetings? – so that participants know where this meeting fits in the wider process.
- 10-4.30 would have been better / even 9.30-4
- start at 10, finish earlier
- start / finish 30 mins earlier?
- Same as today
- 10.30am to 5.00pm very good
- Cheap day travel times important for those travelling some distance

Any suggestion on content of the next forum? Topics and priorities

- Climate change
- How we can hold politicians to their promises, they were very willing to be photographed with MPH banners – have they stuck with it?
- Attendance should be limited to ex MPH members – others (academic interested parties) can attend but not be able to dominate group discussion
- G8 Germany
- Future of the movement
- A high profile speaker/ Benn or his successor? / Margaret Beckett?
- Jointly with climate change?

- Specific ways of working together
- 2007 mobilisation!
- If we know any more by this time perhaps a brief discussion on leadership and indications on who the new PM could be.
- The question of what is GCAP UK is still ... in the room. The morning discussion showed that local groups want an umbrella organisation that they can relate to that is bigger than individual agencies – is there a case for a UK economic justice network of local groups? And could there be greater clarity on how local groups go about using MPH? + more bog standard biscuits.
- Update on G8 arrangements
- Context of UK campaigning, especially EU
- More poverty/climate change linkage and campaign liaison
- Engaging central organisations effectively
- If the Economic Justice Forums are designed to impart information and plans, then this was too vague and it is really hard to know what is happening with collective campaigning next year – but if the Economic Justice Forums are designed for all organisations to input ideas, then it's still difficult to know how these ideas will be taken forwards and by whom
- I know the MPH working group structure is now gone, but current structures (if there are any) do not seem very transparent
- Africa
- Anti-slavery work in modern context
- How to mobilise people who were involved with Make Poverty History with supporting Germany
- Mobilising local people from different organisations, churches, etc, to work together on common themes – success stories of this type of activity