

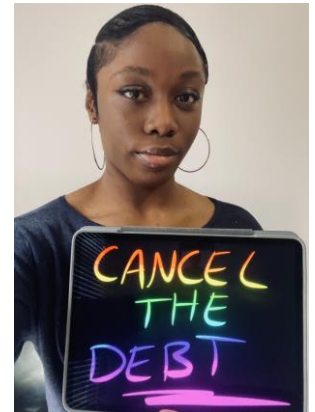
Join our call to #CancelTheDebt



The world's poorest nations are struggling with the double impact of the global health pandemic and its severe economic impacts. Many are facing a potential crisis as they struggle to pay their debts owed to financial institutions and richer nations.

If debts are cancelled, the money saved could be spent on vital health needs and support the most vulnerable people at this time of desperate need.

The July meeting of finance ministers from the world's largest economies, known as the G20, could have made progress on this issue but failed to do so.



Graham Gordon, CAFOD's Head of Policy, said that developing countries will now "continue to be forced to service debts when this is precisely the time they need to throw all the resources they can at their health systems and social protection to save lives."

World Bank and IMF meetings this October

The annual World Bank and IMF meetings in October, provide world leaders with another opportunity to help the world's poorest people by addressing this debt crisis – and the UK could play a critical role. **To show our government that it's time to #CancelTheDebt, please join our photo action!**

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Take** a photo of yourself creatively displaying the words 'Cancel the debt'
- **Share** your image on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #CancelTheDebt. Be sure to tag .@cafod so we can find your photos!
- **Or email** us your photos and we'll upload them for you! Send to campaigns.writer@cafod.org.uk



Add your photo today. Visit cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt

Novena for the Season of Creation

Inspired by Laudato Si', Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. In the last Campaigns Update we sent you a novena to St Francis and we encourage you to pray for our common home using the novena during this time.

The novena to St Francis can be used as a beautiful song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the people of the Amazon.

Why not use these prayers over nine days or at nine moments of personal prayer? Perhaps your parish has reopened, and you can share and pray the novena with people in your parish?

If you are able to mark the Season of Creation in your parish from 1 September to 4 October, this novena would be a wonderful guide to your group prayer and reflection.

Visit cafod.org.uk/novena to view our online resources.



#CancelTheDebt gains broad support

Faith leaders and MPs have been joining our call to #CancelTheDebt. Ahead of July's meeting of G20 finance ministers, CAFOD coordinated letters from over 70 faith leaders and nearly 90 cross-party MPs and peers, calling on Chancellor Rishi Sunak to push for rapid debt cancellation.



In numbers...

77

The number of faith leaders who signed onto our letter calling for debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries.

Many of you added your voice to these calls by signing our petition and writing to your MP. Thank you!

For updates and details of how to get involved, see cafod.org.uk/debtinjustice

Hear from our local Zambia experts

Join us on **Thursday 17 Sep 6-7pm** as we invite you to hear directly from local experts at Caritas Zambia on the growing debt crisis and how it affects their communities. You'll hear about their work on the issue, the benefits of cancelling unjust debt and why, now, in light of coronavirus, it is more important than ever to cancel debt.

Sign up at cafod.org.uk/debtinjustice

Have you got...

» 2 minutes?

Sign up for our online event about debt with our Zambian local experts cafod.org.uk/debtinjustice

» 5 minutes?

Take your #CancelTheDebt selfie and send it to us (see over)

» 9 days?

Take part in our Novena to St Francis with the leaflet we enclosed last month, or at cafod.org.uk/novena

Meet Libby...

Libby Abbott is CAFOD's Campaigns Officer. She tells us why working with volunteers inspires her.

I accidentally fell into campaigning professionally, though I've been an activist for years. At university, whilst I was learning about social change but passive in taking action, a terminally ill friend of mine, Ansel, was the opposite – spending his last

years on earth campaigning. After he died, I thought, "Who's going to speak out now that Ansel's gone?" I knew I had to step up.

In my role, I organise mobilisations and events. I currently work with our amazing Climate Champions, accompanying them as they campaign locally on the climate crisis. Our campaigners keep me going.

I'm really inspired by our campaigning on debt cancellation in light of COVID-19. It sounds like a technical, niche issue, but it hits home with tackling root causes of injustice. No community should have to forgo the healthcare or recovery needed in order to pay off debt.

Right now, CAFOD is calling on campaigners to tweet or send photos of themselves with a simple message: Cancel the debt. Will you join us? cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt



CAFOD Campaigns Update – August 2020

You are signed up to receive this update as a CAFOD Campaigns Volunteer. For queries or to order resources, contact CAFOD Campaigns hotline: 020 7095 5692 or campaigns@cafod.org.uk

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