



# TIDAL *news*

Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leeds

SPRING 2005

[www.leadstidal.org](http://www.leadstidal.org)

## MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

2005 will go down in history as the year that an unprecedented number of the British public stood up to be counted.

This year, we have a real opportunity to make a lasting difference to international policy on trade, debt and aid.

**ACTION**

**Here are 10 things that you can do to make your voice heard...**

**1** Send off the white band action card (enclosed with this mailing) as soon as possible. < 5 MINUTES >

**2** Get 10 other people to send off the white band action card. < 2 HOURS >

**We need to get the first 50,000 cards to Downing Street by 3 Feb, in time for the G8 Finance Ministers meeting. Get yours in the post now!**

**3** Wear the white band (enclosed with this mailing). < 1 MINUTE >

You can wear it on your wrist or around your arm, at events, at church, at conferences. Wherever and whenever. (If the Vicar of Dibley can do it, so can you!)

**4** Come to Edinburgh, Saturday 2 July. Put it in your diaries **now**. < 1 DAY >

Edinburgh will hopefully be host to the biggest mass mobilisation Britain has seen. We have told Blair and Brown that there will be 100,000 there. We will be co-ordinating travel up to Edinburgh on the Saturday, probably by coach, and will be in touch as soon as we have some details.

**5** Sign up on the **MAKEPOVERTY HISTORY** website. < 5 MINUTES > [www.makepovertyhistory.com](http://www.makepovertyhistory.com)

**6** Email Tony Blair to ask him to make poverty history. See the 'get involved' page on the MPH website. < 5 MINUTES >

**7** Write to your MPs to let them know exactly what we are asking for – see box opposite. < 45 MINUTES >

See the 'what we want' page on the MPH website for details of the specific reforms in the MPH manifesto, or contact the office for a copy if you haven't got internet access.

**8** Take part in the latest JDC campaign, Wipe Out Debt – sign and send off a card (ask for one from the office) or go on the website and send an email. < 2 MINUTES > [jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

### What are we asking for?

#### Trade justice

- Establish rules that ensure governments, particularly in poor countries, can choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment. These will not always be free trade policies.
- End export subsidies that damage the livelihoods of poor rural communities around the world.
- Make laws that stop big business profiting at the expense of people and the environment.

#### Drop the debt

- The unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries should be cancelled in full, by fair and transparent means.

#### More and better aid

- All donors must provide 0.7% of national income in international aid, and make aid work more effectively for poor people.

**9** Keep on collecting Vote for Trade Justice cards. The campaign continues throughout the year as part of MPH. < 5 MINUTES >

**10** Come to all the events that we are planning for this year.

**Tell everyone you know about MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY, and bring them to Edinburgh with you.**

*Join the celebs. Wear your band with pride!*



# Annie's intro...

*Phew! I don't know about you, but I don't know whether I feel incredibly excited or a bit overwhelmed! Probably a bit of both.*

*This is going to be an amazing year. We may or may not get a commitment from the G8 leaders to drop the debt, for trade justice and for more and better aid, but we're going to break our backs trying, and have a lot of fun along the way.*

*I hope you've all got 2 July in your diaries – we must **all** go to Edinburgh to let the G8 leaders know that we are serious about making poverty history.*

*I hope, too, to see you at some of the TIDAL events before then.*

Best wishes

*Annie.*

ANNIE CONNOLLY TIDAL ADMINISTRATOR

*PS We've also enclosed a special edition white band, kindly donated by Oxfam. It's washable, so put it on now and don't remove till 2006!*

## Tsunami

Disasters that hit poor countries kill more people because of the lack of early warning, dilapidated infrastructure, weak communications, poor health services and the overall level of poverty.

As Bono has highlighted, more than 150,000 people were killed by the tsunami, but a disgraceful 30,000 people die **every day** around the world because of poverty – a man-made, preventable situation. Proposals that there should be an immediate moratorium on all bilateral and multilateral debt repayments from the worst affected countries are welcomed. But what is really needed is debt cancellation.

Whilst we continue the hard work to press the policy-makers for action on debt, thoughts at home must also turn to those people most in need of help as a result of the tsunami. Leeds City Council is looking to adopt a long-term sustainable project to help Sri Lankan children who have been orphaned or left homeless by the tragedy. The appeal builds on connections between Leeds and Sri Lanka, including strong links between the Ripon and Leeds diocese and the capital city of Colombo. The council also has contacts with local government and businesses in Colombo.

Plans are at an early stage and further details will be announced on Valentine's Day – which will mark the start of a week-long launch for the Sri Lanka appeal. If you would like to get involved, please email [srilankaappeal@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:srilankaappeal@leeds.gov.uk) or write to the Chief Executive's Office, Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR.

## Up-to-date info on debt and trade

Struggling to remember what those Millennium Development Goals are? Want to find out what CAP stands for? Or simply after a beginner's guide to debt and trade issues?

You will find all the guidance you need on the TIDAL website, [www.leedstidal.org](http://www.leedstidal.org). We have collated links to a number of pertinent briefings and policy papers, for downloading from various agency websites.

Go to the Resources page to find all the up-to-date info on debt and trade.

## Benn lobby

We felt that our lobbying of Hilary Benn last year was so successful, ('I have never ever met a group of campaigners who were more focused on the matter in hand and the issue they wanted to come and discuss') that we should do it again!

A small group will be meeting the International Development Secretary on 11 February, to talk to him about debt conditionality. We'll let you know how it went in the next *TIDAL News*.

## What's on Jan–July 2005

### January

- 26–31 **World Social Forum** Brazil  
Sat 29 **Oxfam MPH training day** York  
Contact Sirius Gibson 01865 313154

### February

- Fri 11 **TIDAL lobby Hilary Benn** Leeds  
Sat 26 **JDC Conference** London  
Sat 26 **Global Poverty and Inequality** Radical Statistics Annual Conference  
Central Methodist Hall, Manchester  
[www.radstats.org.uk/conference2005.htm](http://www.radstats.org.uk/conference2005.htm)

### March

- 1–13 **Fairtrade Fortnight**  
Wed 2 **Fairtrade Business Forum** Civic Hall  
5.30pm–8pm  
Sat 5 **Fairtrade Fun Day** WYPH, 1pm–5pm  
Fri 11 **Comic Relief**  
17–19 **Fairtrade Fair** Millennium Square (tbc)  
Sat 19 **Latin America conference:** exploring liberation, justice, peace and fairtrade  
Swarthmore Centre, 10am–4.30pm  
Contact Maggie 249 4417

### April

- Sat 9 **Oxfam MPH Conference** Manchester  
10–16 **TJM Global Week of Action** (GWA)  
15–16 **Stay Up for Trade Justice** Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane, Leeds, 8pm–10am  
Sat 16 **Wake Up to Trade Justice** Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane, Leeds, 8am–10pm

### May

- Sun 16 **World Debt Day**

### June

- Sat 25 **Rickshaw Freedom Riders**  
Leeds City Centre, 3pm

### July

- Sat 2 **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**  
**Mass Mobilisation** Edinburgh

## Ethical shopping guide

The people behind The Good Shopping Guide have set up a free ethical ratings service on a huge range of products – [www.gooshing.co.uk](http://www.gooshing.co.uk). It aims to put even more pressure on the worst offending companies by giving free information on what brands are involved in areas like Fairtrade, armaments, animal testing, environment and GM. You can see how ethical that new dishwasher is that you are planning to buy!

# 10–16 APRIL Trade Justice Movement GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION

## STAY UP FOR TRADE JUSTICE

In November 2003 trade activists from across the world met in Delhi and called for a Global Week of Action, with the aim of changing the unjust trade system that keeps millions of people in poverty and harms our environment. As a result, on 10–16 April hundreds of thousands of people across the world will be taking action together. This is your chance to stand in solidarity with them and to challenge our government to deliver trade justice – not free trade.

Campaigners from all over the world, rich and poor, are saying: **NO** to the rich and powerful imposing unjust trade agreements, indiscriminate legislation and privatisation on the poor.

**YES** to everyone's right to food, a livelihood, water, health and education.

So come along to:

### STAY UP FOR TRADE JUSTICE

Friday night 15 April, 8pm–10am, Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane, Leeds

Stay up all night in solidarity with people all over the world. To keep you awake there will be music, games and coffee – fairly traded, of course!

or, if you can't stay up, come along to:

### WAKE UP TO TRADE JUSTICE

Saturday 16 April, 8–10am, Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane, Leeds **Fairtrade Breakfast**

We'll be inviting our local MPs to share our breakfast – or Parliamentary Candidates if we're in the run-up to the election – so come along and tell them that you want them to work for global trade justice.

### Throughout the week...

Each day of the Global Week of Action will have a theme:

- Monday: Food
- Tuesday: Livelihoods
- Wednesday: Water
- Thursday: Health
- Friday: Education



We'll be working with different development agency volunteer groups to stage a small event each day. These are yet to be confirmed – we'll do an email-out to let you know what's happening.

The 'Stay Up' and 'Wake Up' events won't be ticketed, but we could do with knowing how many people will be attending so we can get enough coffee in. If you are planning to take part, please ring Annie on 0113 391 7917, or you can email [info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org).



# You take the high road...

TIDAL campaigners have pedalled their way to nearly every G8 summit since Birmingham in 1998. But this year cyclists are spoilt for choice. Take your pick from an African adventure or riding to Edinburgh with the rickshaw.

Or why not set up your own Jubilee G8 ride? TIDAL tells you how...

## Want to cycle from London to Edinburgh via Africa?

TIDAL Steering Group member Roger Harington will be leading a group on a very roundabout journey to the G8 summit, starting in Tanzania at the end of May / beginning of June. They expect to go for two weeks and do around 50 miles a day for 10 days. Back-up will be provided by Discover Adventure; a firm which runs a variety of rides and treks for charities.

The group will visit various aid agency projects along the route, and then will share their stories when they get back to the UK. They aim to be definite about the dates of the trip by the end of January at the latest.

They will also cycle from London to Edinburgh, leaving on 25 June to arrive on 2 July and meeting up with campaigning groups on the way.

Anyone interested in taking part?

Contact Roger on 0113 2400769 or email [roger.harington@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:roger.harington@leeds.gov.uk).

## Meanwhile, at a more leisurely pace...

Bill Phelps is assembling a team to pedal his rickshaw from London to Edinburgh via a different route. They'll be starting on Monday 20 June from the Houses of Parliament and passing through Cambridge, Leicester and Sheffield – arriving in Leeds in time for a TIDAL event in the centre of Leeds on Saturday 25 June. They'll then be taking an easterly route to Edinburgh via Middlesborough, Durham, Alnwick and Berwick – arriving in time for the **MAKE POVERTY HISTORY** event on Sat 2 July.

[g8rides@leedstidal.org](mailto:g8rides@leedstidal.org)

*Pedalling to the G8 – one of the most enjoyable ways to campaign on poverty reduction.*



## And there's more

In addition to these two rides, TIDAL is working nationally with Jubilee Debt Campaign to encourage others to set up their own rides. We've set aside a section of our website to help promote this form of campaigning and to put would-be pedallers in touch with each other.

As well as the two Leeds-based rides, it now looks like there will be many others. If you're interested in pedalling to Edinburgh, visit [www.leedstidal.org/g8rides](http://www.leedstidal.org/g8rides) and post a message on the G8 Rides Messageboard – a virtual meeting point for cycle campaigners from across the UK.



# Reaching further

## Introducing TIDAL Surge...

TIDAL Surge is our planned outreach speaker project. We want to take the trade justice and jubilee debt campaigns into wider and more varied sectors of the Leeds community and to involve all of Leeds in the drive to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** in 2005.

It has always been our ambition to spread our influence widely, to reach an ever-expanding audience in and around Leeds, and to involve more and more of our fellow citizens in the campaign against global poverty.

We want to be able to meet every request for a speaker or a discussion leader, and we want to reach out and offer to send speakers to more people, in particular to black and ethnic communities, to members of faith groups other than Christian, to trade unionists, and to women's groups throughout the community.

In particular this year, 2005, it is vital for us to do all we can to involve the whole community in **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**.

## How will we do it?

We plan to have a 'bank' of volunteers, who are able to go out and speak on various topics.

## WANTED

A part time (14.5 hrs / 2 days p/w) paid Coordinator (£20K p/a pro-rata, possibly working from home). Two year contract, possibly extended.

Appointment subject to funding, tbc late Jan 05. Deadline for applications: Wed 9 Feb. Interviews in central Leeds, Mon 14 Feb. For information or an application form, contact Mary on 0113 262 3330, [mary.keynes@ntlworld.com](mailto:mary.keynes@ntlworld.com) or the office on 0113 391 7917, [info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org).

We have applied to the Development Awareness Fund of DFID, the Department for International Development, for funding. If we are successful we will be able to employ a coordinator, and buy equipment

and materials for the talks. The coordinator will be an energetic and flexible person with experience of campaigning and excellent communication skills. She or he will train and support the volunteers, and organise the talks.

In addition, we intend to recruit more speakers, mainly from graduate students in the two universities, and we hope that many of them will themselves be from the countries of the Global South. We aim to offer a small sessional fee and cover essential expenses.

If we don't get the funding we will still run the project, but probably on a smaller scale. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to take on the coordinator role on a voluntary basis.

We expect to hear before the end of January whether we will receive the grant – and if we are successful we would aim to start arranging talks by March or April. It would be great to have a list of volunteer speakers well before then.

So please – help us to get off to a good start by volunteering **now** for TIDAL Surge, and tell anyone you know who might be interested about the coordinator job.



# Join in the TIDAL Surge!

PLEASE NOTE: Uniform not provided

## WANTED

Volunteer speakers to spread the word about Drop the Debt, Trade Justice and More and Better Aid



## JDC Annual Conference

12–5.30 Saturday 26 February

Come to hear Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa (photo) speak at Jubilee Debt Campaign's annual conference on 26 February 2005 in central London.

The conference is at South Camden Community School, London, NW1. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Entry is free, but places are limited and booking is essential – use the form on the website (look under Events for the page on the conference), or ring 020 7324 4722.



JDC's campaign for this year is Wipe Out Debt. We will be gathering messages during 2005 to present to those with the power to wipe out debt, the Finance Ministers of the G7 countries. Last year, debt campaigners sent more than 20,000 action postcards to the UK government, and prompted a huge breakthrough in UK policy.



Campaigning works: please help us to persuade other rich governments.

Please sign and send off a card (ask for a pile from JDC, tel: 020 7324 4722 or you can get one from the TIDAL office) or go on the website ([jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)) and send an email.

*President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania – speaker at Jubilee Debt Campaign's annual conference this year.*



# Fairtrade Fortnight: 1–13 March

## Happy Birthday Fairtrade Leeds!

Leeds has been the UK's largest Fairtrade City for a year! We will be knocked off our top spot by Birmingham, who will be declaring Fairtrade status during Fairtrade Fortnight, but we can still celebrate the fact that there are now 100 Fairtrade towns and cities in Britain.

This year, Fairtrade activities are being organised by the Fairtrade City Steering Group, and the new Fairtrade Co-ordinator, Becky Hill. The third survey is being conducted, to see which store will be crowned Best Leeds Supermarket for Fairtrade 2005, and you can read about the other events below.

## Fairtrade Business Forum

A unique opportunity for businesses to learn more about Fairtrade and to network with Fairtrade suppliers from throughout the region is taking place on Wednesday 2 March 5.30–8pm, in the Banquet Hall at Leeds Civic Hall.

Hosted by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, the Fairtrade Business Forum will be the first event of its kind in the region, with wholesale suppliers exhibiting solely Fairtrade products. Speakers will be attending to spread the message about the clear business benefits of stocking Fairtrade. A Fairtrade producer will also be at the event to give a first-hand account of the vital difference that buying Fairtrade makes in guaranteeing farmers in the developing world a sustainable future.

Attendance is free and buffet refreshments will be served.

To confirm your attendance, or for any enquiries, please contact Becky Hill: 0113 395 0688 or [becky.hill@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:becky.hill@leeds.gov.uk)

Millennium Square may also be hosting a huge Fairtrade Fair, 17–19 March, but this hasn't yet been confirmed.



*Ollie Owl and Joanna Brown – 'Just good friends'.*

## Fairtrade Fun at the West Yorkshire Playhouse

Save Saturday 5 March for some Fairtrade fun at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

We're hoping everyone from 9 to 90 will come and have a fun afternoon with us. There will be games, competitions, quizzes (oodles of prizes!), live music, theatre, stalls and lots of fairtrade nibbles!

**Poster and Jingle Competitions** If you're under 13, try your hand at designing a Fairtrade poster and bring it along to be entered into our prize-winning poster competition.

Or with your friends, make up a Fairtrade advertising jingle like the ones you hear on radio/TV. These will be performed during the afternoon, with prizes for the one the audience likes best.

The event runs from 1pm to 4pm in the Playhouse foyer on Saturday 5 March – it's free and it'll be lots of fun!

For more information please contact Joan Machin on 0113 2564874, or look on the TIDAL website.

## Fairtrade fashion show a raging success!

CLOTH – the Fairtrade fashion show we put on last October – was a huge success. 350 people filled The Wardrobe and, most satisfyingly, there were lots of new faces.

The press coverage was phenomenal, with substantial articles in the Observer on Sunday, Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Evening Post, Leeds Guide and Leeds Weekly News and an interview on Radio Leeds.

We'll be holding CLOTH 05 in September, so see you there!



Photos: Joanna Brown

## Email list update

In the not-too-distant future we will have a brand-new all-singing, all-dancing database, thanks to our volunteer database expert, Helen Dickason.

We would like the information that we transfer to be as up-to-date as possible, and have noticed that we keep getting lots of emails sent back.

We will probably have some important emails to send out this year because of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**. If you haven't received an email from TIDAL in the last six months, it means we haven't got your email address. Please update us, by emailing [info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org). Thank you.



## Motiv8 4 G8 All you need to know about **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

Tony 'Baldrick' Robinson will be amongst speakers addressing a conference in Manchester in April that will be gearing people up to mobilise for Edinburgh on 2 July 2005.

Motiv8 4 G8 will inform, motivate and organise activists from the North of England into taking action before, during and after the G8, with a particular emphasis on mobilising for Edinburgh. Other speakers include heads of campaigns from Oxfam, Friends of the Earth and CAFOD, and an Oxfam campaigner from Brazil.

It will take place on Saturday 9 April at New Century House, Manchester and all are welcome. Tickets cost £5 / £3. Enquiries to Chris Worrall 0161 838 5620 or email [cworrall@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:cworrall@oxfam.org.uk)



Photo: The National Literacy Trust 2005

# TIDAL needs your money!

2005 is going to provide us with huge opportunities for campaigning. But in order for us to make the most of those opportunities we need **money**.

Many of you already support us financially and in other ways (**thanks!**), and many of you support other charities and good causes. I know that lots of you will have given generously to the Asia appeal following the tsunami, and the 150,000+ who died. We can't do much to stop disasters like that happening but we can do something to stop 30,000 people a day dying from poverty, and we can give people a better chance of surviving disasters by improving their overall living conditions.

Campaigning for change – trade justice, dropping the debt – can make the difference. TIDAL campaigners have a good reputation for getting the message across – for taking a stand against poverty.

We couldn't do that without the funds to provide campaigning materials, this newsletter (which goes out to over 650 people), our office base and coordinator. Details of how we spend our income are available on request.

It costs money to send this newsletter to you, and currently we're running a deficit of £400 a month. Please consider sending us £2 a month, or giving us a one-off payment of £10 or more as a type of subscription. You could also include a donation for your special edition White Band.

You've always responded well in the past – thank you (in anticipation!) for your response now.

*Lindsey Pearson, Chair of TIDAL*

### Some useful contacts...

In the UK the Jubilee torch is carried on by the **Jubilee Debt Campaign**. TIDAL is a member, along with most of the same national and regional groups who were part of Jubilee 2000. PO Box 36620, London, SE1 0WJ

Tel: 020 7324 4722 Fax: 020 7324 4723  
[assistant@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](mailto:assistant@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)  
[www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

#### **Trade Justice Movement**

... calling for fundamental change to the unjust rules and institutions governing international trade, so that trade is made to work for all.

c/o The Fairtrade Foundation, Suite 204,  
16 Baldwin's Gardens, London, EC1N 7RJ

Tel: 020 7404 0530 Email: [mail@tjm.org.uk](mailto:mail@tjm.org.uk)  
[www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk](http://www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk)

#### **TIDAL**

c/o Leeds Church Institute, 20 New Market Street,  
Leeds, LS1 6DG

Tel: 0113 391 7917 Fax: 0113 391 7939  
[info@leedstidal.org](mailto:info@leedstidal.org)

[www.leedstidal.org](http://www.leedstidal.org)