

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

**Birmingham
18 May 2008**

**Travel
back to
TIDAL's
roots!**

In 1998 over 70,000 people formed a human chain around the G8 meeting in Birmingham to demand that the rich world drop the crippling debt burden shouldered by the developing world. Ten years on, and with only 20% of the debt cancelled, we're going back to finish the job.

On 18 May 2008, the Jubilee Debt Campaign is hosting 'Journey to Justice', a conference to inform, educate and inspire activists old and new to take action to end the global debt crisis. It promises to be an action-packed day out, with performances, stalls, short films, speakers, and even a special mass action to end the day.

The event has already attracted a host of high-profile participants, including Shahid Malik MP (Minister for International Development), Kumi Naidoo (Global Call

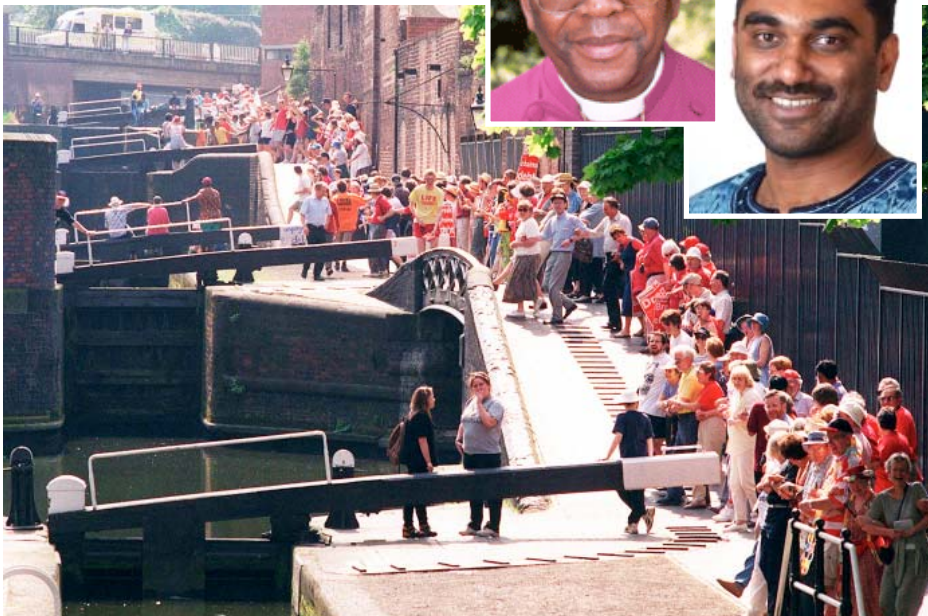
to Action Against Poverty), and Archbishop Ndungane (former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town). All in all, it's going to be a day to remember!

'I'd love to come, but how am I going to get there? And who will I go with?'

Luckily for you, TIDAL has taken care of just that! We've organised one of our



Archbishop Ndungane and Kumi Naidoo are just two of the contributors.



legendary coaches down to the event – that means cheap transport down (a bargain £15 standard price, or £13 for 16 yrs and under) and the opportunity to travel with dozens of other activists from all around the region. And we've even included a booking form with this newsletter, which contains all the travel details and pick-up and drop-off locations.

This promises to be a fantastic event – we hope you can join us on the Journey to Justice, Sunday 18 May!

Also – keep your eyes on the local media for our World Debt Day publicity stunt!

Thursday 15 May An audience with Dereje Alemayehu

Currently Christian Aid's Country Manager for East Africa, Dereje has had a rich and varied history in the development sector. Born in Ethiopia, he studied for his PhD in Economics in Germany, where he went on to lecture in Development Studies for over a decade.

In May, Dereje is making a rare appearance in this region and, thanks to Christian Aid, we've been lucky enough to secure him for an evening to hear about his experiences. Rather than simply hold a 'talk', we are aiming to make this a more informal and participative event; held in a small and comfortable venue, there will be refreshments available and plenty of opportunity for discussion. We warmly invite all of our supporters to attend what promises to be a fascinating audience with an experienced campaigner and development coordinator.

More details to follow – make sure you check our email news updates for the latest info.



Welcome to our first issue of 2008

And hello as your new Coordinator! I'm absolutely thrilled to be in post – TIDAL is an amazing movement, and I can't wait to work with our campaigners and supporters to create a bigger impact in Leeds than ever.

As always it's all go at TIDAL, and with planning for 2008 well under way, it's shaping up to be a very challenging but hugely exciting year. While the events over the next couple of months are in hand, we're going to need your help to make the rest of the year the success it deserves to be. If you can lend us a hand in organising events and actions then please do get in touch!

In other news, major change is on the way, as we've just agreed to conduct a strategic review of all of our activities. To make sure we get it right, your input as our supporters is absolutely essential. We'll be sending out info via our email news updates – if you're not already subscribed, be sure to drop us a line at info@leedstidal.org.

Finally, we couldn't let this issue pass without saying a fond farewell to Hilary Thorndike (TIDAL Campaigns Manager) and Jacinta Kent (TIDAL Surge Coordinator) who have moved on to pastures new. Both have given an enormous amount of time and energy over the past few years, and will be sorely missed. From everyone at TIDAL, our sincere thanks for all you have given, and the very best of luck in your new roles.

Enjoy the issue, and see you in Birmingham...

Chris Benedict Johnston



Women like Laura spend long hours stitching shoes in Chile, with little reward.

Ever wondered who makes your leather shoes? **Ruth Bergan** from HomeWorkers Worldwide sheds some light on a global injustice and unveils their latest campaign...

HomeWorkers Worldwide (HWW) campaigns in the UK to raise awareness about the rights of and the conditions endured by homeworkers around the world. Our latest campaign, 'Who Foots the Bill?', aims to win decent work conditions for homeworkers in the leather footwear industry.

There is strong evidence to suggest that homeworking is the norm in the production of many kinds of leather footwear. Yet homeworkers are often 'invisible' – not acknowledged by factories or companies and therefore amongst the most vulnerable workers. Add to this the poor conditions these workers have to endure – homeworkers suffer health problems such as long-term damage to their hands, back or eyesight, work long hours and are unable

to earn enough money to support their families.

Roza from Bulgaria, who came to the UK to talk about the situation for homeworkers there, said 'one of the problems for homeworkers, and a constant humiliation, is that nowhere are they mentioned by name. The subcontractors know them only as a number. Homeworkers are the most invisible.'



For the campaign we are asking supporters to send postcards (which you can find with this newsletter) to Clarks and Stylo, asking them to acknowledge the presence of homeworkers in their chains and take responsibility for their conditions of work. Please take the time to send the postcard – every card puts pressure on these companies to give homeworkers a fair deal.

To find out more and for regular updates on the campaign, see www.whofootsthebill.org and www.homeworkersww.org.uk, or contact Ruth: ruth@homeworkersww.org.uk or 0113 217 4037.

MDGs threatened by gender discrimination

Jean Martin writes

On 7 March, ActionAid published a report on the impact of discrimination against women and girls by governments and international donors in their development programmes.

The report explains that women and girls are disadvantaged in health, education, income and political participation – all key areas covered by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also reveals some lesser-known facts about women and development. For example, the majority of poor and hungry people are women, and 41 million girls worldwide do not receive primary education.

Perhaps the key message of the report is that this discrimination will make it impossible to meet the MDGs. The attitudes of governments and donors must change to recognise that the contribution of women to economic development is vital. You can read the full report at <http://snipr.com/242wa>.

Onward Upward &

As TIDAL Surge (our outreach project) comes to an end, Coordinator Jacinta Kent reflects on the activities of the past three years...

It's been three years since I first embarked upon my journey with Surge. Back in 2005, the end of the project seemed like part of a distant and slightly enigmatic future, one I found hard to picture. However, as I sit here in 2008, wrapping up my work as the Surge outreach coordinator, I realise that although this ending feels very real to me now, for TIDAL it isn't really an ending at all. It is just the beginning.

The aim of Surge was to raise awareness of international development issues in the community, galvanise them into action and diversify TIDAL by making our campaigns more accessible and inclusive. This aim will now live on as a core part of TIDAL's work.

Surge has had people from all over the world successfully involved in engaging the local community. Our speakers have roots in countries such as Zimbabwe, Nigeria and

Mexico, not to mention those from all walks of life here in the UK. Through the many and varied events, we've been a part of we hope Leeds has been able to travel with them through their personal experiences, expertise and enthusiasm.

I should like to thank everyone who has been so supportive of the Surge project over the last three years; the speakers, Policy Group and every other individual who has requested our services and/or contributed their time, energy and positivity. I am privileged to have worked alongside such an amazing group of people and – knowing that such people exist – hold high hopes for the future.



WARNING: CHANGE AHEAD

We're excited to announce that TIDAL is about to embark upon a strategic review of all of its activities. Agreed at the February Steering Group meeting, the review will give us a chance to take stock of our achievements over the past eight years, and ensure that we remain a radical, innovative and, above all, effective community campaigning group in the future.

Essential to making this an effective review is the input of our supporters – that's where you come in. We need your views! We need to know what you think of our work; are we working on the right issues? Are we taking the right action? What work do you want to see us doing in the future?

We will shortly be asking for your answers to such questions via our email news update. If you do not already receive our e-updates, please email info@leedstidal.org to be subscribed. If you do not have access to email then write to us at 20 New Market Street, Leeds, LS1 6DG and we'll keep you in the loop.

A bigger, better, more effective TIDAL is on the way – make sure you're part of the discussion.

STOP CLIMATE CHAOS LEEDS www.sccleeds.org

It's been a busy year already for Stop Climate Chaos Leeds.

In February we hit the headlines with a Valentines Day publicity stunt. Two polar bears braved the city ice rink to send MPs the message, 'melt my heart, not my home' and gained significant coverage in the Yorkshire Evening Post (see <http://snipr.com/244rf>).

Campaigners also met with Hilary Benn to discuss key amendments to the Climate Bill, and one month later his department announced moves towards a stronger bill. SCCL helping make a stronger Climate Bill? Just maybe...

Want to join us?

We're about to have a massive social to welcome anyone interested in getting more involved. We're holding it on Thurs 29 May at The George on Great George Street, 7–9pm.

For more details, email info@sccleeds.org



Update on EPAs

Trade should be a way for poor countries to work their way out of poverty. But not if it's unfair. That's why TIDAL campaigns for Trade Justice. However, the EU is continuing to force poor countries to accept unfair terms in new trade deals – Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).



One estimate puts the potential losses to Zambia in signing an EPA at \$15.8 million – that's what the country's government spends each year on tackling HIV/AIDS.

Many countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) were pushed to agree deals by 31 December 2007. Campaigners made sure it didn't all go the EU's way but we need to keep up the pressure to stop the EU pushing for further deals on controversial topics such as services and investment.

These deals could restrict governments' abilities to manage foreign investment

and people's access to basic services such as water and electricity. The UK needs to stand firm on its commitment that no ACP country should be forced to negotiate on these topics. Join with Christian Aid in calling for the deals to be changed dramatically to stop them wreaking havoc in poor countries.

You can find out more about the deals on the Christian Aid website at <http://snipr.com/23oh4>

ACTION

Call on the International Development Secretary to ensure Britain uses its influence in the EU to back poor countries' calls for the deals to be renegotiated and to stop the inclusion of new areas such as services.

Email Douglas Alexander at <http://snipr.com/23ohk>

Lindsey Pearson

The co-operative

TIDAL is lucky enough to be supported by The Co-operative Group. But we've partnered with the Co-op for a reason; we share the same values and the same vision for a just and sustainable world. Here Margaret Morrish explains how membership of the Co-op is in fact another way of taking direct action to build another world.

If you live near, or shop at, a local Co-op now is the time to join The Co-operative Group into which all local Societies have now been merged. If you join you will be issued with a new membership card which will be scanned every time you use any Co-operative shop, each pound you spend earning you a point. And the other Co-op services – eg: banking, insurance, travel – will also earn you points. Every six months you will receive your share of profits to date, based on the number of points which you have accumulated. If you wish, your share of profits can be donated to the Co-op Community Fund which is used to help local projects.

As many TIDAL members know, the Co-op has led other supermarkets in selling Fairtrade goods, and indeed on ethical retailing more generally. What could be a better way to celebrate and further promote this good work than by becoming a member and enjoying the many benefits that membership will bring to you and to society?

You can join by logging on to www.co-operative.co.uk/membership, phoning the Co-op help line 0845 090 1456, or picking up an application form at your local Co-op.

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The co-operative

What's on – 2008

May

11–18 **Christian Aid Week** www.caweek.org

Wed 15 **An audience with Dereje Alemayehu**
Christian Aid's Country Manager for East Africa – see p1

Thurs 16 **World Debt Day**

Sun 18 **Journey to Justice**
Take the TIDAL coach down to the debt campaigning event of the year!

Thurs 29 **Stop Climate Chaos Leeds Social**
A social and welcome event for those interested in getting involved. 7pm – 9pm at The George, Great George Street.

Sat 31 **Demo against Heathrow 3rd runway**
www.campaigncc.org

June

Wed 4 **Talk by Priscilla Truss** about sugar production and trade in developing countries. Hosted by Leeds Oxfam Group

July

7–9 **G8 Meeting**

Fri 18 **Nelson Mandela's 90th Birthday**
We may be having a party to mark the occasion... keep your eyes peeled for info!

August

3–11 **Camp for Climate Action**
www.climatecamp.org.uk

8–24 **Olympic Games in China**

September

2–4 **High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**

Thurs 25 **UN Conference on Millennium Development Goals**

October

12–13 **Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF**

12–19 **Global Week of Action Against Poverty**

See also www.leedstidal.org and our email updates

Designed by Wingfinger www.wingfinger.co.uk

TIDAL (Company No. 5574693)
c/o Leeds Church Institute, 20 New Market Street,
Leeds, LS1 6DG

Tel: 0113 391 7917 Fax: 0113 391 7939
info@leedstidal.org

www.leedstidal.org