



TIDAL *news*

Trade Injustice and Debt Action Leads

SUMMER 2004



Watch out for unusual TIDAL activity on Sun 26 September...

Photo: Charlotte Hinge

Tobin Tax Breakthrough!

David Hillman writes...

We are delighted to report that on 15 June 2004 the bill to implement the Tobin Tax was approved by the Commission of Finance and Budget in the Belgian Federal Parliament. The bill will now go to be voted on by the whole chamber in the next two weeks where it is almost certain to be passed.

The Belgian legislation is a comprehensive text articulating the two-tier Tobin Tax (sometimes known as the Spahn variation) that the Tobin Tax Network advocates. The legislation succeeded in getting passed in this Commission because an alternative majority of social-democrats and Christian-democrats voted in favour of it. The liberals and the extreme-right did not succeed in getting the bill delayed as was feared.

This is a historical day for the Tobin Tax campaign and all the Belgian Tobin Tax campaigners ought to be heartily congratulated for this great achievement after many years of effort.

Off to the seaside!

The big event for the Trade Justice Movement this year is the lobby of the Labour Party Conference, Sunday 26 September, in Brighton. If you'd like to come, see the flyers which come with this newsletter – it would be great for TIDAL to be represented, along with campaigners from across the UK.

The Brighton event is part of the **Vote for Trade Justice** – a major campaign to put trade justice on the political agenda and to make trade work to reduce poverty. It was inspired by the mass referendum on the free trade agreement of the Americas held across Latin America. Over 8 million people cast votes in a huge popular campaign to express opposition to trade talks.

The Trade Justice Movement is aiming to organise the biggest ever public consultation to challenge the enormous injustice in international trade that locks millions in poverty.

Vote for Trade Justice is aiming to collect 1,000,000 votes – starting from this summer and reaching a climax in 2005. Next year is a year of huge opportunities: Global

People's Week of Action, G8 meets in Scotland, UK presidency of the EU, and more.

If you can't come to Brighton, you can still do something:



- Ring the TIDAL office or call in and pick up some ballot cards (available early July).
- Collect votes from your friends, neighbours, school, college, workplace, gym, church, anyone, anywhere!
- Vote online or by text – see our website for details in the summer.

How many votes can we get in Leeds? 10,000? That's only 17 for each TIDAL member!

Lindsey Pearson



Welcome to the sunny summer edition of TIDAL News

Since the last newsletter we have helped to make Leeds into the UK's largest Fairtrade City, undertaken the second Fairtrade Supermarket Survey, and been featured on local television four times in one day with our World Debt Day penalty shoot-out. Tens of thousands of people in Leeds heard about debt that day!

No major events are planned for summer, (although TIDAL will be at lots of the festivals, and the Steering Group is doing a Planning Day), as we are saving our energy for autumn. TIDAL will hopefully be out in force at the big Vote for Trade Justice event; the mass lobby of the Labour Party conference in Brighton on 26 September. See the enclosed flyer for details.

As part of our campaign to raise awareness on the garment industry, we will be putting on a Fair Trade Fashion Show (and our TIDAL T-shirts, of course) on Monday 18 October at The Wardrobe. This is not to be missed, so put the date in your diaries now. Please send off the enclosed card and support the Play Fair at the Olympics campaign – you can read more about it in these pages.

I hope you have a fabulous summer.

Annie Connolly
TIDAL Administrator



We did it! Leeds declared UK's largest Fairtrade City

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight was a massive success (even if we say so ourselves!) After a hard slog, we managed to fulfil all the Fairtrade Foundation's criteria and Leeds was declared the UK's largest Fairtrade City on 5 March. Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development, and the Deputy Lord Mayor launched 200 balloons in Fairtrade green and blue.

We held the Fairtrade Fiesta at the Civic Hall a week later, and spent a wonderful evening watching presentations from some of Leeds' new Fairtrade Schools, listening to a steel band and eating Fairtrade treats. Beeston Co-op was declared overall winner

of the 2004 Fairtrade Supermarket Award, which was presented by John Battle MP and Felipe Miza Castro, a coffee farmer from southwest Guatemala.

A Fairtrade Steering Group has now been set up to continue our work, and if anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact the TIDAL office. We are very excited as we have been talking with Leeds City Council, and there is a possibility of a part-time Fairtrade Co-ordinator job being created to oversee Fairtrade activities in the city.

Remember to keep on asking for Fairtrade whenever you go to a café. There will be a list of outlets stocking Fairtrade tea and coffee on the TIDAL website very soon.

More pictures than we've got room for – but these give a taste of some of the goings-on in Fairtrade Fortnight 2004.

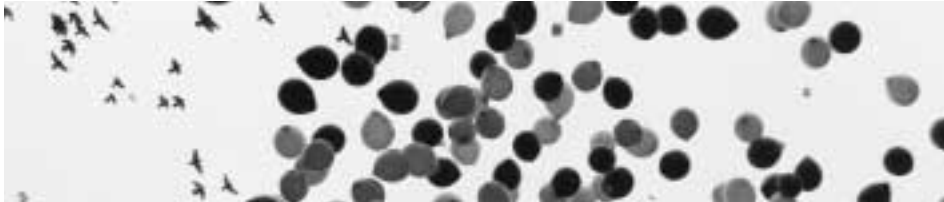
Leeds Fairtrade University?

Joanna Brown

Leeds University is well on its way to achieving Fairtrade status, following a postcard campaign in Fairtrade Fortnight when over 1,200 postcards were signed by staff and students, asking the vice-chancellor to help make it happen. As a result of the postcard action, the Head of Procurement set up a University Fairtrade steering group to draw up and implement a Fairtrade policy.

The Head of Procurement and Head of Residential Services are now fully supportive and are working hard to introduce and encourage the use of Fairtrade products, which are now available in all food shops and cafes on campus. All tea supplied to University meetings by central catering will be Fairtrade. Coffee will follow. (*Huh? Ed*)

A Fairtrade policy has been drawn up and this will be taken for approval to the University Senate and Council meetings.



The University has even gone beyond the basic requests of the Fairtrade Foundation by opening a new Fairtrade coffee bar in the main Parkinson Building.

Due to an article in the *Yorkshire Post*, the Head of Corporate Affairs (UK) and a Senior Policy Advisor for Nestlé will be visiting Leeds on 16 July 2004 to meet with representatives of the University and the city to discuss our concerns.

Summer stalls

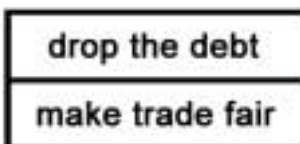
TIDAL will be reaching out to the masses with our messages about debt and trade this summer at the many festivals that are taking place. We will be at the Mela on Sunday 1 August and Chapel Allerton Arts Festival on Saturday 4 September, so come and say hello. We're hoping to get to others and are looking for volunteers for the Beeston Mela on 26 June, Kirkstall Festival on 10 July, and Chapeltown Carnival on 30 August. Ring or email the office if you are interested.

ACTION

TIDAL T-shirts

Make a fashionable statement in the new TIDAL T-shirts. Be seen this summer in our fairly-traded, organic cotton shirts, which come in both fitted and a looser style. They are available in sizes small to XL and cost £10. Contact the TIDAL office to buy one.

The TIDAL logo is printed on the back, while the front carries the following simple message...



www.leadstidal.org



Next time you visit a key policy-maker, do it in a TIDAL T-shirt – you know it makes sense.



Play Fair at the Olympics

Sportswear is a buyer's market. Whether we're top-class athletes or just shopping for clothes, we want the latest products. We want them to be cheap. And we want them now. The industry is geared up to make maximum profits by giving us what we want, when we want it.

But it's a highly competitive industry; manufacturers compete for a slice of the profits in Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Central America.

That means they often accept last-minute orders and force workers to stay until they have finished; knock down costs by squeezing wages; employ workers on short-term contracts so they can hire and fire at will; and threaten workers with dismissal or actually fire them for joining a trade union.

We're all involved in this unfair global trade, which, though so clearly associated with the Olympic movement, is so far from the Olympic ideal of fair play. Women work all the hours they can for appalling pay, and can only imagine the luxury of wearing the sportswear they make.

It doesn't have to be like this. **Play Fair at the Olympics** is a campaign to persuade sportswear companies and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to take their responsibilities seriously. Just because they are under pressure to meet market demands, that's no excuse for pushing their manufacturers into exploitative business practices. Some companies have labour codes of conduct already, but when push comes to shove, workers still get abused and exploited.

Fill in and send off one of the cards enclosed with this newsletter, and log on to www.fairolympics.org and send an email to Puma, ASICS, FILA and the IOC. Ring 0870 333 2700 or see www.cleanclothes.org for more info.

ACTION

Taken from the Play Fair at the Olympics website.

2005 This could be the big one

Next year is going to be a big one – and could be a stupendous year, the year we finally crack the debt, start to change the nature of world trade, implement Tobin, get on track for the 2015 Millennium Goals... dream on!

Well, maybe not quite all that – but just as at Birmingham in 1998 we started to make a big difference to world poverty, Scotland in 2005 is an opportunity to make another great step forward.

Next year's G8 Summit takes place from 6th to 8th July in Gleneagles, Perthshire – the first G8 in the UK since we all joined hands in Birmingham (www.perthshire.g8.org.uk). Once again, Tony Blair will set the agenda and chair the meeting. He has said that this summit will attack world poverty. So it is a huge opportunity and challenge to us in TIDAL, in the Trade Justice Movement, in the Jubilee Debt Campaign, and in all the other various groups we as individuals belong to, to ensure that G8 2005 brings about real movement toward debt cancellation and trade justice.

Opportunities galore

As well as hosting the G8, next year Britain will hold the chair of the European Union Council of Ministers, so they too will meet somewhere in the UK. The EU speaks for all its member states, including Britain, in the World Trade Organisation. So that will provide another challenge, to bring our influence to bear for trade justice.

At Birmingham we started to break the chains of debt. Since then we have broadened our understanding and our campaigning to identify the link between

debt and unjust trade rules as a root cause of world poverty. Energetic and intelligent campaigning has conveyed that message to a steadily growing constituency and 2005 will be an opportunity to bring in even more supporters.

Campaign convergence

The Trade Justice Movement also brought in new influences. Environmental campaigners had come to realise that environmental destruction is closely linked with poverty and injustice. Demands for debt repayment and unfair trade rules threaten the security and survival of the poor, and they have no choice but to over-exploit the environment. Then by damaging their own environment they are forced into worse poverty. The poor are the first to suffer from environmental injustice, and climate change is already destroying the homes and livelihoods of poor people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Wherever these events take place, TIDAL will be there. So check your Jubilee T-shirt (or invest £10 in a new TIDAL one), iron your rainbow scarf, and plan to join us somewhere, sometime in 2005. TIDAL

cyclists are beginning to think of maps and training – do we do a symbolic ride from Birmingham to Gleneagles, or do we do a grand campaigning tour of the whole of Britain ...or both?

Mobilisation

A mobilisation group, involving the people behind Comic Relief, all the major agencies, and a few small ones, will be leading a **massive** public campaign to put pressure on the politicians to make a difference. The plan is to make this even bigger than Jubilee 2000. TIDAL is playing an active part in the initial decision-making: trade justice looks certain to be one of the main messages, and we've been pushing hard for debt-relief to be given the same status. We'll keep you in touch as plans develop. Exciting times are ahead!

Mary Keynes writes

Fair trade. More aid. **And drop that *!@*!@! debt!**

Archdeacon scores goal for third world

Sunday 16 May saw the second **World Debt Day** celebrated with events in cities from Birmingham to Rome to Tonga.

Messages of support were received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the TUC, athlete Jonathan Edwards, Islamic Relief and many other church leaders.

Here in Leeds we decided to do a promotional event, and planned a penalty shoot-out, with eight players representing the Millennium Development Goals, and Debt as the Goalie, stopping the goals! One of our VIPs, the Lord Mayor, had to drop out at the last minute with a poorly foot, but

Archdeacon John Oliver, resplendent in his red cassock, stepped in, and made a big splash in the local news.

The YEP, ITV and BBC came down to South Leeds Stadium and we were featured on local news four times, as well as in the YEP the next day! Steering Group member Sarah Fishwick was up until 1.30am making the tabards, and we thought they looked great! She brought baby Rosa along to the shoot-out, proving you can never be too young to start campaigning on debt.

See box opposite for info on the Millennium Development Goals.



Photo: YEP

Cllr Roger Harington (Lead Member for Sport), Ven John Oliver (Archdeacon of Leeds), TIDAL supporters and staff of South Leeds Stadium suspect foul play by the Debt-goalie.

Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000 147 heads of state and government, and 189 nations in total, signed up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In doing this, they committed themselves to making the right to development a reality for everyone, and to freeing the entire human race from want.

They acknowledged that progress is based on sustainable economic growth, which must focus on the poor, with human rights at the centre.

The Declaration calls for halving the number of people who live on less than \$1 a day by the year 2015. This effort also involves finding solutions to hunger, malnutrition and disease, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, guaranteeing a basic education for everyone, and supporting the Agenda 21 principles of sustainable development. Direct support from the richer countries, in the form of aid, trade, debt relief and investment is to be provided to help the developing countries.

To help track progress, the United Nations Secretariat and the specialised agencies of the UN system, as well as representatives of IMF and the World Bank, defined a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets – the Millennium Development Goals.

The global consensus around the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has elevated the development targets to the new 'gold standard' of international development cooperation. What is increasingly clear is that most low-income countries (LICs) are on trajectories that will result in failure to meet the MDG. It is also clear that while the World Bank and IMF have signed up to the MDG, they have yet to recast their policy frameworks and financing instruments – including the HIPC Initiative – around the pursuit of the goals.

The eight goals are to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

Information taken from the UN website and working paper by CAFOD Christian Aid and Eurodad – *Debt and the Millennium Development Goals*.

CALL FOR CHANGE

The latest big Debt Campaign from JDC

Jubilee Debt Campaign has launched a new campaign – **Call for Change**.

They have published a report jointly with World Development Movement, showing that it would cost less than £3 per person per year to pay off Britain's share of debt by 2015, which is the target year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

However, poor countries must have **full** debt cancellation as an essential first step towards meeting the MDG.

Ireland is already backing 100% multilateral cancellation (debt owed to the World Bank, IMF and Regional Development Banks). It is time the UK Government acted on its own recent statements supporting more debt relief, and must lead by example. Aside from the substantial direct benefits, such an example would inevitably expose other wealthy countries to increased domestic and international pressure to follow suit, breaking the logjam that has impeded a resolution of the debt crisis for so long.

ACTION

So, have your say and ask Gordon Brown to commit the UK government to cancelling our share of the debt. £3 is small change for us, but it would make a big difference for the people of the world's poorest countries that are currently paying debts they cannot afford.

'Call for Change' action cards and leaflets are available from the TIDAL office, or you can order them from the JDC Office. The new report can also be downloaded at www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/media/reports/callforchangefinalapr2004.doc



DEBT RELIEF

Unedited
statement for
TIDAL News
from Hilary
Benn MP,
Secretary of
State for
International
Development

THE UK CONTINUES TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS to deliver substantial debt relief to the world's poorest countries through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The HIPC Initiative has had considerable success, both in terms of the levels of relief it has delivered, and in ensuring that this relief is channelled towards poverty reduction. To date, relief totalling more than US\$70 billion has been agreed for 27 countries, reducing their debts by around two-thirds, and freeing up resources for spending on poverty reduction. Following debt relief, the social expenditures of these countries are set to rise by over US\$4 billion per year. By any measure this is real progress. Furthermore, the UK goes beyond the requirements of the HIPC Initiative and writes off 100% of all bilateral debts for HIPC countries when they qualify.

The UK, along with our G8 colleagues, recently reiterated the commitment to the full financing and implementation of the HIPC Initiative at the Sea Island Summit. G8 leaders also agreed to support additional relief – so called 'topping up' – for all countries that are deemed to need it, as well as to extend the HIPC Initiative by two years, potentially allowing a further ten eligible HIPC countries to eventually benefit from HIPC debt. G8 leaders also agreed to consider measures that could help further the poorest countries to address the sustainability of their debt including through providing additional debt relief. The UK will work hard over the coming months for further measures to ensure that the poorest countries have a sustainable exit from debt.

Leeds Co-op ...part of a movement

Sarah Hill, Membership Manager Leeds Co-op

The Co-op is a household name and many people believe it is a single, national organisation. It may surprise you to learn that behind the Co-op name is a collection of independent businesses that share common values and principles and together make up a major part of the growing Co-operative Movement.

The Movement began in 1844 when the Rochdale Pioneers, a group of 28 ordinary working men, set up a small shop to provide wholesome goods at fair prices to their members – local working people.

The Pioneers' shop was successful because they developed and worked to a set of business principles including open membership, equal membership rights for women, democratic control based on 'one member, one vote' and payment of any surplus back to members through the 'dividend'.

The idea of co-operation spread very quickly, and by 1900 there were well over a thousand societies. The Co-operative Movement today consists of some 40 societies varying in size and offering a

range of services, but all sharing a set of values and principles based on those laid down 120 years ago.

Leeds Co-op began in 1847 with a flourmill, and by the 1860s it was the country's largest co-operative society. Leeds Co-op is now the oldest independent society in Britain and trades across Leeds through its 65 food, funeral, travel and optical outlets.

The Society is proud of its traditions and remains a local business owned by our members – the people of Leeds. We actively support the local community through our campaigns. Recent years have seen us fighting against the single traveller supplement and the growing problem of

litter in our city, as well as promoting equality, children's literacy skills and, most recently, working alongside TIDAL supporting Fairtrade and Leeds' bid to become a Fairtrade City.

We work hard to maintain and develop our position as the 'responsible retailer' and for many years have been at the forefront of



Creating a better society

retailing issues, leading industry and interpreting the law in the best interest of the consumer. We are renowned for taking a stand on issues of concern to our members, such as honest food labelling, ethical trading, animal welfare and the environment. Our commitment to Fairtrade is well known across Leeds and we were extremely proud to be awarded 'Best Leeds Supermarket for Fairtrade' for the second year running earlier this year.

Leeds Co-op is owned by its membership and we welcome new members who support our values and principles. For more information please contact Sarah Hill, Membership Manager on 0113 395 6025, email sarah.hill@leeds.coop or have a look at our website: www.leeds.coop



Brian Ogier (centre), Manager of Leeds Co-op Beeston Foodstore, receives the award for 'Best Leeds Supermarket for Fairtrade 2004' from co-operative coffee farmer, Felipe Miza Castro from Guatemala, and Rt Hon John Battle MP.

TIDAL and you

There's a lot more that TIDAL could do if we could find the people to do it. If you've got time, talent and energy to offer, contact the office on 0113 391 7917 or email info@leedstidal.org. Better still, fill in our Supporter Survey on www.leedstidal.org (... or contact the office if you'd prefer to fill in a hard copy).

Fairtrade Fashion Show

Monday 18 October
The Wardrobe

So, you drink your Fairtrade coffee and eat your Fairtrade chocolate, content in the knowledge that the producers are receiving a fair price. Well, pop your cup down on the table and let's just have a look at what you are wearing, and more importantly, how it was made.

70% of garment workers are women, working in factories, 'sweatshops' or as homeworkers. Wages are very low – often below minimum wage levels. Hours are long and forced overtime is common; health and safety standards are poor.

We want to raise awareness of the issues facing garment workers, and are planning a fair trade fashion show with People Tree, and other leading Fairtrade clothing

retailers, so you can see that you can look good **and** feel good about what you wear.

It will, very fittingly (*geddit?*), be at The Wardrobe, next to the Playhouse, on Monday 18 October. We'll give you more information closer to the time, but put the date in your diaries now. If you are interested in helping out, either with the organisation or at the event itself, please let Annie know.

www.labourbehindthelabel.org

www.nosweat.org.uk

www.peopletree.co.uk



Photo: People Tree

What's on July – October 2004

July

- Sat 10 **Kirkstall Festival**
... anyone free to set up a stall?
- Tues 20 **Fairtrade City Steering Group Meeting**
4pm: Leeds Civic Hall

August

- Sun 1 **Leeds Mela**
Roundhay Park
- Sat 21 **Strategic planning session**
for steering group: 9am–3pm
- Mon 30 **Chapelton Carnival**
... anyone free to set up a stall?

September

- Sat 4 **Chapel Allerton Arts Festival**
Regent Street, Chapel Allerton
- Sun 26 **TJM Lobby of Labour Party Conference**
Brighton

October

- 17–24 **One World Week**
- Mon 18 **Fairtrade Fashion Show**
The Wardrobe, next to Playhouse

Please contact Annie in the TIDAL office for further info about any of these events.

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 7922 1111 Fax: 020 7922 1122
assistant@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk
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

www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk

TIDAL

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Leeds, LS1 6DG

Tel: 0113 391 7917 Fax: 0113 391 7939

info@leedstidal.org

www.leedstidal.org