

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

An end to debt. An end to poverty.



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30 January 2007

Dear Prime Minister

In a year when together we recognise the affront and injustice of slavery and acknowledge the extraordinary commitment of campaigners that made such a difference two hundred years ago, we are today urging you to further action on the affront and injustice of international debt.

We fully recognise that this government has done much to keep the issue on the international agenda, and there has been progress which has brought benefits for the health and education of people who are poor.

But the task is not complete. When ten years ago campaigners first proclaimed the vision of Jubilee – a new start for poor people and poor nations – it was a vision of justice, of openness and transparency, of new processes that would hold lenders responsible for the impact of their loans on people and the environment.

Today we are once again committing ourselves to work for the realisation of that vision of Jubilee, urging our communities to continue to play their part as we call on you, and all world leaders – whether of rich or poor countries – to do the same.

Without further action the existing international debt crisis will not be ended and the new debt crisis that is brewing will not be averted – and people who are poor will continue to pay the price.

We join together to urge you to use the particular opportunities this year to seek further progress on debt. It is not just about getting more debt cancelled, important though that is. It is about a new vision of relationship between nations – rich and poor, creditor and debtor – characterised not by power, control and corruption but by processes and decisions which prioritise the rights and needs of people who are poor.

Unjust and unpayable debt must be cancelled; debt relief must not be used as an instrument of power and control; there must be fair, democratic and open processes to deal with historic debt and prevent future crises; loans and debt repayments must not be allowed to damage people, their communities and their environment.

Let us all heed the ancient call, no less relevant in 2007: "let the oppressed go free."

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Rand'.

Stephen Rand, Co-Chair, Jubilee Debt Campaign [on behalf of signatories attached]

Patrons: Larry Elliot, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Sir Colin Lucas, Rev Prof Michael Taylor, Dr Martin Dent, Most Rev & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu (Archbishop of York)
Jubilee Debt Campaign is a Coalition of Local/Regional Groups and National Organisations. It is also known as Jubilee Debt Coalition.
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The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu
Archbishop of York



Dr Joe Aldred
Chair, Council of Black-Led Churches



Rev Graham Carter
President of the Methodist Conference



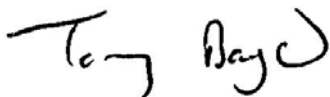
Hanne Stinson
Chief Executive
British Humanist Association



Dr Indarjit Singh
Director, Network of Sikh Organisations



The Revd Elizabeth Caswell,
Moderator of the United Reformed
Church General Assembly



Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield
Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism



Rabbi Danny Rich
Chief Executive, Liberal Judaism

Sir Jonathan Sacks
Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew
Congregations of the Commonwealth



Bhai Sahib (Dr) Mohinder Singh
Chairperson, Guru Nanak Nishkam
Sewak Jatha (Birmingham) UK



Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, Secretary-
General, The Muslim Council of Britain



Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg
Assembly of Masorti Synagogues



Rev Katei Kirby, CEO
African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance



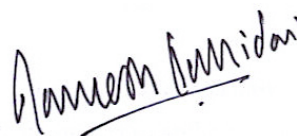
Rev David Coffey
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Rev Jonathan Edwards,
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Rev Joel Edwards
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Ramesh Kallidai
Secretary-General, Hindu Forum of Britain