

Next meeting

February meeting: Vulture Funds Thursday 17 February

7.00pm, Nishkam Centre, 6 Soho Rd, B21 9BH

Join us for an update on the Vulture Funds campaign, including a letter writing action. Tea and biscuits will be provided. All are welcome. A great way to get involved in JDC and take practical action!

Other JDC events coming up

JDC monthly meetings each have a different focus and all are welcome to attend. Hope you can join us!

Debt & the Arms Trade

Tuesday 15 March

7–9pm, Moseley Community Trust, PO Building,
149-153 Alcester Road, Moseley, B13 8JP

We will be exploring the link between debt and the global Arms Trade. Hot drinks available. Speaker to be announced. Contact Ruth Tetlow for more info: 0121 449 4892.

‘Inspired by Love & Anger’

Tuesday 12 April

7pm, venue to be confirmed

What inspires and sustains you in the struggle for global justice? We are invited to bring inspirational material of all sorts e.g. poetry, songs, music, pictures etc. for a reflective evening. For people of all faiths and none.

Campaign briefing

Wednesday 18 May

7pm, Birmingham Midlands Institute

Come and find out more about JDC’s campaigning in relation to the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD). Our speaker will be Kat Banyard from the national JDC staff team.

Women’s conference

Women’s Voices Against Global Poverty

Thursday 10 March

6.00pm for 6.30pm – 9.00pm
West Midlands Fire Service HQ, Vauxhall Rd,
Nechells, Birmingham, B7 4HW

You are warmly invited to this women only event hosted by JDC’s Multifaith project. Please spread the word and invite your women friends and colleagues.

On arrival there will be time for registration, networking, hot drinks and browsing stalls from faith groups and NGOs working on global poverty.

We’ll hear and share stories and experiences of the Global South from women of different faiths.

Our keynote speaker **Shabana Mamood MP** will share with us how faith has influenced her own activism and pursuit for global justice.

For more info and flyers to share with friends please visit: www.jdcmultifaith.org or contact Audrey Miller 0121 4714175 or jubileedebt@blueyonder.co.uk.

Dates for your diary

Some more dates for your diary—more info to follow nearer the time. Keep an eye on future newsletters for venues and times.

Garden party: Sunday 12 June

Following the success of last year’s garden party, join other campaigners at the beginning of the summer for a meeting with a difference (plus strawberries and cream!) and help us plan JDC’s activities for the rest of the year.

Focus on China: Monday 11 July

Last year we took an in-depth look at Bangladesh. This month we’ll be focusing on debt and development in China. We will share a Chinese meal together as part of the evening—do invite a friend!

Other events

Religions for Peace UK event

Wednesday 16 February

4.30 for 5.00pm, Nishkam Centre, 6 Soho Road,
Birmingham, B21 9BH

Religions for Peace UK, in partnership with Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ), invites you to an evening to explore how Faith Communities and Leaders can help make the area we live in a safer place by working towards an Arms Trade Treaty.

Take Action on Dodgy Deals

We are urging all JDC campaigners to write to Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, calling on him to conduct a full review of the government's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD), and put an end to its contribution to Third World Debt.

For more information and the background to the campaign, see the report mentioned opposite.

You can request campaign postcards from the JDC office. Just call 020 7324 4722 or email info@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk.

How you can get involved

- Come along to one of our regular meetings.
- Do you have a few hours to spare? Help is always needed with staffing JDC stalls and sending out mailings. We can also tell you about other volunteering opportunities.
- Do you have a skill to share? Are you good at writing press releases, taking photos, writing resources? Let us know!
- We are particularly looking for a webmaster / intern / volunteer. Please get in touch if you enjoy working with websites!
- Are you passionate about getting your own faith community engaged with tackling global poverty and unjust debt? Get in touch with the Multifaith Project Worker Chris: chris@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk
- Do you have an idea for an event or campaign action—come along to one of our regular planning meetings!

Dodgy Deals Report

JDC has a new report out on the Government's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) called 'The Department for Dodgy Deals: Ending the UK's support for toxic debt'.

"[The ECGD] helps exporters to invest in 'high risk' projects or areas of the world by providing a form of insurance. (.....) Today the ECGD is the biggest holder of Third World debt owed to the British government. (.....) Much of this debt is deeply unjust, based on loans that harmed the people or the environment of the country in which the projects took place."

JDC has set out a series of recommendations for the ECGD, and is calling for it to be transformed into a socially responsible department which supports human rights and sustainable development.

This report is an excellent resource for campaigners, beginning with the basics of how the ECGD works and outlining case studies in Indonesia, Kenya, India and Lesotho. You can obtain a copy from the national JDC website, or from John Nightingale (see contact details below).

Dates for 2011

Thurs 17 February: Vulture Funds

Thurs 10 March: Women's Conference

Tues 15 March: Debt and the Arms Trade

Tues 12 April: Inspired by Love and Anger

Wed 18 May: ECGD Campaign Briefing

Sun 12 June: Garden party / Planning meeting

Mon 11 July: China and development issues

Contact details

Local Birmingham JDC group

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