

AFRICA ACTION SHEET



STOP TTIP and CETA!

Winter 2014-2015

The EU soon intends to sign two far-reaching trade agreements: one with Canada (CETA = Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) and one with the USA (TTIP = Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)

What's the problem?

The official line is that these deals will create jobs and increase economic growth. However, the beneficiaries of these agreements are not in fact citizens, but big corporations.

TTIP poses a threat to democracy all over the world. If the deal is passed it would become a **blueprint for corporate controlled trade** that would be forced on countries that had nothing to do with negotiating it.

One part of the deal is particularly disturbing. It is a rule giving corporations the right to sue governments for millions of pounds for changes they feel might harm their profits. **The rule allows big business to bypass national courts and bring legal cases against governments to undemocratic international courts run by corporate lawyers.**

The stakes are high whether a state wins or loses, since cases can cost millions of pounds to defend. Public funds would be at great risk of lining the pockets of big business, threatening to deepen inequality and poverty.

This appalling rule is embedded in many existing agreements between countries, and companies are already using it to sue states.

Egypt is being penalised for raising the minimum wage, one of the key demands of people involved in the Arab Spring rising. A French company is suing the government for almost fifty million pounds.

TTIP would set a new standard for Trade everywhere in the world. Poorer countries could be forced to sign up to new rules which they had not negotiated. It is these countries which face the worst impacts from the costs of being sued, and for many it is already a reality.

Take action: www.wdm.org.uk/ttip



GOOD NEWS

Church Leaders call for EU Rules on Conflict Resources to be Binding

As the European Parliament prepares to debate legislation on responsible mineral sourcing (conflict minerals), 70 Catholic bishops from around the world are urging the EU to make the legislation's requirements consistent in scope and binding for companies, rather than the current voluntary approach. The international alliance of Catholic development agencies (CIDSE) warns that European citizens expect **guarantees that they are not complicit in financing conflict and human rights abuses.** Read more:

www.cidse.org

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CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW! NETWORK

The World Development Movement is part of the **Climate Justice Now! network**, which is a southern-led coalition of around 150 organisations and movements campaigning for a globally just and effective solution to the climate crisis.

We will take our struggle forward not just in climate talks, but on the ground and in the streets, to promote genuine solutions that include:

- Leaving fossil fuels in the ground and investing instead in appropriate energy-efficiency and safe, clean and community-led renewable energy;
- Radically reducing wasteful consumption, first and foremost in the north, but also by southern elites;
- Huge financial transfers from north to south, based on the repayment of climate debts and subject to democratic control. The costs of adaptation and mitigation should be paid for by redirecting military budgets, innovative taxes and debt cancellation;
- Rights-based resource conservation that enforces indigenous land rights and promotes peoples' sovereignty over energy, forests, land and water;
- Supporting sustainable family farming and peoples' food sovereignty.

We are committed to building a diverse movement locally and globally for a better world.

Take action: www.wdm.org.uk

PRAYERS FOR THE EBOLA CRISIS

These prayers have been written from reflection on the lectionary passages for 19 October 2014. Bold type has been included for use in small group and congregational settings but these prayers are also made available for individual use. Available from **Christian Aid** www.christianaid.org.uk

STOP THE "MONSANTO LAW"!

In Ghana, farmers' and labour unions, religious groups and civil society have mobilised protests against "**Monsanto law**" on the streets of Accra.

This law, if it is passed, will restrict small-scale farmers and food producers from freely saving, exchanging and selling seeds. It will side-line traditional varieties and push farmers towards buying seeds from big businesses like **Monsanto** year after year. Small-scale farmers could even face criminalisation for saving seeds that corporations lay claim to.

Read more: www.wdm.org.uk

Peace Sunday: 18 January 2015

"Slaves no more but brothers and sisters"

Many people think that slavery is a thing of the past. In fact, this social plague remains all too real in today's world. Last year's Message for 1 January 2014 was dedicated to brotherhood: "*Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace*". Being children of God gives all human beings equal dignity as brothers and sisters....



Shamefully, individuals and groups around the world profit from this slavery. They take advantage of the world's many conflicts, of the economic crisis and of corruption in order to carry out their evil trade. *Slavery is a terrible open wound on the contemporary social body, a fatal running sore on the flesh of Christ!*

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Resource Materials for Peace Sunday are available from **Pax Christi**

www.paxchristi.org.uk