

+ Campaign Update June/July 2026

Debt petitions are coming in from parishes!

Dear CAFOD volunteers,

THANK YOU to those of you who have sent in your completed petition sheets! Signings are really getting going across the country now. If you have your signing date planned, thank you very much. Any time through the summer is fine. Email us at campaigns@cafod.org.uk with any questions or feedback on how it went. We'd also love photos to encourage other parishes. Thank you! See cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt for updates, a short animation, more FAQs and articles about debt.

With our prayers and best wishes, Helen, Andrea, Aisha and Phoebe, CAFOD Campaigns Team

Most frequently asked questions so far

Why are we doing another debt petition?

CAFOD's campaigns address causes of poverty, and the debt crisis is increasing poverty levels on a massive scale. If governments have no funds to support their citizens because so much money is flowing out of their countries to rich private banks, the impacts are immeasurable.

A reformed system for lending and borrowing that is fair, transparent and sustainable would be transformational for low-income countries. The UK government has a key role to play in this, and we are the citizens who can influence them. We made some progress last year, so let's keep pushing.



Holy Family church in Freckleton, Lancaster Diocese holds a signing

Is this campaign just about cancelling debts? What about corruption?

This campaign isn't just about cancelling debts – it's about calling for a transformed system which will safeguard against irresponsible lending *and* irresponsible borrowing. Some element of debt relief will be necessary, as current debt burdens are unsustainable – but this campaign is about fixing the current crisis by creating a fair and robust system for the future. We are supporting calls from campaigners and activists across the global south who working to improve transparency and accountability from all parties involved in lending and borrowing.



Zambian debt and climate activist, Precious Kalombwana: "I want the private banks to understand that these decisions are not just financial, they are human. It is important to consider not just whether a country can repay, but what it costs people on the ground. A sustainable solution needs to prioritise people, not just balance sheets."

Do people have to give all their details, including email address?

For their signature to count, we need their name, first line of address and postcode. We would love people to give their email address and tick the box to get updates from CAFOD, but their email address isn't needed for their signature to be counted.

Will CAFOD share the details of people who sign our petition?

No. We won't share them with anyone. We don't hand actual petition sheets into government anymore; we communicate the numbers to them in other ways. We will process the details and the sheets will be shredded. Also, we will email you to say we've received the petition safely in the post.



Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham signs our new petition



Sudan petition is handed to government

In April, with 11 other leading aid agencies, we handed a petition to government calling for urgent action on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. As the conflict enters its fourth year, almost 12 million people have been driven from their homes. CAFOD's director Christine Allen was present, representing 5,500 CAFOD supporters who signed the petition, part of the 43,000 total.

A written reply from Baroness Chapman, Minister of State for International Development and Africa, included: "Sudan is, and will remain, a priority for this government. Our goal is clear: to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian aid reaches those most in need, and work with Sudanese and international partners to deliver long-term peace, justice and recovery."

Although there are no simple solutions to this crisis, it is vitally important that we press our government to do all they can. Thank you if you signed this petition, and if you invited people to donate to the Sudan emergency appeal in your parish.

Live Simply Award for parishes

Working towards the LiveSimply Award as a parish is about finding ways to live in solidarity with our global family and embrace simpler, more sustainable ways of doing things. As CAFOD we support parishes on this journey, who write an action plan, work towards goals and eventually get assessed for the award.



The churches of Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold (Catholic Parish of Guildford) achieved the LiveSimply Award with flying colours last month. They made great efforts to preserve and improve natural spaces, ran a parish fundraiser for Uganda and supported local food banks, amongst other things. Those who coordinated the running of the award involved the whole parish through excellent communications on a dedicated LiveSimply website, a Facebook page and regular tips for living more simply in their parish newsletter – and had some great initiatives to involve all age groups in the award.

Read more about the Live Simply Award at cafod.org.uk/livesimply

Interested in coming to Parliament with us?

From the clothes we wear, to the food we eat and the equipment used by NHS staff, the goods and services we use every day are part of global supply chains – and sadly, human rights abuses and environmental destruction take place throughout these chains with a profound cost. We need new laws to protect people and the earth, and on **Wednesday 21 October**, as part of a coalition of organisations, we will take part in a lobby of MPs in Parliament called **Good Business Matters** to push for new legislation, because the UK is falling behind other countries in Europe on this. We aim to take around 20 CAFOD supporters to this lobby. If you are interested in coming and would like to find out more, with no commitment at this stage, please email Helen hmoseley@cafod.org.uk



A Million Acts of Hope

CAFOD joined other organisations last month in A Million Acts of Hope, a UK joint initiative to celebrate everyday acts of kindness and connection. Partnering with CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) we shared messages from Pope Leo that inspire unity and compassion, such as, "The world is held together by a multitude of supportive brothers and sisters." In the same spirit, we also marked National Volunteers' Week in early June: **Thank you for your tireless dedication, passion and time as a CAFOD volunteer.**

Prefer to receive this by email? To receive this by email instead of post please email Helen: hmoseley@cafod.org.uk