Campaign Update Oct/Nov 2026

Dear CAFOD volunteers,

We hope you are having a lovely autumn. If you've been involved in sharing our Harvest appeal in your parish, thank you for that. And thank you again for organising a debt petition earlier in the summer if you were able to. We've had almost 500 back, totalling 30,000 signatures. It's a wonderful response and we'll present it to government next month. More about our debt campaign overleaf.

Please see below for invitations to do three things!

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

Join us online for Faith in Action on Saturday 31 October!



On **Saturday 31 October** we will come together as a CAFOD community to talk about our campaigning and advocacy work and we'd love to have you!

It's from **9.30am to 12pm,** and we'll have:

- Father Charlie Chilufya (who wrote the letter to parishes last year) looking ahead to the debt campaign in 2027 and the UK hosting the G20
- Our Director of Advocacy, Neil Thorns, ahead of his trip to the UN climate talks, COP31, in Turkey next month, working with the Vatican delegation
- An MP who will talk to us about the best ways to work with our elected representatives for positive change.

Register at **cafod.org.uk/FIA** to join us live on the day or to get a recording of the sessions afterwards. We'd love you to join us!

Help us pack a suitcase before 5 November!



The UK Energy Secretary, Miatta Fahnbulleh, will soon be heading to the UN climate talks, COP31, in Türkiye (Turkey).

Year after year, thousands of us write to the UK government demanding bold action at the COP climate talks. This has helped demonstrate the strength of public support for urgent progress on the climate crisis.

This year we're making sure our message stands out to maximise our impact! Before the conference begins on Monday 9 November, we'd like you to suggest what the Secretary of State should pack in her suitcase to help her take urgent climate action. Catholics across the country have already started adding symbolic items to the suitcase, representing the values and commitments we hope the UK government will take to the climate talks. Someone suggested a clock, because time is running out, and someone else, a copy of Laudato Si' to remind us that we're trying to protect our common home.

Take part at **cafod.org.uk/suitcase before 5 November,** when we'll send it to Miatta Fahnbulleh. It's an online action that we're inviting you to take - we're not asking you to involve your parish. Thank you!

Join our **COP31 webinar on Tuesday 10 November at 6pm**. CAFOD staff and partners will join us live from Türkiye and tell us about how the climate talks are going and also the role that the Vatican delegation is playing at the conference. Register at **bigmarker.com/cafod/cop31** to listen live or to a recording afterwards.

CAFOD
A better world needs all of us

You are receiving this update as part of your volunteering agreement with CAFOD. If you want to stop volunteering or discuss your volunteering role, please contact your local CAFOD representative. Or for any queries email Helen Moseley **hmoseley@cafod.org.uk** or call our Campaigns hotline on **020 7095 5692**.



We did it! The UK will ban trade with illegal settlements

One of the greatest obstacles to building peace in the Holy Land is the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements which displace Palestinian families.

As Palestinians are forced from their homes, settlers are using this land to grow and export produce – such as dates and wine - across the world.

Almost 5,000 CAFOD supporters emailed the Trade Secretary in August demanding an end to this trade, joining a huge chorus of other voices.

On 9 September the Foreign Secretary announced that the government will indeed **ban trade in goods and services from illegal Israeli settlements.**

For years, goods produced on illegally occupied land have continued to enter Britain. But this is now set to change. CAFOD supporters helped send a clear message that Britain's trade policy must uphold international law and human rights.

A ban on settlement trade is an important step in the campaign for justice, peace and equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis. CAFOD will continue to work alongside our partners and allies to achieve this goal. Thank you if you were able to take part. It shows that simple actions by individuals can make a difference when thousands of us do the same.

Update on our global debt crisis campaign

We are coming to the end of our 2026 debt crisis petition with 36,000 signatures and counting! We will hand this to the government before the end of the year, to continue building on all the momentum so far and let them know that we want to see progress, including a UK Debt Justice Law, and we will keep going!

Thank you for being part of that, whether it has been sending an email to your MP or organising a parish petition.



Holy Trinity church, Nottingham diocese

What's next?

We will continue to campaign on the debt crisis in 2027 since the UK hosting the G20 gives us a special opportunity to push for urgent action. It was encouraging to hear Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband's words on debt in a speech in Bangkok on 14 October:

"Next year the UK takes the chair of the G20.....First, on debt, the debt problem may have changed, but its impact, if anything, is worse than 20 years ago. Debt servicing costs are at a 25-year high in sub-Saharan Africa. Over three and a half times more is spent on debt servicing than on education. And this is in part because the Global South is paying the price for rising interest rates in wealthier countries.....
Many of these countries' debt may be sustainable over the longer term, but the short-term repayments are crippling. And while many are not defaulting on their payments, they are being forced to default on the lives of future prospects of future generations. We need a new deal on debt, a deal that supports countries to repay over longer time horizons and, crucially, refinancing with better rates to give developing countries precious fiscal space."

As we've said for a while, key figures are agreeing with us on the problem but not the solutions. Next year is a critical moment for us to keep on pushing for progress. We will keep you updated!

Campaigners' WhatsApp!
We have a Whatsapp group for CAFOD campaigners. Scan this QR code with your phone, or text us on 07553 040 376 to be added.

Come to Parliament with us in the spring!
On Wednesday 10 March 2027 we will hold our annual Parliamentary Reception for CAFOD supporters and their MPs. More details next time. To reserve a place now with no commitment please email Helen at hmoseley@cafod.org.uk

Prefer to receive this by email? To receive this by email instead of post please email Helen: hmoseley@cafod.org.uk Please note it will arrive as a PDF so isn't suitable for reading on a phone!

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