

Dear _____

As your constituent and a parishioner at the parish of _____

I'd like to bring to your attention to CAFOD's Jubilee Year debt petition, which I and _____ of my fellow parishioners have signed.

The petition is addressed to world leaders and calls for urgent action to address the debt crisis many of the world's poorest countries are facing. To date, 34,000 people have signed the petition in parishes across England and Wales, part of 177,000 people around the world who have signed similar petitions, demonstrating the widespread support within the Catholic community for action on the debt crisis.

3.3 billion people now live in countries where more is spent on interest payments to foreign lenders than on health, education, or climate action. Relief efforts are currently being blocked by profitable private lenders, like international banks and hedge funds, who are charging extortionate rates of interest on their loans and refusing to cooperate in debt restructuring processes when countries enter crisis. The UK government is uniquely placed to break this deadlock, with 90% of debts owed by the world's poorest countries governed by English law due to the pivotal role of the City of London.

As your constituent, I ask you to write to the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, calling for UK legislation to compel private lenders to cooperate in debt relief processes. It may be helpful to make the following points:

- More than 50 developing countries are now in debt crisis, forced to prioritise debt repayments over providing essential services, such as health and education, for their citizens or tackling climate change. These conditions make it nearly impossible for them to grow their economies and escape debt, and contribute to international instability and insecurity.
- The G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments is failing to produce results due to private creditors failing to cooperate in agreeing timely and adequate debt relief. In five years, only one country – Chad – has agreed a deal under this framework, and it received no relief after its main private creditor, UK-based lender Glencore, frustrated negotiations.
- With 90% of low-income countries' debts governed by English law, the UK is uniquely placed to act; I urge you to enact legislation to compel private creditors to participate in debt relief. This would cost the Treasury nothing and help in offsetting the damaging impacts of aid cuts, demonstrating partnership with countries in the global South who are calling for such action.
- This would build on the now outdated *2010 Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act*, passed by the previous Labour Government, and found by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government to have no evidence of "unintended or adverse effects."
- 2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church. Building on the legacy of the historic Jubilee 2000 debt campaign, will you introduce legislation to compel private creditors to participate in debt relief?

More information can be found on CAFOD's website at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

NAME _____

ADDRESS AND POSTCODE _____

