



Campaign Update

October 2025

Thank you for holding debt petition signings!

Over 450 parishes held debt petition signings this summer, with an incredible 34,000 signatures being gathered and still coming in! These are part of the global church petition. Thank you so much if you were able to take part. Of course, since then many of you will have been helping with Harvest Fast Day in your parish so thank you very much for that too.



If you haven't sent us your signed petition sheets, it's not too late. You can send them to 'Freepost CAFOD' (literally just write this on the envelope, nothing else – it is correct). Thank you.

Thank you message from Father Charlie: "What wonderful news! I am deeply encouraged to hear that the letter has resonated in the parishes of England and Wales, and that together we have gathered 34,000 signatures. This is a powerful sign of the energy and commitment among people of faith to stand for justice and for those burdened by debt. Please do pass on my heartfelt gratitude to all who have signed and to those who continue to champion this cause."



So, how is the global debt campaign going? As we often say in campaigning, this is a long struggle. But, many things can encourage us and show that our efforts in this Jubilee Year have been worthwhile.

We've helped to build the case internationally. Tackling the debt crisis is now on the agenda for world leaders and financial institutions, dominating discussion at 2025 global summits, from the G7 to the UN General Assembly and G20 Summit. Campaigners making a huge noise about debt justice this year at every major political moment has pushed the issue into the spotlight.

After the Financing for Development Conference in Seville in June, a major global initiative attended by over 50 Heads of State and almost all governments globally, the outcome document that all parties signed up to included a pledge to "encourage[s] jurisdictions to consider passing legislation aimed at limiting holdouts by creditors", i.e. **tackle the behaviour of the big banks**, which is exactly what we've been calling for.

Our campaigning this year has helped put global debt on the map here in the UK and made it impossible for our government to ignore. We've established a regular back and forth with them on the policy detail that's needed, and we're continuing to build and work with a supportive group of backbench MPs. We've secured and contributed to dozens of parliamentary meetings and events making the case for a Debt Justice Law.

We could not have done it without you. We'll continue campaigning on debt in 2026, pressuring the UK government to take bold action that could help millions of people out of poverty. Watch this space!

If you held a petition signing, please can you do **one more important step and let your MP know** that people from your parish support action being taken on debt? This would increase the impact of your petition signatures. Please find a suggested text on the enclosed sheet, and more info overleaf. **Important: Please let us know you've done this** by emailing campaigns@cafod.org.uk – thank you!

COP30 in Brazil

The United Nations climate talks, COP30, are approaching. World leaders will meet in Belém, Brazil, from 10-21 November 2025 and this conference is a particularly critical one for the world.

The impacts of climate change are being felt across the globe, but they are hitting the poorest countries hardest, where communities have the fewest coping mechanisms.



There are three things you can do as an individual:

- Write to the Energy Secretary, Ed Miliband to call for action – see cafod.org.uk/cop30
- Hear from CAFOD staff and partners live from Brazil at our **webinar on Thursday 13 November** at 7pm – sign up at bigmarker.com/cafod/cop30
- Join in with a **Global Day of Action on Saturday 15 November**, when events will take place around the UK and the world to call for urgent action at COP30: see cafod.org.uk/dayofaction or scan here.



Fix the Food System: campaign update

In this Jubilee year our public campaigning has been on debt. Behind the scenes we have also been working on our Fix the Food System campaign. CAFOD supporters have helped open doors for discussion with past support such as signing a letter from small-scale farmer Salina (below) to the World Bank about seeds in 2023. Here is an update of progress:

- We have been supporting our sister organisation, Caritas Zambia, to delay the passing of legislation in Zambia (imposed as part of a World Bank Bank-funded agriculture project), which would have restricted farmers' rights to access their own varieties of seeds.
- We have been raising awareness with the World Bank of the negative impact their agriculture project in Zambia (Zamgro) could have on farmers' rights.



- We supported workshops in Kenya which have strengthened women farmers' voices and encouraged dialogue between farmers and key decision makers around the threat imposed by restrictive seed legislation.
- We've been engaging with FCDO and Defra regarding the UK government's position on UPOV91, a treaty that limits farmers' rights to save, exchange and use seeds.
- We got a response from the UK Executive Director at the World Bank stating that the UK will use its seat on the World Bank Executive Board to encourage the Bank to scrutinise programmes that might interact inappropriately with international obligations or national sovereignty.

Middle East updates

A reminder that you can check the CAFOD website for updates on our partners' work in the Middle East: see cafod.org.uk/news and you can find prayers for peace at cafod.org.uk/pray

CAFOD is also part of the [Red Line for Gaza](#) campaign, working together with other organisations.

Enclosed: Suggested text for your MP if you held a debt petition signing in your parish

We are enclosing a letter for you to please send to your MP if you held a debt petition signing. You can complete the gaps and post it, or if you would prefer to email your MP, email us at campaigns@cafod.org.uk and we'll send you the text electronically.

- Raising this to your MP *as a constituent* is important, so please do sign off the letter with your **full name and address including postcode**.
- If you're unsure **who your MP is**, you can find out here: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>
- If you don't know **how many parishioners** signed your petition, email us at campaigns@cafod.org.uk and we'll remind you!
- Please email us at campaigns@cafod.org.uk **to let us know you've done it**, ideally by the end of October, and let us know if your MP gets back in touch.