

WDM and its local groups



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The World Development Movement (WDM) campaigns for a world without poverty and injustice. We work in solidarity with activists around the world to tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality. We research and promote positive alternatives which put the rights of people before the interests of big business. WDM's network of local groups and activists are at the heart of the organisation and our campaign successes would not have been achieved without their efforts.

Over fifty local groups take action in their communities to challenge corporate power and the policies that keep people in poverty all over the world. They organise film screenings and talks, lobby politicians, organise creative stunts, get local media coverage and are part of a global movement for a just world.

Why a group?

A small group of people can have a big impact. Challenging injustice can seem overwhelming and it helps to meet up and take action with others. What we do locally is part of a much bigger global justice movement.

Even if you only have a few people meeting regularly, together you can lobby your MP and MEPs, write to your local paper, organise larger events, blog about our campaigns and share them through social media. You can also team up with other WDM groups in your area to organise regional actions and events.

A brief history of WDM

WDM was launched in 1970 and has its origins in the 'World Poverty Action' groups started in the 1960s by people involved in charities and development education who saw the need for political action.

WDM has grown steadily and campaigned successfully on a wide range of development issues. It has developed from a small network into a nationwide democratic organisation with groups, affiliates and individual members. Through an elected council and an area representatives' forum, the membership guides WDM's campaigns and strategy.

And our campaigning really does work. In recent years we've managed everything from forcing the postponement of French oil company Total's plans to mine tar sands in one of the poorest regions of Madagascar to persuading the EU to fund more public, rather than privatised, solutions to the water crisis in poor countries.

While we campaign for specific changes, we are part of a wider justice movement seeking to change the economic system. We work with allies across the world, supporting international struggles and wider economic justice issues.

Areas and area reps

WDM currently has around 50 local groups across the country. These are split into areas for three reasons: to ensure groups have democratic input into running WDM; to ensure good communication between the office, the council and groups; and to more easily provide support for groups through area representatives.

A list of the current area reps and their contact details can be found on the WDM website, or can be sent to you from the office. The reps are elected by the region they represent and meet at the area representatives' forum, which in turn elects three people to sit on council, alongside nine others who are directly elected by the membership.

Support we can offer groups

WDM's activism team is the group of staff who most directly support our local groups. It tries to support groups and activists as much as possible to make them feel confident with their campaigning. Some of the things available to groups include:

- Campaign materials: in-depth policy reports, campaign briefings, petitions, stunt props and personalised group flyers.
- Training and events: workshops to build confidence in a range of campaigning skills including media, lobbying and creative activism. We also organise several national and regional events each year.
- Your questions answered: WDM staff are always happy to respond to any queries you may have regarding the organisation, our campaigns, local organising or anything else. We try to answer emails and calls as quickly as possible.
- Speakers and films: If you would like to organise a public event, we can send a speaker from the office or provide films related to global justice issues for a film screening.



WDM publications

As well as reports and campaigns materials, WDM produces three main regular communications with group.

- Regular email updates which are sent to all members whose email addresses we have, plus anyone else who signs up.
- Action is a magazine which is sent to all members three times a year.
- *Think Global* is a monthly update sent to groups and activists by post and email.

The World Development Movement campaigns against the root causes of poverty. Our network of local groups and activists keeps global justice on the agenda in towns and cities around the UK.

WDM's activism team supports local campaigning. Contact us:
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