

Another world is possible!



The world's ten richest men own more wealth than the poorest 40 per cent of humanity – that's over 3 billion people. And just 100 companies are responsible for 71 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

These two facts are not unrelated – they're products of a global economy that has specifically been designed to allow a tiny minority to make huge amounts of money whatever the consequences.

We're often told that global poverty, hunger, biodiversity loss and the destruction of the climate on which we all depend are difficult, even intractable problems. Yet they are the flipside to the vast wealth and monopoly power of multinational corporations. But this isn't just a question of greed, it's about rules and structures which lock our whole society in to this profit-driven system.

Take the pharmaceutical industry. It is one of the most profitable industries in the world because it monopolises the production of life-saving medicines through patents. Even though many treatments and vaccines are developed with large amounts of public money, big pharmaceutical companies are allowed to privatise this knowledge, making huge profits. There are 40 new pharma billionaires as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, while literally billions of people still haven't been vaccinated.

Yet time and again through history injustice has been overcome by people who have organised together collectively. Alternatives to our corporate-controlled world are already being built. Another world is possible – if we fight for it!

What are the alternatives?

A commons for medicine

The intellectual property system in medicine is designed to let some people die, in order that others can get rich. Already the experience of Covid-19 has led South Africa to successfully 'reverse engineer' Moderna's vaccine in spite of the company's patent, and start sharing that knowhow with other global south countries. A 'commons' is a way of managing a resource which involves neither private nor state ownership, but equal access for all governed by the community of users. If more scientific and medical knowledge was a commons, with universities collaborating with public drug manufacturers rather than multinationals such as Pfizer, we could have a revolution in healthcare worldwide.



Food sovereignty

Cargill and just three other companies together control 70 per cent of the global agricultural market. But lots of food production still doesn't go through global markets, and a growing movement of millions of smallholder farmers, agricultural workers, Indigenous communities and consumers are showing that there's a different way. Food sovereignty is about providing for our nutritional needs in a way that provides a dignified living for producers based on solidarity. In a world of poisoned and exhausted soils, monocultures and patented GM seed, agroecology is providing alternatives to ecocide and corporate control.

A market in Salvador, Bahia state, organised by Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, which organises land occupations to win land and builds food sovereignty.
Photo: Daniela Moura / Midia Ninja (CC BY-SA)

Energy democracy

The cost of living crisis is demonstrating just how dysfunctional our privatised energy system is, matching energy company superprofits with fuel poverty even in a rich country like the UK. While fossil fuel and big energy companies call the shots, a transition to a low carbon world will be blocked. Democratising our energy system would allow us to put people and planet first. In Costa Rica, which has pledged to go zero carbon by 2030, electricity is distributed by large consumer co-operatives. Community-owned renewable energy generation already exists around the UK. A mixture of public and community energy, which prioritises insulation and energy degrowth could be the basis for a transformed world.

Climate justice

Colonialism plundered the resources of the global south to feed the processes that led to climate breakdown. Moreover, while formerly colonised countries are at the sharp end of the climate crisis, they have most often contributed least to it. Today debt, tax havens and trade rules all contribute to vast inequality between countries. To successfully transition to a zero carbon world we need to both directly redistribute wealth through climate reparations, and to change the rules that keep poor countries poor.

Join us

Global Justice Now challenges the powerful and organises for a global economy where people come before profit. We're part of a diverse global movement building alternatives to inequality and climate breakdown. Why not join us? globaljustice.org.uk/join

 **Global
Justice
Now**