

THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with
Global Justice Now



Maverick Press Agency

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Contents

02 Welcome

03 News from Global Justice Now

04 Climate justice

06 Trade justice

08 Gaza

10 Groups news

11 Youth network news

12 Upcoming events

Inserts

Trade

- BOOKLET: Standing up to Corporate Power with Colombia
- LEAFLET: Stand with Colombia against Corporate Power

Think Global is Global Justice Now's activist newsletter, published three times a year, with monthly email supplements (Think Global Extra)

Editing: Daisy Pearson, Guy Taylor and James O'Nions

Cover photo: Activists in Scotland after handing in their Fossil Fuel Treaty petition

2 February 2025

In 2025, let's unite with Brazilian movements for climate justice



James O'Nions Head of movement-building

This year's UN climate talks, which will be held in November in Brazil, offer an opportunity for the climate movement to regain some momentum.

For the last three years, the talks have been hosted by authoritarian states which have actively prevented climate mobilisations and even arrested local activists. Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates literally put the the oil industry in charge of the talks. Brazil will be different.

Not only is it a more democratic country where protest is plentiful, but it has many longstanding and organised social movements. Already over 400 Brazilian organisations have joined the coalition of groups mobilising for COP30, which will include not just protests but a People's Summit. The problem might be that the relatively small city of Belem, chosen to host for it's symbolic location in the heart of the Amazon, might not be able to cope with all the people who want to go there!

Luckily we won't all have to, as campaign groups around the world are already responding to the call from Brazilian movements to mobilise. At Global Justice Now we've been talking to both the Climate Justice Coalition and other organisations about making 2025 a year to regain some of the momentum around climate change we lost during the Covid crisis.

That means not just a single demonstration in November, but a longer run of moments which can push the UK government towards policy decisions which can actually help end the fossil fuel era, and take that agenda to Belem. Such a mobilisation can't come soon enough.

With Trump back in the White House and the grim prospect of hard right populists gaining ground around the world, the balance of political power isn't exactly shifting towards effective climate action at the moment. We need to demonstrate to Labour and to governments globally what surveys show – that a clear majority do want real action on the climate crisis.

The Belem COP offers us a chance to get back on the front foot. Let's get organising!

The next posted Think Global will be sent out in May, rather than June, to allow more time ahead of stall season.

News from Global Justice Now

In the media

We've had some strong media coverage across our campaigns in recent months. In November, as quarterly profits once again hit the headlines, our reaction to BP's profits was picked up by the Guardian. We put out some quick analysis which revealed that BP and Shell's yearly profits exceed the combined GDP of five of the most climate-vulnerable countries, which led to Izzie being invited onto BBC Sunday Morning Live for a debate with the former CEO of a UK oil and gas trade body. Meanwhile we got some great coverage in the National, the Herald and Glasgow Live on news that Glasgow officially backed calls for the Fossil Fuel Treaty.

With discourse around Band Aid hitting the media once again in December, Nick wrote a brilliant critique of how Band Aid's approach stymies the potential for the real, radical change we need to truly tackle the colonial roots of global poverty. Later on in the month, we had some exciting coverage in the Financial Times, which published a letter to the editor that we co-authored with six other organisations, calling for the UK to terminate the UK-Colombia BIT and laying out our reasoning for doing so. Nick also wrote a powerful piece for Al-Jazeera on the topic, highlighting the Colombian government's challenge to the colonial system of ISDS.

In January, Nick wrote an article in New Internationalist, critiquing disaster appeals that airbrush the politics out of Israel's genocide on Gaza. He also did an interview with Byline Times on how we can fight back against Trumpism.



Activists outside the Scottish parliament, after handing in their petition calling for a Fossil Fuel Treaty

Meanwhile, Tim's reaction to the Gaza ceasefire deal, which urged the UK government to end its complicity in violence against Palestinians, and address Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, was published in Common Dreams.

Council update

Maggie Mason writes: Storm Eowyn forced the January Global Justice Now council meeting onto Zoom, but we had a really positive meeting. Council members brought a range of knowledge to the discussions on campaigns and future strategy and were very supportive of what the staff teams are currently doing. We were also glad to see that the Shorter Working Week trial is underway and look forward to considering the outcomes later in the year. The nine-day fortnight being trialled means the organisation is closed on alternate Fridays, giving staff a 10% reduction in hours. This year starts with the world in a dark place, but Global Justice Now is in good shape to challenge the powerful elites.

Action checklist

Climate justice

- Keep lobbying your council to endorse the Fossil Fuel Treaty if they haven't done it already!
- Get your MP to endorse the Treaty formally and to sign EDM 111 in support

Trade justice

- Register for the Colombia campaign launch webinar

- Read and share the latest resources on Colombia and trade (enclosed)

Gaza

- Push to get more signatures on our petition to stop arms sales to Israel

General

- Donate to the kickstarter for *An A-Z of Global Justice*

Climate justice



Global Justice Dundee outside the council after their win.

Great victory in Dundee

We started 2025 off with a bang; coming straight off the back of last year's wins in Manchester, Glasgow and Worthing, Dundee City Council endorsed the Fossil Fuel Treaty at the beginning of January. Global Justice Dundee worked brilliantly with an SNP councillor on a motion endorsing the treaty that received unanimous cross-party support. Global Justice Dundee spoke in-person to councillors at the meeting about why they should support the Fossil Fuel Treaty campaign and followed up their deputation by doing a fantastic job of answering their questions on the campaign.

There was some great local media coverage of the motion, with one of our Dundee group interviewed on Radio Tay FM. The Green MSP for North East Scotland then put down a motion at Holyrood congratulating Global Justice Dundee for their work on the treaty that has so far been supported by SNP and Labour, as well as Green MSPs.

Mike Barile from the group has written a blogpost on our website highlighting six top tips for passing a Fossil Fuel Treaty motion locally, drawn from their campaign. Check it out: globaljustice.org.uk/six-tips.

MPs sign the Early Day Motion

As well as fantastic results in councils across the country, we've had more sign-ups to the parliamentary petition that Rachael Maskell MP tabled after campaigning by Global Justice York. We've set up an action so that you can write to your MP and ask them to sign EDM 111 or to formally endorse the treaty if they have done one and not the other. Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent MPs all signed the petition in January, presumably after a letter from their constituents who used this action. This is really great progress for the campaign: it helps to show that there is broad support for the treaty.

In the last three months, three UK cities have endorsed the call for a Fossil Fuel Treaty. This is truly inspiring and demonstrates the power

of local campaigning. To keep the momentum up we've got some big targets for this year, including Bristol and Lancaster. If you live in either area – or know anyone who does who might be up for getting involved – then please email activism@globaljustice.org.uk. The more footholds we can get in these areas, the better!

Besides seeking more local-level endorsements, a major part of our work this year will be trying to build more coalitions with trade unions around the Fossil Fuel Treaty. UNISON already supports the Fossil Fuel Treaty, and we want to see more unions get on board in 2025. We have a draft motion on our website if you want to campaign in your local branch about this.

Save the date

Stop Rosebank is organising an MP and MSP lobbying week on fossil fuels in the week beginning 3 March. In the run up, they will be offering some online training on speaking to your elected officials on the need for a fossil fuel phase out in the UK and internationally. More info on this as we get it!

Holding MSPs to account for a fossil free future

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, which we're a part of, has launched a new campaign, 'Scotland United for Climate Action', to demonstrate the scale of popular support for urgent climate action and hold MSPs to account. Seventy member organisations will be encouraging their supporters to write to their MSPs calling for strong action on the climate in 2025.

As part of this, we've set up an e-action for our Scottish supporters to contact their MSPs. It calls for action domestically to support sustainable travel; warmer low-carbon homes; and secure green jobs, and also internationally by endorsing the Fossil Fuel Treaty.

If you live in Scotland, please take part in the e-action at globaljustice.org.uk/MSP-fft.



Spotted at Davos!

The annual gathering of the super-rich and political decision-makers in Davos highlights the excessive influence of corporations and their billionaire owners on our democratic process. Our recent joint report with LobbyControl and Balanced Economy Project calls for action. This year one of our Fossil Fuel Treaty placards made its way to the mobilisations in Davos itself!

Key resources

Model trade union motion to endorse the FFT One page motion (September 2024)

Ending the Fossil Fuel Era: Campaigning on campus A5 guide (September 2024)

The Fossil Fuel Treaty: Tricky questions answered 12-page pdf (March 2024)

The Fossil Fuel Treaty Six-page briefing (January 2024)

Let's clear the way... Two-sided A5 FFT leaflet (January 2024) (Also available in Welsh)

Fossil Fuel Treaty petition sheet (January 2024)

How to convince your council to endorse the FFT Four-page guide (January 2024)

+ Scottish-specific FFT materials

See globaljustice.org.uk/resources and order from activism@globaljustice.org.uk

Trade justice

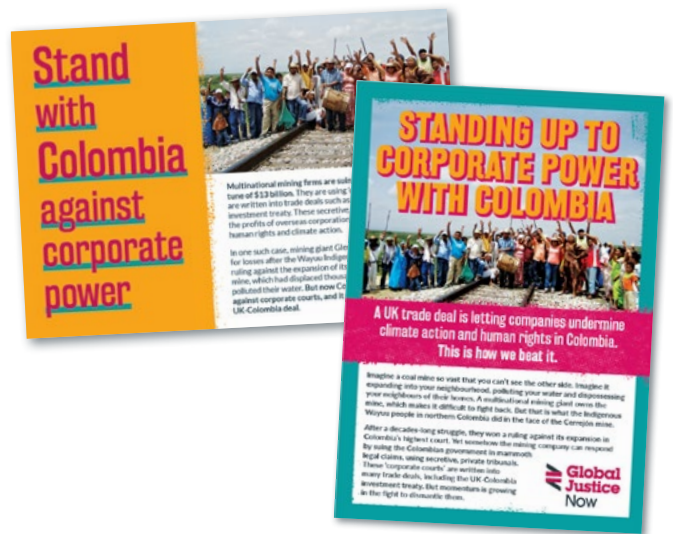
UK-Colombia deal in the balance

We ended 2024 on a high for our trade campaign, as the Colombian trade minister publicly called for renegotiation of the UK-Colombia investment treaty. This is the new target of our struggle against corporate courts, which have been weaponised to devastating effect by mining companies against Colombia's action to protect communities and ecosystems.

Now the fight is on to ensure the UK government comes to the table. We're already gaining ground, having helped to brief a group of Peers to interrogate the treaty in a House of Lords debate. In the debate, they held up a spotlight to the "fatal flaw of the ISDS secret court system that... privileges big corporations over access and rights for citizens and workers", its "crippling" impact on countries' development and "improper regulatory chill" on "democratically elected governments having to overturn legitimate public policy". Peers lambasted the UK-Colombia deal as a "form of modern-day colonialism" and raised it risking Colombia's ability to implement aspects of its national peace plan.

Notably, criticism of ISDS is coming not just from the usual suspects – free trade diehard Lord Hannan claimed there is a "democratic argument" against ISDS, and that it "give[s] some foreign companies an unfair advantage over domestic ones." The defence given of ISDS and the Colombia deal by the minister responding was lukewarm at best – but a defence nonetheless. Over 8,000 Global Justice Now supporters have taken our online action to email the minister calling for the UK-Colombia deal to be scrapped. But with a large intake of new MPs into the UK parliament, we need to educate many more about corporate courts and amplify Colombia's demand to the government via parliamentarians.

New materials and how to get involved



With this mailing you will find two new campaign materials on our UK-Colombia corporate courts work. One is an eight-page A5 campaign booklet, which sets out the corporate courts issue and its particular impact in Colombia in some depth, alongside case studies and how to get involved. You'll also find a two-page A5 flyer. We hope these are interesting and compelling and can be given out at meetings, events or street stalls.

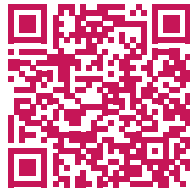
The UK's role as the penholder for the Colombian peace process at the UN Security Council enables it to assist the Colombian government in the implementation of the peace accords. Because of this, and broader concerns for human rights issues, many MPs are interested in the country but have no idea about the impact of ISDS or how the UK-Colombia treaty poses such a risk to Colombia's development, democracy and peace. We'd encourage you to write to your MP to highlight this issue – you can use information from these new materials, and if you need support reach out via activism@globaljustice.org.uk. You could perhaps ask for a meeting, in which you can share our parliamentary briefing on the UK-Colombia deal – find it on our website at globaljustice.org.uk/colombia-BIT.

Campaign launch webinar

To more formally kick off our campaign on the UK-Colombia investment deal, we will be hosting an online launch event on Tuesday 25th February, at 7PM.

We will hear from Guillaume Long, ex-foreign minister of Ecuador who led his own country through the process of terminating ISDS treaties, and a legal expert from AIDA – the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense – who have been central in the struggle to protect Colombia's fragile páramo wetlands, which has caused an onslaught of ISDS claims by multinational mining companies. And Global Justice Now campaigner Cleodie will set out the concrete actions we can take in solidarity from the UK.

Register to join using the QR code, or at globaljustice.org.uk/colombia-webinar. Hope to see you there!



Key resources

Standing up to corporate power with Colombia Eight-page booklet (NEW Jan 2025)

Stand with Colombia against corporate power Two-page leaflet (NEW Jan 2025)

Scrap the UK-Colombia investment treaty MP briefing (October 2024)

Resisting green colonialism for a just transition *Trade and the scramble for critical minerals*. Six-page briefing (May 2024).

What's wrong with the Pacific trade deal? Four-page briefing (March 2023).

Contact us to order these or view them at globaljustice.org.uk/resources

Speaker tour

Last autumn we hosted Mitzi Jonelle Tan for a UK speaker tour. Mitzi is a truly inspiring speaker: the events sparked insightful and engaged discussions, which energised campaigns up and down the country, directly contributing to council wins in Dundee, Glasgow and Manchester. For anyone who couldn't make it along in person, the London event is available to watch on our Youtube channel.



Cardiff



Bristol



London



Global Justice Stirling Youth and allies staged a protest outside their MP's office, calling for action on Palestine.

Pause in attacks agreed, but an arms embargo is still needed

After 15 months of Israel's devastating attacks on Gaza, there was some welcome relief when the current ceasefire was agreed. This comes tragically late for the more than 46,000 people killed in the conflict. The deal looks like a fragile one and Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reportedly told his cabinet that the pause in fighting will be temporary. Even if this deal does finally mark the end of Israel's genocidal attacks on Gaza, it will do nothing to secure a more just future for Palestinians or stop Israel's illegal and brutal occupation of Palestinian territory.

The logic of Israel's war of annihilation in Gaza is consistent with its treatment of Palestinians across the occupied territory in the West Bank. It is one which treats Palestinian lives as completely disposable, to be forced out, penned in, or simply massacred. Throughout the last 15 months, illegal settlement building, and the theft of Palestinian land which that entails, has

increased rapidly. So too have violent attacks on Palestinians by settler groups, carried out with virtual impunity, as the Israeli state intervenes mainly by arming them.

In this context, our demand for an arms embargo must be as clear and important as ever. The UK was never justified in selling arms to this regime – it is simply that Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza made this demand impossible to ignore. It is likely that the UK government will seek to rehabilitate its relationship with Israel in the public eye – and at some point, suggest that all arms should once again flow to Israel. But there can be no return to normal.

What you can do

We need to continue to push our petition calling for a full arms embargo, including a ban on F-35 fighter jet parts bound for Israel. Please share it in your networks and discuss in your groups where else the petition could gain traction. We have paper copies, and you can find it online at globaljustice.org.uk/arms-leaflet.

It's vital that this moment becomes a starting point for justice and accountability, not an endpoint that allows the Israeli authorities to continue their oppression of Palestinians.

Ending trade ties with Israel

The Israeli government's policies of military suppression and racial discrimination that press Palestinians into smaller, more unliveable enclaves will continue. And, while it's likely that the UK government will continue to issue mild rebukes as Israel maintains and deepens its control over both the West Bank and Gaza, we must force it to take material action that impacts Israel both politically and economically.

Ending the UK's cosy trading terms with Israel would cut off material benefits to the regime and make clear that Israel's war crimes and illegal occupation of Palestinian land cannot continue without consequence.

What you can do

Soon we'll have new materials outlining how the UK must fundamentally overhaul its trade relationship with Israel. For now, please write to the trade secretary (and mobilise your networks to do the same) to demand the government suspend the UK-Israel trade deal. You can find the email action on our website at globaljustice.org.uk/israel-trade.

To organise a public event with a Global Justice Now speaker about the UK's complicity in Israel's war crimes, and learn how and why we must demand the UK ends business-as-usual trading relations with Israel, please email activism@globaljustice.org.uk.

Key resources

End UK complicity in Israel's war crimes
Four-page briefing (September 2024)

Stop arming Israel Two-page leaflet (2024)

Stop arming Israel petition sheet (2024)

Contact us to order these or view them at globaljustice.org.uk/resources

Kickstarter for An A-Z of Global Justice



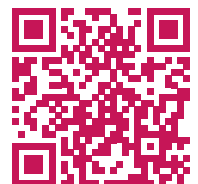
A is for 'agroecology' – Z is for the 'Zapatistas': these start and complete our exciting new book, 'An A-Z of Global Justice'.

With corporate power gaining in strength, the climate in crisis and the disturbing rise of the far right, we urgently need more people fighting for a better world. Political movements depend on the creation and sharing of knowledge that uncovers the structures, policies, and global agreements that sustain injustice, and arms activists with the tools to challenge systems of power, craft solutions, and inspire collective action.

That's why we're publishing 'An A-Z of Global Justice': to provide an accessible, empowering guide for everyone joining the fight for a better world.

To make it happen we need to raise the initial costs of producing the book. At a time of government and media hostility towards activism in this country, we can help grow the movement we're a part of fighting for change, when it's needed the most.

Donate £15 or more, and we'll send you a free copy as a thank you for helping us get this vital resource off the ground. Use the QR code below or go to globaljustice.org.uk/AZ



Local groups news

Fresh from securing the endorsement of Stroud District Council for the Fossil Fuel Treaty (FFT), **Global Justice Gloucestershire** are setting their sights on becoming the first county with all its councils in support of the treaty. Other groups should feel welcome to try to beat them to it!

Global Justice Worthing also got their first council endorsement in December, thanks to a meticulous campaign with Worthing Council Action Network. The council debated the motion after an introduction from our own Dereck Prentis, and it ultimately passed.

Global Justice Dundee won their council's endorsement of the treaty in an exemplary way, which we've covered in depth on page 4.

High Peak Green New Deal have been very busy campaigning on Gaza, including holding a weekly vigil. The group were instrumental in securing the support of Manchester city council for the FFT. They were also key organisers of a protest in Manchester on the global day of action for climate justice during last year's COP.

Global Justice Reading held a fascinating meeting with ethical financial advisor, Rowan Harding. She explained the extent that money in bank accounts and pensions funds can affect humanity's carbon footprint.

Global Justice Bradford continue to hold a weekly vigil at the West Yorkshire Pension Fund's office – now in its fourth year. They've also been getting many local MPs clued up and ready to support the Climate and Nature bill.

Global Justice Leicestershire have been mobilising other activists to raise the Early Day Motion with their MPs and are also making headway with councillors from Leicester City Council, who think an endorsement is achievable.

Global Justice Bexhill and Hastings have been pushing their new (Tory) MP on climate issues and are collecting councillors' names on a petition for the FFT.



Top: High Peak Green New Deal at their weekly Gaza vigil in Glossop. Bottom: Global Justice Bradford's weekly vigil at the West Yorkshire Pension Fund.

Global Justice Macclesfield are working on getting East Cheshire council to endorse the FFT; it's been referred to the Environment and Communities Committee for discussion. Macclesfield's new MP has signed the Early Day Motion. The group held a successful stall on the global day of action for climate justice.

Global Justice South East London won Lewisham Council's support for the FFT, the first London borough won by our activists. Their friendly and informative meetings often attract new people.

Global Justice Ayrshire persuaded North Ayrshire council to vote in support of the FFT and are now focussing on the other councils in their area. They are also very active on Gaza, participating in weekly actions locally.

Global Justice Cambridge made a splash with a stall on the FFT in November. Meanwhile work continues on their council and MPs.

Global Justice Youth

At the time of the last edition we were delivering freshers' stalls up and down the country. They went well and the following months have been productive for the youth network too. Groups across the country organised a range of post-fresher events helping new members get involved and supporting our campaigns.

Oxford, Leeds and **Reading** groups held Stop Arming Israel events with student Palestine encampment groups and international activists. These were collaborative events: students shared organising advice and reflected on the movement, and learned about the role of the UK-Israel trade relationship in maintaining apartheid in Palestine.

In Durham, Liz from Global Justice Now gave a talk on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to Eco-Durham members and they have taken on campaigning on the treaty.

Global Justice Stirling have been working on the treaty too. They're now engaging with local councillors to explore getting Stirling Council to back the initiative. Beyond campaign work, they also hosted an 80s/90s night with DJs, raising funds for Start Up Stirling, a local charity supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, they have been collaborating with other local groups on Palestinian and Lebanese solidarity efforts.

Manchester Global Justice Youth are taking further steps to gather support for the university to endorse the treaty. They've also had a conversation with MP Afzal Khan on how he could support the Treaty and are planning several events in the coming months.

London Global Justice Youth are developing a campaign focus on trade and ISDS, and are planning a programme of actions and events on this in relation to Colombia. They have



From top to bottom: Alfie and Alfie (our intern and our activist) at a 're-fresher's fair' in Canterbury; the Stop Arming Israel event with Global Justice Youth and Leeds Palestine Solidarity Group; Reading students make posters after a Fossil Fuel Treaty talk.

also received social media training from our communications team particularly to make use of our new TikTok account, which has gained over 1,000 followers in only a few weeks.

As we prepare for our national youth conference, We Rise, on 15 February, the network is organising to help promote the event. This year's promises to be the best yet with speakers including Zoe Gardner and Mitzi Jonelle Tan, with great food and DJs after.

Stand with Colombia

Continuing the global fight against corporate courts

When: Tuesday 25 February, 7PM

Where: Online

Multinational mining firms are suing Colombia to the tune of \$13 billion. They are using 'corporate courts', which are written into trade deals such as the UK-Colombia investment treaty. These secretive tribunals protect the profits of overseas corporations at the expense of human rights and climate action.

But now Colombia is taking a stand against corporate courts, and it needs our help to scrap the UK-Colombia deal. Join us online as we formally launch our campaign on the UK-Colombia investment deal, and to hear directly from global south speakers struggling against this unjust and neocolonial system.



With:

Guillaume Long, ex-Foreign Minister of Ecuador
Cleodie Rickard, Global Justice Now
plus, a legal expert from the **Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense**

Reserve your free place at globaljustice.org.uk/colombia-webinar or using the QR code



WE RISE

Saturday 15 February • From midday • Brighton

With: **Mitzi Jonelle Tan** • **Siân Berry MP**
Irene Vélez Torres • **Zoe Gardner** • **Adam Hanieh**
Seema Syeda • **Elia Ayoub** • **Nick Dearden**

How can we organise collectively for a better world? Join young people from across the country for We Rise – a free national gathering for anyone under 30. With a **welcoming atmosphere**, a host of great **speakers**, **workshops** to unpack issues in depth and **creative sessions** plus a **DJ, food and party** in the evening. We'll discuss climate breakdown, corporate power, genocide in Palestine and much more, and most importantly, how to build a better world.

Register for FREE using the QR code, or at globaljustice.org.uk/werise.



Global Justice Youth

