Jubilee Debt Campaign (UK)
Founding Document

Presented by the Interim Steering Group for approval
to the Assembly meeting
24 March 2001

Introduction

The Interim Steering Group (created at a meeting on December 14 2000) was tasked by coalition members with overseeing the process leading up to the launch of a campaigning successor organisation to Jubilee 2000 UK. The ISG has since met twice, coalition partners have gathered for consultation at a meeting in Birmingham on 10 February 2001, and much discussion has taken place via the list serve and in other forms. The Interim Steering Group (ISG) believes the following Founding Document, much of which has already been endorsed at the meetings in London and Birmingham, represents the consensus of views amongst debt coalition stakeholders and offers an effective framework for future campaigning.

1. Name

The ISG agreed four criteria to guide name selection. The name must:

- Sustain "Jubilee" brand / recognition
- Clearly identify centrality of "debt"
- Portray some notion of activism and working together
- Be short and memorable

The name of the organisation will be:
Jubilee Debt Campaign (UK).

For formal purposes and contexts, the following sub-title will be used:
A coalition of regional groups and national organisations.

2. Aim and Objectives of the coalition

Aim:
The aim of the coalition continues to be:
Cancellation of the unpayable debts of the poorest countries, through fair and transparent processes.

Objectives:
The Campaign will:

- maintain pressure on decision-makers for debt cancellation, to ensure that it is delivered, and that it contributes towards poverty reduction
- make public our continued commitment to campaign on debt
- make debt the primary focus of the coalition, not least because this single focus has been what has made the campaign effective
- review annually its continuation in the light of the levels and management of poor country debt, advocacy opportunities, campaigning resources and other factors.

First project
Drop the Debt is the first project of the coalition/campaign

3. Nature of the Campaign

- The Campaign is a UK coalition of regional groups and national organisations and will not take on a remit of international co-ordination.
- Different members of the coalition will play different roles and have different strengths to offer, and this is a strength which allows the whole to be more than the sum of its parts.

4. Membership of the Campaign

The Campaign will invite membership in two categories:
- regional coalitions and local groups
- national organisations

Members will be required to support the objectives of the Campaign and contribute resources.

The Jubilee Debt campaign is a coalition of national organisations and regional groups. Individuals are encouraged to participate in the campaign by joining one of the member organisations or regional groups. *See accompanying explanatory comment in footnote to this document.*

5. The Board

5.1 Tasks
- To be the legal trustee of coalition resources.
- To set broad policies and direction.
- To create and manage a secretariat and other structures. This will include an effective system of working groups, their structure, membership, authority and objectives to be agreed by the Board, to ensure that the work of coalition members is complementary with each other and with the secretariat.
- To ensure the coordination of the coalition's work with others, including Drop the Debt, Jubilee Plus, and other debt campaigners North and South.

5.2 Membership
- Regional/local groups and national organisations will be represented 50/50.
- The Board will be 6 English regional reps, 6 UK organisations' reps, Wales and Scotland (total 14), plus up to 6 co-options agreed by the Board (total 20).
- The Campaign aspires to gender balance, welcomes nominations to ensure diversity, and the Board will take the balance into consideration when considering co-options.

5.3 Powers

- The Board appoints its own officers (including Chair and Treasurer);
- The Board decides on the need, or not, for a President/Patrons, and if so appoints to such a position/s.

5.4 Election

- Annually at an Assembly.
- In accordance with a voting and nomination procedure to be announced in good time by the outgoing Board.

6. Secretariat

- There will be a Secretariat which is fully accountable to the Board.
- The Secretariat has four functions:

a) information exchange amongst partners
b) an entrepreneurial approach in relating to the external world and leveraging resources from others, enabling and supporting activism from amongst coalition members
c) catalyzing activity amongst others
d) a degree of formal leadership and representation in public arenas, under the strong direction of the Board.

- The Secretariat carries out these functions in close collaboration with and making the best use of, the members of the coalition.

Explanatory comment from the Interim Steering Group
Section 4 Membership of the Campaign

- The Secretariat will provide information to individuals on how to join their regional group or one of the member organisations actively campaigning on debt. They will also, subject to capacity, provide a current campaign action, background materials and advice.
- Many regional groups have limited capacity to provide mailings to local members. The Secretariat will, subject to capacity, support regional groups in mailing their membership. If necessary, this may include the Secretariat administering a list of regional group members and mailing directly to them. The Secretariat will also, subject to capacity, work with member organisations and groups to produce campaign materials and actions that can be distributed amongst regional groups and members.
- The Board will establish a system so that financial support to the regional groups can benefit from the hoped for charitable status of the Jubilee Debt Campaign

The Interim Steering Group is:

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