

## Oxfam Scotland Campaigners Guide: October 2009

# St Andrews G20 Special

Welcome to our October campaigners guide to assist your campaigning with Oxfam Scotland, to help you increase your impact on tackling global poverty and to further strengthen the community of activists in Scotland who are passionate about ending poverty and injustice. **This month we've produced a 'St Andrews G20 Special' so that you can help us make a difference at this crucial time.** We hope it proves helpful, but do let us know if you have any comments or suggestions.



***And please let us know if you take any of the actions below, by emailing our campaigners - contacts on the last page of this doc.***

**Malcolm Fleming**  
Campaigns Manager, Oxfam Scotland

## St Andrews G20

**On the 7<sup>th</sup> November world leaders will come together in St Andrews for the G20 Finance Ministers meeting.**

The world's twenty richest nations are sending their Finance Ministers to St. Andrews to decide on solutions to the global financial and economic crisis. This is a huge opportunity for us, the people of Scotland and the wider UK, to stand up for the billions of people who do not have their voices heard.

Our representative at the meeting is Chancellor Alistair Darling, MP for Edinburgh South West, who will chair the meeting in St Andrews.

### The G20

- **claims to speak for about 60% of the world's population.**
- **controls 90% of the world's wealth.**
- **distributed this between about 10% of its population**

# what can you do?

1. Write to Alistair Darling asking for real progress on economic development in St Andrews - putting people first.
2. Come along to one of our public meetings in the run up to the big event:  
**Edinburgh** - Friday 16th October, 6.30pm, WHALE Arts  
**Paisley** - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 6.30pm, University of the West of Scotland
3. Find out about joining us in St Andrews on Saturday 7th November for a day of peaceful, essential and creative mass action - and fun events across the city! Check out: <http://www.g20standrews.org/>

## Lets sort it Here and Now!

Now is a crucial time in the fight against climate change. The UN climate change conference will take place in Copenhagen this December. There, a decision on how to replace the Kyoto Protocol – the existing international treaty for the reduction of greenhouse gases – will be finalised. This agreement will be legally binding, meaning that countries will have to commit to strong action on climate change. Oxfam is campaigning and lobbying for a fair, honest and adequate deal in Copenhagen. For the sake of those being affected by climate change now, and in the future, we need people like you to help us make change happen. **The G20 in St Andrews on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November is a crucial step towards Copenhagen and it's essential we use it to take action now!**

## Take Action on Climate Change in October

1. Write to Alistair Darling as asking him to demonstrate global leadership at the St Andrews G20 by:
  - Pushing for a fair global deal at Copenhagen, which commits to **substantial, verifiable cuts** in greenhouse gases, with **rich countries leading** the effort, to **limit temperature increases** to below the dangerous 2°C mark.
  - Commit to sufficient and substantial funding, additional to existing aid commitments, to support climate change adaptation and sustainable development in poor countries.
2. Get involved in our activities in the run up the St Andrews G20 (as listed above) and attend the 'People's G20' on 7<sup>th</sup> November in St Andrews.
3. Find out more: background info & useful links are below.

## Top Tips for writing to Alistair Darling

- Use the key messages from this guide to help you but try to use some of your own words as well.
- Be clear about why you are writing to them and what it is you are asking them to do. Use the first paragraph to introduce your main points.
- Only tackle one subject per letter.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Be polite (even if you are angry!)
- Try to keep your letter to one page. Be succinct and to the point.
- End your letter by asking to hear your representative's opinion on what you have written.
- Your representative is obliged to respond to you so look out for your letter! Don't forget to put your address and contact details on the letter.

***Remember to let us know if you hear back from your MP!***



Oxfam campaigners at the G20 in Pittsburgh last month.

### Find out more: Useful links

Details of all our G20 Events: <http://www.g20standrews.org/>

For info on the G20 in London April:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaign/g20/](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/g20/)

For info on the latest G20 last month in Pittsburg:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaign/g20/pittsburg.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/g20/pittsburg.html)

To follow Oxfam's G20 blog:  
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/pressoffice/?p=7119>

For answers to frequently asked questions about our climate change work:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaign/climate\\_change/faq.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/faq.html)

Short films on how climate change is already affecting people's lives:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaign/climate\\_change/index.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/index.html)

Details about the UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen: <http://en.cop15.dk/>

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland: <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland>

Global Campaign for Climate Action <http://tckctck.org/>

## Take action on Health & Education in October

1. Get involved in the G20 actions asking for progressive economic development with the focus on Putting People First.
2. Write to Alistair Darling asking him to ensure the UK commits to 0.7% of GNI in his pre-budget report.
3. Stand up and take action on World Poverty Day be part of the Great Persuasion to find out more at:  
<http://www.bond.org.uk/pages/masslobby.html>

## Development Costs

In 1970, rich countries promised to give just 0.7% of their national income (GNI) as foreign aid. 39 years later, and only five have reached this target – the UK is not one of them. Gordon Brown announced that he will legislate for the provision of 0.7% spending on aid before the next election, this is a welcome step. However, with public opinion waning on overseas Aid we need to urge Alistair Darling to remain strong on the government's commitments to the poorest people during a global financial crisis.

*Please take action - Write to Alistair Darling asking him to ensure the UK commits to 0.7% of GNI in his pre-budget report:*

*Some talking points below (Please write a letter in your own words, as this will make it more powerful)*

- *We welcome Gordon Brown's commitment to 0.7% in his party conference speech.*
- *This must be clear in the pre-budget report.*
- *We need a clear timetable to see the money delivered in a long term predictable way and is given directly to governments budgets.*
- **We must not fail the poorest people during this financial crisis**

This is important because:

Today, around the world, 4,000 children will be killed by diarrhoea, a disease of dirty water, 1,400 women will die needlessly in pregnancy or childbirth and 100 million school-age children, most of them girls, will not go to school.

Aid does work in helping to fight poverty, inequality and promote gender equality. In Nepal aid has helped to reduce the under-five mortality rate by around a third in just 5 years; Nepal is now on target to meet the Millennium Development Goal on child mortality before 2015 if present trends can be sustained. Since 1996 the maternal mortality rate in Nepal has fallen by 50%. In 2008 aid helped the government to abolish user fees in health care to ensure that the poor have access to free health services.

Oxfam sees 'good' aid as aid that is given on a long term basis, is predictable, is given directly to government's budgets, is aligned with recipient government's plans and does not have harmful economic conditions attached.

## Want to find out more?

For more on Oxfam Scotland campaigns check out:

[www.oxfam.org.uk/scotland](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/scotland)

or join the Oxfam Scotland group on Facebook.

You can also contact the Oxfam Scotland campaigns team:

Malcolm Fleming: Campaigns Manager

0141 285 8854 [mgfleming@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:mgfleming@oxfam.org.uk)

Sarah Watson: Campaigner

0141 285 8875 [sawatson@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:sawatson@oxfam.org.uk)

Sara Cowan: Campaigner

0141 285 8874 [scowan@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:scowan@oxfam.org.uk)