
June 2003

The Trade Justice Movement is campaigning for trade justice – not free trade – with the rules weighted to benefit poor people and the planet.

This June sees the next key national event in the campaign for trade justice. In the 24 hours from noon on Friday 27th campaigners will be aiming to lobby all 659 MPs in their constituencies, alongside many other events calling for trade justice. But who are these people who give their time and energy to add their voice to many thousands of others?

Hilda Taylor, who lives near Colchester, has been actively involved with Christian Aid for nearly 50 years. She will probably never meet Awut DEng, a peacemaker from Southern Sudan. But Hilda and Awut have one thing in common: both are committed lifelong campaigners.

Hilda and her friend Chris Mort were inspired by a poster for the very first Christian Aid Week in 1957. It made them want to do something about poverty. And they have campaigned and collected for Christian Aid ever since, and are leaving legacies to continue their support.

Meanwhile, Awut was growing up in southern Sudan in the midst of civil war. More than 20 members of her family have been killed. As the daughter of a traditional peacemaker she has devoted herself to bringing people from the Dinka and Nuer communities together to discuss and resolve their differences.

Her outstanding leadership, mainly as a volunteer, has received international recognition. Today she works as a peace mobiliser for Christian Aid's partner the New Sudanese Council of Churches. 'I was born and brought up in war,' she says. 'I feel I have an obligation to contribute to a peaceful Sudan, to enable our children to enjoy freedom and peace.'

Campaigning is a key part of Christian Aid's work - in the United Kingdom and Ireland and overseas. Volunteers campaigning for peace or fair trade, to drop the debt or change international trade rules, are all helping to make a difference and change the world.

If you feel ordinary individuals can't do anything much, Hilda reminded us of the old African saying, 'If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.'

If you would like to be part of this vital activity, why not join the weekend of action for trade justice on Friday 27 to Saturday 28 June. To find out about events in your area visit:

www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/scaleup

From Christian Aid website

The Trade Justice Movement wants the UK Government to take a lead in international trade negotiations to:

- **Stop forcing poor countries to open their markets; and champion their right to manage their own economies**
- **Regulate big business and their investments to ensure people and the environment come before profits**
- **Stop rich countries promoting the interests of big business through trade interventions that harm the poor and the environment**
- **Ensure trade policy is made in a fair, transparent and democratic way**