



MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY



Christian Aid has joined together with Comic Relief, Oxfam, CAFOD, churches, trades unions and a host of celebrities and organisations in what could become the most powerful coalition ever against world poverty: MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

2005 is the year of the white band. By wearing it you'll be part of Make Poverty History, a unique worldwide effort to end extreme poverty - for good.

Over the next year a series of landmark meetings are taking place where world leaders can finally stop 30,000 children dying needlessly every day, just because they're poor.

The first of these meetings took place on the weekend of the 5th February when the G7 Ministers, hosted by Gordon Brown, met in London. Nelson Mandela came to the UK to throw his weight behind the campaign and ask these seven men to Make Poverty History.

THE CRUCIAL PART. WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR.

In 9 words... TRADE JUSTICE. DROP THE DEBT. MORE AND BETTER AID.

The gap between the worlds' rich and poor has never been wider. Malnutrition, AIDS, conflict and illiteracy are a daily reality for millions.

But it isn't chance or bad luck that keeps people trapped in bitter, unrelenting poverty. It's man-made factors like a glaringly unjust global trade system, a debt burden so great that it suffocates any chance of recovery and insufficient and ineffective aid.

It doesn't have to be this way though. In fact, back in 2001 the governments of the eight wealthiest nations on the planet said that they were going to do something about it - in what was seen as a breakthrough, they promised to halve world poverty by 2015.

Four years later the world is failing dismally to reach those targets. But we have been given another, maybe even a final chance – 2005. This year offers a truly exceptional set of opportunities for the UK to take a lead internationally and say that enough is enough.

With the UK hosting the G7 Finance Ministers meeting in February and the G8 gathering of powerful world leaders as well as holding the presidency of the European Union (EU), our Government and particularly Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, will be influential players on the world stage – we must make sure they play their part.

They have the power and we can make them use it. You can help to make this happen, buy a band, send a postcard to Tony Blair, write to Gordon Brown, sign up to support the campaign. More details on: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/getinvolved.html>

Christian Aid	www.christianaid.org.uk
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance	www.e-alliance.ch/gwa.isp
Trade Justice Movement	www.tjm.org.uk
Global Week of Action	www.april2005.org
Traidcraft	www.traidcraft.org.uk