

ADVOCACY

Debt into Hope

Introduction

This Season of Creation, Christians worldwide will be prophetically calling on leaders to take action on the global debt crisis.

The costs of climate breakdown and government debt in low-income countries are colliding to trap millions of people in poverty and crisis worldwide. We call for action on the injustice which sees money currently going from poor countries to rich lenders in the form of debt repayments, and we seek justice in the form of preventing future indebtedness and making more money available to vulnerable communities facing the worst impacts of climate change.

These activity guidelines provide you and your community with tools to understand better the colliding debt and climate crises, and how you can take action. It includes:

1. an overview of debt and climate finance key talking points,
2. action ideas and
3. resources for taking action.

More advocacy resources will be continually uploaded to the [Season of Creation website](#), so check back regularly for new ideas and inspiration.

An Overview

What's gone wrong?

Unsustainable debt has been inflicting immense suffering upon people in poor and climate vulnerable countries for far too long. The worst global debt crisis in a generation is preventing countries from meeting the basic needs of their citizens. In the poorest and most vulnerable countries, interest payments on external debt have quadrupled since 2013, hitting an all-time high of US\$34.6 billion in 2023. Whilst the costs of servicing public debt mount, vital areas are consequently drastically underfunded.

Take action

Prayer for wisdom and justice in addressing external debt

Loving and Gracious God,

Help us understand that we have the power and the duty to act against the injustices that bind people in poverty and debt.

Grant us the courage to challenge the structures that perpetuate these conditions, and the strength to work tirelessly for a world where every person can achieve their full potential.

Inspire our hearts with Your compassion and justice. Empower us to be bearers of hope and agents of change. Together, may we help bring forth solutions rooted in fairness and equity; economic systems that uplift and create hope for the downtrodden; and a future where every nation can walk the path of sustainable development, free from the shackles of debt.

May we be instruments of Your peace, secure in the faith that, through our collective effort, poverty can be overcome.

Amen.

- Fr. Charles Chilufya, SJ, Zambia (Caritas Internationalis)

1. Encourage your local worshipping community to host an event to learn and pray together about debt and climate.
2. Explore the work your own community is doing in addressing debt and climate change, and commit individually or as a church to support local initiatives to care for creation and encourage economic justice.

There are also many ways you can individually or corporately engage in actions that go beyond the local. Here are some suggestions. **All the following actions are taken from the 'Turn debt into hope' campaign pack which can be downloaded from this [website](https://turndebtintohope.caritas.org/)** provided by Caritas Internationalis, the resources to support each action are contained in the pack.

3. Sign on to the petition, become part of a global call to turn debt into hope: <https://turndebtintohope.caritas.org/>
4. Share a social media post
5. Adapt and send a letter to a policy maker about debt relief
6. Organise a bible study