

# AFRICA ACTION SHEET



**May 7th 2015 General Election**

**April/May 2015**

*"I support the aims of the Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network which promotes more equitable economic relations between Africa and Europe."*

## *Questions for parliamentary candidates*

How do you feel about Development Aid being used to subsidise multinational companies which exploit developing countries rather than for direct support for projects providing better education, healthcare, clean water, infrastructure, etc?

What do you think your party can do to crack down on tax dodging by companies which operate lucrative agricultural and mining activities in poor countries that very much need that income?

What will you do to make tackling climate change a priority and to prevent people in developing countries from being pushed into deeper poverty?

## ***Easter Greetings from Pax International***

On Holy Thursday, while Christians around the world were preparing to enter the Easter Triduum, a group of terrorists entered the **Garissa University College** in Eastern Kenya and killed 148 people, the majority of them Christian students. The stories of the survivors have filled the newspapers these days and most of us have probably read about the horror lived by the students and the deep sorrow and turmoil experienced by their relatives and by the Kenyan society at large. We express our sincere condolences and our solidarity to the suffering families and the Kenyan people.

At the beginning of this Easter season, we pray with **Pope Francis**: "From the risen Lord we ask the grace not to succumb to the pride which fuels violence and war, but to have the humble courage of pardon and peace ... May all who today are mourning, and all men and women of good will, hear the consoling voice of the Lord Jesus:



***Peace to you!  
(Lk 24:36) "Fear not, for I am risen and I shall always be with you."***

**DON'T WORRY, AFRICA**



**WE'LL GO AWAY WHEN WE FINISH**

## **CONFLICT MINERALS European Parliament**

In many developing countries affected by conflicts, the exploitation and trade of natural resources finances armed groups. In sourcing resources coming from conflict-affected areas, European businesses are at risk of fuelling violence to the detriment of human rights, peace and development. In this way "blood minerals" find their way into our computers, telephones and cars.

The European Commission has proposed a law to break the links between natural resources and conflicts as in the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo where, for fifteen years, populations have suffered mutilation, massacres, rape, slavery and massive displacement perpetrated by armed groups whose financing is mainly based upon the riches of the subsoil. However the proposed text is inadequate. It only encourages businesses to investigate their supply chains, restricts the law to tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold, ignoring the fact that resources such as copper, jade, rubies and diamonds mined in African countries contribute to abuses and the regulation limits its scope to only 480 European businesses.

**Email your MEPs and demand binding regulations to halt the trafficking of conflict minerals:**

**[www.justicepax.be/conflict-minerals](http://www.justicepax.be/conflict-minerals)**



**Where? Palace of Westminster, Central London.**

**When? Wednesday 17th June, 12pm-5:30pm.**

**Join CAFOD and The Climate Coalition at a lobby of Parliament in London and a chance to tell your MP about the things you love that you could lose to climate change.**

The logistics will be worked out so that groups from constituencies can meet their MPs in a straightforward way, and there will also be an ecumenical service where we can join in worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, an interfaith moment to reflect our universal mandate to care for creation, craft activities for all ages, and a final rally to celebrate, with music and talks from high profile people.

### **Speak Up For The Love Of . . . What do you love?**

Whether it's your morning coffee, walks on the beach, or your local community, it could be affected by climate change. So come June, we'll be coming together in our thousands to ask MPs to commit to strong action on climate change to protect all the things we love. It's our first opportunity after the General Election to tell our newly elected representatives what matters to us in this crucial year for climate action.

[www.theclimatecoalition.org](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org)

### **Climate Changes Everything: vigil of hope and solidarity**

**1st May**

**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Maria Assumpta Chapel  
23 Kensington Square  
Kensington, London W8 5HN**

Part of the *Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement*. After the vigil there will be food to share and time to network.

This event is organised by the Religious of the Assumption JPIC, Pax Christi and the Columban Missionaries in Britain. Open to all.

### **UNITED NATIONS EARTH DAY**

**Friday 24th April**

I appeal to all people everywhere to raise their voices. Speak out on behalf of this planet, our only home. Let us care for Mother Earth so she can continue to care for us as she has done for millennia.

*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*  
See more: [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)

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### **ENERGY JUSTICE: POWER TO THE PEOPLE**

#### **We live in an era of energy injustice.**

The corporate grip over energy keeps 1.3 billion people around the world without access to electricity, and privatisation is putting equitable energy access even further out of reach.



In Africa only 10% of those living in rural areas have access to electricity. As a direct result of energy privatisation in Nigeria around 40% of workers were sacked by private energy companies and energy prices have risen twice. Only half the target amount of electricity is being delivered by the newly privatised energy companies.

To ensure everyone has access to energy and tackle climate change, we need to take control of energy from big business and finance.

Around the world, people are resisting coal mines and oil companies, fighting against privatisation and campaigning to stem the flow of money to coal and gas.

Meanwhile, governments and institutions like the World Bank continue to impose a model of development on impoverished countries that force them to hand control of their energy systems over to multinational companies that prioritise their profits over the needs of people.

But it is possible for everyone to access the energy we need while tackling climate change if we have a system where energy is fairly distributed, democratically controlled and managed, recognising environmental limits. There's no one-size-fits-all solution, but around the world people are using systems which give them control over energy. **Take action:**

[www.globaljustice.org.uk](http://www.globaljustice.org.uk)