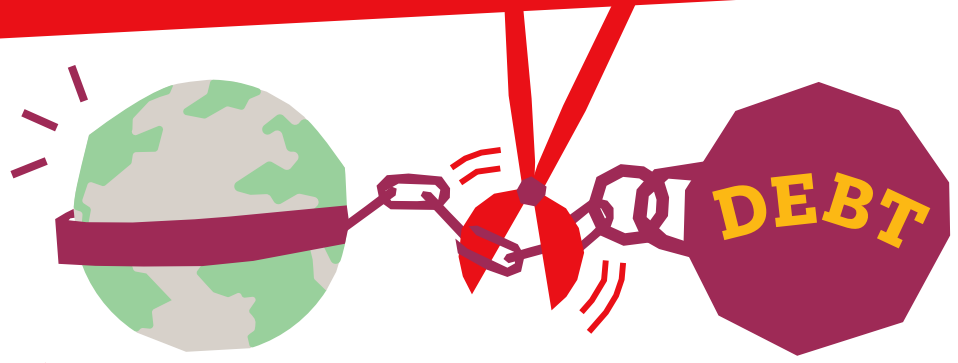


Debt justice - cribsheet



Key things to know about debt justice in this general election year

1 Many countries are in debt crisis

As our friends at Debt Justice (formerly the Jubilee Debt Campaign) articulate: **'A debt crisis is any situation where debt is leading to human rights being denied.'** This is happening right now, in more than 50 lower income countries.

2 Governments are spending more on debt than essential services

Governments are spending several times more on external debt than they are on the things their citizens really need.

Over 60% of african countries spend more on external debt payments than they do on health and education. And who wins? Mostly, private lenders, making vast profits.

3 These debts are trapping people in poverty

These debts are preventing governments from addressing the basic needs of their people or responding to the climate crisis.

- **In Malawi**, In Malawi, the government spends more than three times the amount on debt payments than health services.
- **In Ethiopia**, debt repayments mean the government is unable to pay doctors and teachers, meaning hospitals and schools have to close.
- **And in Kenya**, debt repayments mean social protection services for children have been cut.

4 Lenders need to be brought to the table

Widespread debt cancellation is needed. But big banks and asset management companies have been refusing to take part in negotiations. These lenders need to be brought to the table.

Many of the loans taken out by lower income countries are governed by English law. **This law is within the gift of the UK Government to change.**



Cancel the debt

What to call for

Christian Aid is calling on the next UK Government to introduce legislation to support debt relief for lower income countries. **This could pull millions of people out of poverty.**

Alongside this, Christian Aid is calling for the UK to help forge a new global agreement on making lending and borrowing more responsible and more sustainable.



Whether in government or opposition, your MP can play their part. Raise these issues with your newly elected MP.

For further guidance or support email: campaigns@christian-aid.org

'Lenders like BlackRock have been allowed to stall, block and refuse to participate (in debt relief initiatives), prioritising their own hunger for profit over the people of Zambia – but you have the power to change things.'

Precious Kalombwana, debt activist, Zambia

