



**Debt and Development Coalition Ireland  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Annual Report  
October 2012 – October 2013**

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## Chairperson's Introduction

This is an historic year for Debt and Development Coalition Ireland – our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. When DDCI was established in 1993, there was a feeling of urgency about the need to address the unjust debt burdens of countries of the Global South and a sense of embarking on a long campaign to which so many organizations and individuals have contributed richly. We have come a long way. We are part of a global movement that has campaigned consistently for debt justice in countries of the Global South and now, in countries of the Global North too. We have had many campaign successes but have also learned that our struggles are long term. Indeed, it is striking how the relevance of the message of the global debt justice movement has been consistently validated over 20 years. We continue to work for cancellation of unjust debts, for control of reckless lending, for tax justice and for deep reform of the roles of the international financial institutions.

Some highlights of the year for us included, beginning the implementation of our renewed strategic plan to emphasize the importance of the role of our members, our local-global campaigning focus, and increasing our policy and campaigning capacity. It was a major success for DDCI to secure EC funding for 2013-15. While other donor strands are less certain, the EC funding has put the organization on a more sustainable footing and has linked the organization with other strong debt and tax justice groups around Europe. Much of 2013 was dedicated to collaborative work with these groups including planning '*Not Our Debt*' Week this October 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, new education resources, and our forthcoming tax research this December. We also have other exciting initiatives underway including intensive development education training with Post Primary teachers and the development of a new online economic literacy forum. I would also like to draw attention to our 2013 *World Bank-IMF Watch* report, launched with the support of the Association of Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) which outlines DDCI's core policy agenda for the coming year.

I would like to thank the DDCI staff, Nessa Ní Chasaide, Morína O Neill, Mark Malone, Sian Crowley, and our many volunteers for their hard work this year and of course the members of DDCI for their invaluable support. It is a testament to the organization that so many of our founders remain active and engaged with DDCI. We will continue to work for global financial justice along side you in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,  
Sorley McCaughey  
Chairperson  
Debt and Development Coalition Ireland

## 1. Research and Lobbying

### *New Analysis*

#### *DDCI's World Bank-IMF Watch Report 2013*

DDCI published our 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the (renamed) *World Bank – IMF Watch* report, which outlined the core policy concerns of DDCI during 2012-13. The report calls for a clear set of actions from the Irish Government including:

- renewed focus by the World Bank and IMF on Southern countries in serious debt distress,
- action to curb the profiteering of vulture funds
- suspension of the World Bank *Doing Business Rankings* which promotes deregulation
- suspension of World Bank IFC cases that are under review (such as the shocking case of IFC investment links to land grabs in Cambodia and Laos)
- an end to IMF recommended regressive taxes that hurt the most vulnerable, such as VAT
- and fundamental governance reform at the IMF

The report was launched in Leinster House, hosted for the second year, by the *Association of Parliamentarians for Africa* (AWEPA). A range of TDs, their advisors across political parties, and DDCI members and partners, were in attendance. DDCI is now engaging in advocacy work with TDs and officials on the content of the report.

### *Articles*

DDCI published an overview of the Irish sovereign debt problem and what we can learn from debt crises in the global South in the *Frederick Ebert Stiftung Foundation*, *'The Future We the People Need'*. It included the campaign recommendation of our partner coalition, Debt Justice Action for non-payment of the Anglo debt. (<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/09610-20130215.pdf>)

### *Forthcoming research*

DDCI began work (directly, and through externally commissioned work) on 3 new research reports and briefings that will be forthcoming before the end of the year:

- a Pan-European report on European governments' role in curbing capital flight from Southern countries as part of our involvement in a pan-European tax justice project;
- an updated, Irish edition of cases of some of the most indebted countries in the world published by Jubilee Debt Campaign UK.
- a study of debt and tax issues relating to Malawi and their impact on the people of Malawi

### *Influencing Decision-makers*

Advocacy letters were sent to relevant ministers regarding the newly passed EU Accounting and Transparency Directives and the Capital Requirements Directive which will support greater financial transparency from the extractive and banking sectors respectively.

TDs and senators with a demonstrated interest in foreign affairs issues were sent a copy of our *World Bank-IMF Watch Report*.

### *World Bank Meetings*

Along with other Irish NGOs, DDCI met with the World Bank Vice-President for Africa, Maktar Diop when he visited Dublin, and raised our policy concerns with him. He indicated openness to issues of debt audits and eliminating the rankings of the *Doing Business Report*.

### *Outcomes at Government Level*

- The Minister of State for Trade and Development, Joe Costello TD, indicated to the Dáil that he is aware of our World Bank-IMF Watch Report 2013; that Ireland has been a strong supporter of the alleviation of debt burdens in the global South; and re-iterated Ireland's policy that the work of the international financial institutions should be framed in the context of sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, country ownership and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. He also indicated that Ireland strongly supports the 'ongoing process of reform' within the World Bank and the IMF to ensure they 'can adequately meet the development challenges of a changing world'. Minister Costello acknowledged the independent report which criticized IFC's investment lending, but did not directly comment on it.
- The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD has indicated that they acknowledge the review that is ongoing, of the World Bank *Doing Business Report* but will not comment on the review as it is ongoing, but that Irish Aid have indicated that this is a useful report for Southern countries.
- The Minister Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Richard Bruton TD, appeared to indicate support for the Accounting and Transparency Directives and the Capital Requirements Directive which were passed during the Irish Presidency of the EU.

While some of these outcomes have positive elements, none go far enough in DDCI's view. We continue to call for much more proactive leadership from the Irish Government for international debt and tax justice.

## **2. Development Education and Public Awareness Raising**

There are 3 key strands to DDCI's education programme including:

1. Provision of development education workshops to adult learners
2. Provision of post-primary teacher training (pre-service and in-service teachers)
3. Production of development education resources

### *Provision of development education workshops to adult learners*

9 in depth workshops were provided to a diverse set of member and supporter organizations:

1. Mercy Sisters, Coolock community, Dublin
2. Centre for Global Education, Belfast
3. 2 workshops to Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Dublin (1 to the Masters in Development Studies Course on social movements and debt; and 1 to the adult evening development studies course)
4. Latin America Solidarity Centre (LASC), FETAC global issues series, Ballsbridge, Dublin
5. Voluntary Missionary Movement, Global Issues course, Irish Aid centre, Dublin
6. University College Cork, Suas
7. Dublin City University, Suas
8. Trinity college, Dublin, Suas

*Provision of post-primary teacher training (pre-service and in-service teachers)*

*3<sup>rd</sup> level Initial teacher training*

DDCI delivered initial teacher training to students in UCD, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth and to Mater Dei students. The training focused on supporting trainee teachers to introduce global justice issues into their teaching practice and providing them with teaching skills on cooperative learning techniques on complex issues such as global financial justice.

*In-service teacher training*

DDCI formed a partnership with the Loreto Education Network and is carrying out an in depth training project currently with Loreto Dalkey (primary and post-primary), Loreto Bray, Loreto Foxrock and Loreto Beaufort (all post-primary level), on linking learning to meaningful action. The training consists of 2 training sessions followed by accompaniment in putting learning into practice in the classroom, followed by a final training session to evaluate how the practice is going and how to link student's learning to action on global justice.

Evaluation feedback from the participants in our education work generally, was extremely positive and indicated that they gained new knowledge and skills, and insight into the issue of global financial justice.

*Resource development*

DDCI has begun a process of developing a new resource on the theme of the state of play with debt and austerity around the world with a focus on just 'debt solutions'. We are also developing an updated, second edition of our very popular *How the World Works* resource for post-primary teachers. 500 copies of the current edition were distributed to practicing and training teachers during the year.

### **3. Campaigning for Change**

DDCI submitted petitions signed by our members to the minister for State Joe Costello calling for his support toward a debt audit in Zimbabwe. The Minister for

Finance Michael Noonan TD indicated to the Dáil that Ireland is working on a multi-lateral basis regarding engagement with Zimbabwe and that international institutions are engaging with Zimbabwe on its debt sustainability. He did not comment on whether Ireland would support a public debt audit for Zimbabwe.

DDCI is working collaboratively with a range of organizations across the world on 'Not our Debt' Week, which will be held from 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October 2013. This is an important week of action as it seeks to reinvigorate the global debt movements' joint approach to public campaigning during the week when the world's governments meet in Washington for the Annual World Bank-IMF meetings.

DDCI also initiated discussions with the Dublin Inter-Faith Forum on launching a public statement on the need for global action for debt and tax justice. We hope this will develop into a project later this year.

DDCI continued to support the Debt justice Action, through the active *Anglo: Not Our Debt* campaign. A range of actions were carried out by the campaign during the year including a number of street actions outside the Central Bank calling for non payment of the Anglo debt.

DDCI is part of the European-wide grouping planning to campaign collectively on tax justice. We will collaborate with this grouping on implementing a 'tax solidarity week' during the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

#### **4. Communications and Media**

DDCI promoted our work on the Irish and international media throughout the year. This included providing:

- Radio interviews on our *World Bank-IMF Watch* 2013 report on RTE Drivetime (with thanks to campaigners David Nyaluke and Saeed Akhtar Khan for speaking on the experience of Tanzania and Pakistan of the IMF during the interview), and short interviews on a number of news stations around the country;
- a comment piece on the legal case Argentina Vs vulture funds in the *journal.ie*;
- an interview on 'Not Our Debt' week on Radio na Life;
- an interview for Swiss TV on global tax justice;
- an interview with Portugese Business newspaper 'Journal De Negociois' on the Irish debt crisis;
- interviews with Vincent Browne Show, TV3 news, RTE news, Radio na Gaeltachta calling for non payment of the Anglo debt.

Thanks to our staff Mark and Sian, we are more active on Facebook ([facebook.com/DebtIreland](https://www.facebook.com/DebtIreland)) and twitter ([Debt\\_Ireland](https://twitter.com/Debt_Ireland)) and our website is more up to date and current. We are carrying out an evaluation of our website currently in order to improve its content and format.

## 5. Engaging the Global and Local Movement

DDCI was very active within our regional umbrella body, Eurodad, and within 2 new European groupings of which we are now a member (an EC funded Debt-IMF project and an EC funded Tax project). We attended strategy meetings of both EC projects in January on the themes of debt and tax respectively. And Nessa and Morina attended the Eurodad bi-annual conference on the global debt crisis in Prague. At that conference, DDCI organized a workshop jointly with the Jubilee Debt Campaign UK on linking our Global North and Global South debt work and participated in the closing panel on 'where to next' for the global debt movement.

As mentioned above, DDCI initiated discussions with the Dublin Inter-Faith Forum on potential joint work on global debt and tax justice.

DDCI also formed a working group with ActionAid Ireland, Christian Aid Ireland and Trócaire on our forthcoming Pan-European report on capital flight.

We also presented at:

- the IDEA-Dóchas-DEEEP conference on linking local and global justice concerns in development education work
- a Socialist Workers Party meeting on the importance of resistance to G8 policies in advance of the G8.

DDCI also attended an Ubuntu meeting, regarding how to improve our linkages with teacher training programmes in 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions

DDCI is very excited that it is our **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year this year**. DDCI has issued a call for recorded memories of the work of DDCI from our members. We are also consulting with many of our members who were involved in the founding of DDCI in planning a major anniversary event co-hosted by vibrant community group 'Ballyhea Says No to Bondholder Bailout' to be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Charleville, Cork.

## 6. Organisational Development

DDCI submitted successful funding applications to

- Irish Aid informal adult development education (approved: € 24,996)
- WorldWide Global Schools Programme (through the Loreto Education Network) (approved: € 7,857)
- Concern Development Education Scheme (approved: € 8,500)
- Trócaire mobilizing for Justice Scheme (approved: € 9,500)
- Christian Aid UK (with the kind support of Christian Aid Ireland) (approved: Stg: 10,000)

Narrative and financial reports were also submitted to all of DDCI's funders.

### *Staffing*

As a result of the successful securing of EC funding, DDCI was delighted to be in a position to recruit excellent new staff:

- a Policy and Outreach Officer (Morina O Neill) from June 2013-Dec 2015
- 2 part time staff from August till Dec 2013 (Mark Malone and Sian Crowley Communication and Campaigns Officer and Events and Campaigns Officer respectively)
- a freelance accountant Laura Geraty who works 1 day per month, especially to support our financial reporting to the EC. DDCI would like to warmly thank Pat Carroll who has volunteered with DDCI for nearly 2 decades and who carried out some of this work in the past.

Annette Honan continued to provide excellent freelance support toward the delivery of our formal education programme. DDCI also has the welcome support from long term volunteers, especially of Sr Mary Connaughton who provides invaluable support in the areas of membership fundraising and office management. We would like to warmly thank Póilín Brennan on who was an excellent intern for 8 months during the year and provided fantastic campaigns and education support.

### *Governance & Strategic Planning*

5 board meetings were held during the period as per DDCI's governance model. The board formed 3 sub-groups, 1 on funding, 1 on recruitment and 1 on reviewing our memorandum and articles.

### *Evaluation*

An independent evaluation was carried out of DDCI's development education work as per Irish Aid funding conditions. The evaluation found that DDCI's education work is of a very high standard and viewed as very necessary within the development education sector. The report can be found at: <http://www.debtireland.org>.

### *Annual Audit*

The annual audit was carried out which found DDCI's accounts fully in order.

## **7. Conclusion**

It has been a very full and active year for DDCI. Our more ambitious fundraising approach has been successful, however the challenge now is to secure funding for a core staff team for the organization in the long term. The coming year will build on our new local and international partnerships and the vigorous interest in Ireland on tackling debt and tax justice issues. We are deeply grateful to our members for their continued support, especially after 20 years! We look forward to celebrating this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone with you this year, and to working with you to strengthen our struggles for global financial justice.