



**Debt and Development Coalition Ireland
19th Annual General Meeting
Annual Report
September 2011 – October 2012**

**Debt and Development Coalition Ireland
Spade Enterprise Centre
Unit F5
North King Street
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Chairperson's Introduction

It has been a year of exciting transitions for Debt and Development Coalition Ireland. The issue of debt justice is more topical than ever. At our 2011 AGM, in the midst of the Irish debt crisis, our members voted to become an organisation that integrates work for Irish debt justice into our campaigning for debt justice for the global South. With the support of many of our members, DDCI convened a new campaigning coalition, Debt Justice Action, that has campaigned against illegitimate Anglo Irish Bank debt, by linking local and global debt justice concerns.

While this has created new workload challenges for the organisation, it has without doubt been a deeply enriching process organisationally. This is because we have developed a clear analysis that connects our local and global debt work, establishing greater credibility at home while also deepening our relationships of solidarity with the debt justice groups in the global South. The process has re-engaged our members in supporting our justice centred view of debt - as much more than a financial problem – but a problem of unjust power relationships within the global economy.

We have emphasised the need to ensure that the European debt crisis - which is monopolising the media and political decision-making circles – acknowledges the deepening debt crises in the global South. With a view to this, we have introduced an important new advocacy practice this year, by publishing a public 'scorecard' on the World Bank and IMF policies in the global South. This will become an annual report targeting the Irish Government, that seeks to benchmark each year the decision-making of Ireland as a member of these powerful institutions.

It has been one of our most active years on the education front, as members of the public, and DDCI members, seek to gain a more in-depth understanding of international debt. Due to this high demand, we have decided to roll out a new 'training of trainers' programme which will offer more in-depth learning opportunities to members. We hope this will support a more membership driven education and campaigning approach in the future.

Building on these experiences, the DDCI board and members have developed a new, exciting strategic plan which emphasises a membership driven approach for the next 3 years. To support the plan, we have been very fortunate to have secured EC funding for the coming 3 year period. This is as a result of a vigorous focus on fundraising in 2012, as requested by the members, which has yielded positive results. While it remains a continuing challenge to retain our ongoing funding sources, the additional EC funds provide much greater certainty to the organisation for the coming period.

I would like to thank the DDCI coordinator, Nessa Ní Chasaide, and our many volunteers for their hard work this year and of course the members of DDCI for their unfailing support. Speaking out against debt injustice is more important now than ever. We look forward to continuing our struggle for global economic justice with you in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Morína O' Neill
Chairperson
Debt and Development Coalition Ireland

1. Lobbying & Research

New analysis

IFI Report Card

DDCI launched a new initiative of an annual 'scorecard' on how World Bank and IMF policy impacted on countries of the global South in the past year. The report 'graded' the Irish government on its performance as a member of these institutions. The key message highlighted in the report included that while Ireland has a positive track record historically on debt cancellation, its policy is out of date and Ireland is too inactive in proposing solutions to the debt distress levels in Southern countries. DDCI launched the report in association with the Association of Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) in Leinster House where 12 TDs and DDCI members and members of the public attended.

Irish Aid White Paper Review

DDCI made a submission to Irish Aid as part of the review of the White Paper on Irish Aid highlighting the issues raised in our new scorecard. DDCI also made a submission on the issue to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade. Our submission to the committee was made following a presentation by the Executive Director at the World Bank for Canada, Ireland and Caribbean countries which enabled DDCI to respond to her presentation as well. The transcript of the discussion can be found at: <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/FOJ/2012/06/19/00004.asp>.

Driving the Getaway Car? Ireland, Tax and Development by Dr Sheila Killian

This substantive report on Ireland and international tax justice published by DDCI and 5 other DDCI member organisations has been summarised into a short briefing and will be circulated shortly.

Lobbying Decision-makers

In order to amplify our research and analysis, DDCI engaged with a range of decision-makers in order to influence their policies. DDCI:

- met with a range of politicians across the political party spectrum.
- presented at the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, after a presentation by the World Bank executive director for Canada, Ireland and Caribbean states.
- presented on behalf of Eurodad members to the European IMF Executive Directors at the Washington Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF
- met with the Irish World Bank and IMF advisors in Washington
- met with Irish Aid officials in the UN/Multi-lateral Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs
- met with Minister Joe Costello, Minister of State for Trade and Development jointly with Christian Aid, Trócaire and Dr Sheila Killian, author of *Driving the Getaway Car? Ireland, Tax and Development*
- attended an Irish Aid consultation meeting on the Irish Aid White Paper review in Sligo
- met with Caroline Anstey, one of the Managing Directors of the World Bank at an NGO roundtable which focused on modernisation and transparency at the World Bank
- Submitted a number of letters to ministers Bruton and Gilmore on tax, focusing on the revision of the EU tax directives on accounting and transparency jointly with Christian Aid, Trócaire and Oxfam Ireland

Progress and political outcomes included:

Government responses to:

Global South Debt: Irish Aid officials indicated that debt was raised several times during their public consultations on the Irish Aid White Paper review. There are some informal indications that the Irish Government may be willing to consider support toward action on Caribbean debt problem, which is a particularly acute problem. Irish Aid officials committed to getting feedback on their view of our proposal for an audit of Zimbabwean debt (awaiting their response).

Irish Debt: the Irish Government has consistently failed to negotiate strongly for a write down of the Anglo Irish Bank promissory notes.

Tax justice: Minister Costello indicated broad support for transparency on tax matters. In a welcome move, the Irish government took one of the most progressive stances among EU governments on the review of the EU Directives on Accounting and Transparency.

2. Development Education and Public Awareness Raising

There are 4 strands to DDCI's education programme including:

1. Provision of development education workshops
2. Provision of post-primary teacher training (pre-service and in-service teachers)
3. Production of development education resources
4. Holding of topical public meetings on financial justice

1. Workshops

DDCI carried out 10 in-depth training sessions with established development education courses or groups including with:

- Respond Housing/UCD development studies course
- Galway One World society debt course
- LASC FETAC development studies evening course
- VMM Global issues course
- Kimmage Development Studies Centre evening course
- DCU development studies MA course
- Ballyfermot College of Further education economics, business and media studies
- SMA/Cois Tine Migrant Centre global issues course (3 linked sessions).

A total of 113 participants attended the workshops. The evaluation feedback was excellent with participants indicating that they felt much more aware of the issue and willing to take action in relation to it.

2. Teacher education

DDCI carried out training with trainee teachers in 3 third level institutes (NUI Maynooth, Mater Dei, Dublin, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick). DDCI reached 146 pre-service teachers through this training.

DDCI held another major annual conference with post-primary teachers with support from the National Council for Curriculum Assessment (NCCA) and in partnership with Trócaire and Amnesty. The theme of the training was '*Connecting the Head, Heart and Hands*' and built on our in-service teaching training the previous year which focused on '*Getting Back to Basics*', encouraging cooperative learning skills in the classroom. This years theme focused on supporting teachers to value a range of forms of intelligence in DE, such as emotional and visual intelligence in order to achieve a more integrated approach to DE. In particular, the training focused on exploring the

challenges and opportunities in integrating action into the DE cycle. 45 teachers attending the conference.

300 copies of our teachers resource '*How the World Works*' were distributed to pre-service and in-service teachers during the year. These were distributed to teachers who participated in DDCI training, in addition to teachers who contacted DDCI requesting a copy of the resource which has proved really popular.

DDCI would like to thank Annette Honan who has provided fantastic, highly professional support to DDCI in this area.

3. Resources

- DDCI with the help of the Irish Missionary Union and the SMAs developed a simple faith-based calendar which is an education resource on economic justice. It's available online as there were no funds for printing.
- We contributed an article to the Centre for Global Education *Policy and Practice* Journal on lessons for the development education sector on working on Irish debt. It can be found at: <http://www.developmenteducationreview.com/issue14-focus2>.

4. Public Meetings

DDCI also participated as a presenter in a number of public meetings. We:

- presented to the Tony Gregory Group on development issues
- did a 'q & a' session on local-global economic justice campaigning for Amnesty's intervarsity university students training day.
- were on the panel at the Centre for Global Education development education conference
- presented on *Ireland's International Relations* at the Ireland Institute Conference '*90 years of the Irish state: sovereignty and democracy in the republic*'.

3. Campaigning for Change

Zimbabwe

We are working with European and Zimbabwean groups to call for an audit of Zimbabwe's debt. The Zimbabwean campaign group presented on the issue at a meeting DDCI attended in Amsterdam in September. We have requested support for the audit from the Irish government and from the World Bank. For information on the campaign see: <http://www.debtireland.org/news/2012/06/12/act-now-debt-justice-for-zimbabwe>.

Caribbean and African Debt - 2013

We have begun to plan new research on the regions of Africa and Caribbean debt as a focus for 2013 debt campaigning. We are working with Trócaire, Eurodad and Afrodad in developing new research on African debt, and with Jubilee Germany, our Canadian counterparts and groups in the Caribbean on developing a strategy on Caribbean debt which is currently one of the most indebted regions in the world and has not received any debt relief.

Tax

DDCI-Christian Aid completed our tax postcard campaign submitting postcards to Unilever and Vodafone. The campaign succeeded in drawing the companies' attention to the issue, rather than securing their support toward country by country reporting.

Anglo: Not Our Debt

Responding to members decision in 2011 to work on Irish debt issues, DDCI co-convened a group that launched Debt Justice Action, along with other members of DDCI. DJA is a network that launched a campaign for the suspension of Anglo promissory note debt. The campaign is called 'Anglo: Not Our Debt'. The group carried out about 6 street actions, 7 community meetings and issued over a dozen press releases. DDCI's involvement focused on: media interviews (with LMFM, Colm Hayes Show, UTV network, National Public Radio US, New York Times, the Guardian among others), participating in the launch press conference, facilitating evening meetings, ensuring a global justice perspective generally and in the Women's Day video on Anglo in partnership with Kilbarack Community Development Project.

The next stage in the campaign will be to link the message for non payment of Anglo debts with the community sector that are opposing budgetary cuts to the most vulnerable. A major event will be held on Saturday 1st December in Dublin.

DDCI has received high support and interest from the international debt movement in Europe, the USA and in Africa and Asia in making this transition to working on Irish debt. Colleagues in Eurodad in the UK, US, Spain, Belgium and Germany have held solidarity actions and translated the press releases for their media and supporters. For more information on the campaign see: <http://www.notourdebt.ie>.

Bloom Movement

The Bloom Movement organised a major community public meeting jointly with Lourdes Youth and Community Services and ICON in Dublin 1 in June. We invited an Argentinean speaker, Hernan Mauro Langiotti, to talk about the Argentina experience and local and nationally focused speakers to talk about the impact of the Irish debt crisis. Hernan also spoke at a public mtg in Galway. The meetings enabled rich public discussions about the local and global crises.

4. Communications

A new online newsletter for DDCI has been designed by Mark Malone and Sian Crowley and will be circulated shortly. We have begun to use twitter and facebook! Follow us @debt_ireland and <http://www.facebook.com/DebtIreland>.

5. Engaging the Global and Local Movement

We engaged very actively with the European Network on Debt and Development. Nessa, the DDCI coordinator, attended a strategy meeting in Amsterdam in September and was accompanied by the DDCI chairperson at a planning meeting in Brussels earlier in the year. The meetings were very useful in setting out priorities for the coming months, including our forthcoming African debt research project, meeting with Zimbabwean activists about the proposed Zimbabwean debt audit and policy analysis on Caribbean debt.

Nessa spoke at a Jubilee Debt Campaign–World Development Movement activist conference in Manchester, UK on March 17th and on Ireland's debt and links to the global South debt crisis in Mannheim in Germany at a Jubilee Germany workshop on European and international debt justice.

Engagement with DDCI Members, Local allies and Networks

DDCI continued to engage with our members and partner organisations around Ireland including with:

- Trocaire, Christian Aid and Oxfam on tax justice issues
- Afri, Comhlamh, Galway One World Centre, Presentation Sisters, OLA Sisters, Irish missionary Union on Debt Justice Action work
- Dóchas and Friends of the Earth on the EU presidency 2013
- Africa Centre on strategic planning
- INTRAC a research group analyzing how Irish civil society organizations are responding the financial crisis.
- DDCI attended the DCU Development Studies Association Conference and the Irish Aid Development Education Advisory Committee conference
- Bloom movement: on joint public meetings and quarterly joint campaigns

6. Organisational Development

Funding

A core focus of internal organizational work during the year was on fundraising. In our most recent evaluation, members indicated high concern about the sustainability of the workload with just 1 paid staff member. The DDCI board therefore decided to dedicate the time of the coordinator full time to fundraising work in July in addition to pursuing EC funding. DDCI has been very fortunate to have been successful in securing 2 EC grants which, combined should provide funding for a second staff person. The fundraising approach was governed by a finance sub-committee established at the board. DDCI worked full time on fundraising for the month of July. We submitted 13 funding proposals / tenders during the year. Successful applications included Irish Aid, Christian Aid, Trócaire x2, European Commission x 2 and Concern. We are awaiting responses from Oxfam, Dóchas and NIPSA. We were turned down for funding by ElectricAid, the Quakers and the Lush fund.

DDCI would like to express our gratitude for the continued and significantly increased subscriptions from some members especially from a number of religious congregations and development organisations. This support has ensured that DDCI can continue to operate effectively within a very difficult financial environment for NGOs.

Governance & Strategic Planning

5 board meetings were held during the period as per DDCI's governance model. Significant time was spent on DDCI's strategic planning and fundraising strategy.

Strategic Planning

The board also led a process of renewing DDCI's current strategic plan in consultation with the members. A draft plan was presented for comment to the members in July which received valuable input from the members. The new plan will shift to focusing on becoming a more membership driven organization and sets out an exciting agenda to achieve that.

A 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 one of the most well respected programmes in the sector and recommended that it be given greater staffing time and resources to deliver its full potential. The report can be found at: <http://www.debtireland.org/about/strategicplan.html>.

Staffing

DDCI's funding situation allows for 1 co-ordinator position on a 4 day week (Nessa Ní Chasaide). In addition, DDCI works with a development education consultant (Annette Honan) on a regular basis who provides excellent support to DDCI's teacher training and resource development. DDCI also engaged 2 fantastic interns during year (Sian Crowley & Mark Malone) who provided excellent

support on education, campaigning, communications and event management. In addition, DDCI has support from long term volunteers, who provide invaluable support to DDCI - Sr Mary Connaughton in fundraising and office management and Pat Carroll who manages DDCI payroll administration. We would like to welcome Póilín Brennan on board as our new intern.

Annual Audit

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

7.Conclusion

It has been a year of implementing new and strategic decisions, such as taking on the challenge of campaigning on Irish debt and implementing a more ambitious fundraising approach. Both have proved very rewarding endeavors. We have learned a lot as a result of linking local and global debt concerns in our work, and have secured a more sustainable future for DDCI's work overall through our fund raising initiatives. We thank our members for assisting us to think through these challenges and for supporting us in making them happen.