MISSION
TO FIGHT AGAINST THE
ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS, AS PART OF
THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT
FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE.

VISION
A WORLD FREE FROM
POVERTY AND OPPRESSION,
BASED ON SOCIAL JUSTICE,
EQUALITY AND HUMAN
RIGHTS FOR ALL.
We are living through harsh times. In Britain, the new coalition government has introduced an austerity programme that will hit the poor hardest. Half a million public sector workers are set to lose their jobs as a result of the cuts. Many more families will be plunged into long-term poverty.

In developing countries, such poverty is already an everyday reality for millions. War on Want works in partnership with social movements, trade unions and other grassroots organisations to tackle the root causes of such poverty. We will raise our voice against unfairness in Britain, but we must never forget those who are facing even harsher times.

I had the opportunity this year to visit War on Want’s partner organisations in Bangladesh, working alongside some of the poorest people in the world. I was truly inspired by their courage — and by the victories they have won on behalf of millions of women working in Bangladesh’s garments factories.

War on Want continues to make a real difference to the lives of ordinary people around the world, as the pages in this annual review show. The victories we win together are made possible through the work of our partners and the magnificent support given by all our members, donors, affiliates and volunteers.

Without you, War on Want would simply not be able to maintain its crucial work against the root causes of poverty and human rights abuse. I am truly grateful for all the support you have given, and I thank you for your continuing commitment to us.

The coming year will be a special one for War on Want, as the organisation marks its 60th birthday. This annual review looks back at our proud history, as well as looking forward to what we wish to achieve in the year ahead.

War on Want was founded in 1951 when thousands of ordinary people responded to the call for action in support of a better world. Today we remain committed to that same vision: a world free from poverty and oppression, based on social justice, equality and human rights for all.

John Hilary
Executive Director
War on Want also runs hard-hitting campaigns in the UK to raise awareness about the structures that keep people in poverty and to expose the companies that profit from exploitation. We understand that the decisions of multinational corporations and politicians in rich countries can mean life or death for people in developing countries. Our campaigns take their lead from the work of our partners overseas and aim to engage the British public in the fight against global poverty.

Founded in 1951, War on Want works directly with local communities and organisations overseas to empower people to take action to improve their lives and fight for their rights. We work with over 30 partner organisations – social movements, trades unions, cooperatives and women’s groups – based across 15 countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. In rural and urban communities, in factories and sweatshops, in conflict zones and on the margins of society, we fight to make a lasting difference to people’s lives.
THE ONLY WAR WORTH FIGHTING IS THE WAR ON POVERTY

- Palestine
- Iraq
- China
- Bangladesh
- Kenya
- Sri Lanka
- Zambia
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- South Africa
In 2010 War on Want continued to play a pivotal role in the campaign to end supermarket exploitation. Thanks in large part to our efforts, in the lead-up to the general election in May each major political party came out in support of a supermarket watchdog. The UK government has now made a commitment to establish a body that would oversee retailers’ relationship with suppliers. War on Want is campaigning for the implementation of a watchdog that is independent, properly funded and vested with the authority to investigate abuses in supply chains overseas.

In August War on Want launched A Bitter Cup, a report on the conditions facing tea workers in India and Kenya supplying the UK market. Written jointly with Unite the Union and the IUF, the report reveals how workers on tea plantations face harassment, low wages and lack of trade union rights.

Following its highly successful launch in 2009, our Love Fashion Hate Sweatshops campaign has gone from strength to strength. Our call for the fair treatment of garment workers, including a living wage, has inspired War on Want supporters across the country to take action. Over the last year thousands of people have taken part in meetings, fashion shows, clothes swap parties and club nights to raise awareness of the need for robust government regulation of the supermarket industry.

War on Want’s campaign won further recognition in November when we featured prominently in a Channel 4 Dispatches documentary exposing sweatshop conditions in a factory in Leicester. As a result of the programme, high street retailer New Look appointed an independent auditor to investigate working conditions in its supply chains – another victory in our fight to end sweatshop exploitation.
War on Want’s overseas partners continue to score key victories in the fight for the rights of workers in plantations and factories. In Bangladesh, more than three million garment workers saw their wages increase by up to 65% after tireless campaigning by War on Want partner the National Garment Workers’ Federation, a leading trade union. The rise in salary, the first in four years for workers in the garment sector, is a crucial victory in the struggle for a living wage in Bangladesh.

The Free Trade Zones Employees Union, our partner in Sri Lanka, has made significant strides towards improving conditions for factory workers. After 20,000 free trade zone workers called on the government to ensure an increase in their wages, the Sri Lankan Labour Minister issued a statement supporting a monthly pay rise of 2,500 rupees (£14) across the sector. War on Want’s South African partner Sikhula Sonke, a women-led trade union, secured wage increases and social protections for workers, including longer maternity leave, improved childcare facilities, housing subsidies and a higher employer pension contribution.

In Honduras, our partner Codemuh, a women’s collective, has been at the forefront of the campaign against the National Anti-Crisis Plan, a proposed law that would allow private businesses to keep up to 40% of their staff on part-time contracts.

War on Want also works closely with workers’ rights organisations in China, Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya and Zambia, providing technical expertise to local groups fighting on behalf of workers in sweatshops and plantations. Many of these workers and their families live in abject poverty. The support our partners provide is often their only hope for a better life.
War on Want works in partnership with organisations in the developing world that fight for the rights of people living on the margins of society. Millions of people around the world scrape a living as ‘informal workers’ toiling as street traders, market vendors, rubbish collectors and home-workers. Lacking basic legal protections, the men and women in the informal economy face a precarious existence.

In Kenya, where informal workers are constantly harassed and have few rights, War on Want is working closely with our partner the Kenya National Alliance for Street Vendors and Informal Traders to put pressure on the Kenyan government to legalise informal trading. We also work with grassroots organisations supporting informal workers in Zambia and Malawi. We want to bring an end to the poor working conditions and discrimination traders face.

In partnership with our South African partners, War on Want launched a campaign to raise awareness of the mass evictions resulting from the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Thanks to our efforts, the displacement of thousands of poor South Africans to transit camps in the run-up to the World Cup made international headlines.

On the ground in the months before the World Cup began, the Anti-Eviction Campaign (AEC) prevented the eviction of more than 10,000 from their homes. In the aftermath of the World Cup, the AEC and our other South African partners, the Anti-Privatisation Forum, Abahlali baseMjondolo Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, have continued to demand equal rights for the millions of South Africans deprived of decent housing and public services.
For five years, Charlene Paul lived in a changing room near Athlone Stadium, Cape Town, with her partner and two young children: daughter Taryn-Lee and son Damon. The South African government repeatedly promised Charlene and her family a new home in the area. As Charlene and her family waited, they became part of a community, making a comfortable home for themselves despite its size and lack of electricity and water.

In the lead-up to the 2010 World Cup, the government finally fulfilled its promise to provide new homes to the families living in the area around Athlone, including Charlene’s. However, the families were in fact evicted and sent to Blikkiesdorp, a transit camp based miles away from schools, workplaces and shops. The evictions were carried out to enable the government to build a new car park for Athlone Stadium, which would serve as a training ground for the England football team.

For Charlene and her family, the conditions in Blikkesdorp are far worse than in Athlone. A crowded camp of 15,000 people, many of them World Cup evictees like Charlene’s family, Blikkiesdorp is made up of tin shacks that provide little protection from the elements. Damon now suffers from respiratory problems due to the thick clouds of dust that blanket the camp. Under constant stress, Taryn-Lee's performance at school markedly declined.

When Charlene’s family were served their eviction orders, War on Want’s partner the Western Cape Anti-Eviction Campaign (AEC) provided them with invaluable support. Crucially, the AEC gave the family guidance on how to challenge the legality of the notice in the courts. After several months, Charlene and her family won the case, enabling them to go back to their home and community. Back in Athlone, Damon’s health has improved, and Taryn-Lee is doing better in school.
As the global food crisis continues to take its toll on communities in the developing world, War on Want’s overseas partners have stepped up the fight for food justice.

In Mozambique, a country that has been devastated by the crisis, the National Union of Small Farmers (UNAC) is campaigning against the export-based production model that has left millions of people vulnerable. UNAC has also helped secure compensation for farmers whose land has been seized by corporate farms.

In 2010 the Movement of Babaçu Nut Breakers, a War on Want partner based in north east Brazil, scored a key legislative success that will benefit 300,000 indigenous and Afro-descendent women. The law ensures that these women can access land to grow the Babaçu palm, the tree on which they depend for their livelihoods, helping protect them and their families from hunger and poverty.

In Sri Lanka, 15,000 people have received training in sustainable farming methods provided by our grassroots partner Monlar. Communities learn how to produce and use their own seeds, reducing their dependence on expensive chemical fertilizers and GMO seeds. This will help protect them from the pressures of a world food system whose rules are stacked against them.

### COLLECTIVE FARMING IN SRI LANKA

Last year, a group of Sri Lankan women from the rural province of Mahiyanganaya began meeting regularly to discuss the challenges facing small-scale farmers. The group formed an all-women farmers’ society, called Siriliya, to promote sustainable farming and community-based markets.

To get the project off the ground, the society sought support from Monlar, a national network of organic, community-based farming collectives and a War on Want partner organisation. Monlar provided Siriliya with training in eco-farming methods, teaching them how to produce organic food in a sustainable way, so that they can grow their own food locally. Today all the women in the society maintain their own home gardens.

According to Madurani Rambukwella, the current secretary of Siriliya, Monlar’s support has had a major impact. “Apart from its intervention in eco-farming, this project has helped us to develop our society. It has provided lots of training and awareness.”

Overall, Siriliya has changed the way many women farm. Speaking about the society’s effect on local communities, Madurani remarked that “it helped the women to come together and implement the eco-farming project in the area. We were able to engage over 200 farmers in eco-farming. We are very happy to see the progress they have made.”
Palestine is in crisis. As a result of Israel’s illegal Occupation, Palestinians are subjected to daily human rights abuse. Israel’s blockade of Gaza has condemned its 1.5 million inhabitants to levels of poverty more commonly associated with sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, four out of five people in the Gaza strip are now dependent on food aid.

War on Want supports grassroots organisations on the ground in Palestine which help families and communities who face displacement, repression and poverty as a result of the Occupation. Our Palestinian partner Stop the Wall organises peaceful actions protesting against the illegal Apartheid Wall in the West Bank. They also aim to secure compensation for families who have had their land stolen and lives torn apart by the Wall. Aided by a dedicated pressure campaign from War on Want supporters, in January two leading Stop the Wall activists were freed after being imprisoned without charge for several months by Israeli authorities.
In October, we launched Boycott Divestment, Sanctions, a landmark report documenting the growing catastrophe facing the Palestinian people. The report provides ordinary people with a range of actions targeting the companies and governments that help sustain Israel’s Occupation. On the day of the report’s release, War on Want held a demonstration outside the headquarters of BT, a company named in the report for its complicity in Israel’s crimes.

WAR ON WANT STEPPED UP ITS PALESTINE CAMPAIGN IN 2010.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN-LED CALL FOR BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS (BDS) OF ISRAEL UNTIL IT COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, WAR ON WANT HAS EXPOSED UK COMPANIES PROFITING FROM THE OCCUPATION. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SIGNED OUR LETTER TO THE CEOS OF BRITISH SUPERMARKETS THAT STOCK ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT GOODS, AND OUR MOCK OCCUPATION OF A LONDON WAITROSE DREW ATTENTION TO THAT COMPANY’S CONTINUED SALE OF SETTLEMENT PRODUCE.
In 2010 War on Want spoke out against the ongoing war in Afghanistan. We drew attention to the role of the UK government in making Afghanistan the most militarised country in the world while simultaneously privatising the economy, helping to set back development prospects in one of the poorest countries on earth. We joined thousands of people who marched through the streets of London in November calling for British troops to leave.

War is one of the main causes of poverty. It continues to bring misery to millions of people around the world, denying them their right to security and destroying schools, hospitals and any prospect of development. War on Want's longstanding opposition to militarism means that we campaign against unjust war and occupation, confronting the corporations that profit from war in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Western Sahara.
Multinational companies are complicit in many conflicts across the world, putting profit before people and fanning the flames of war. Alongside the US and British military in Afghanistan is a private army of British private military and security companies (PMSCs) operating outside legal or democratic control. During the occupation of Iraq, War on Want exposed the hundreds of human rights abuses carried out by private armies. Today similar abuses are taking place in Afghanistan. War on Want has led the way in opposing this growing privatisation of war. In 2010 we challenged government failure to introduce legislation to regulate this deadly industry. War on Want has succeeded in building support for our campaign in parliament and with people across the country. We have challenged UK government policy which allows these private armies to police themselves with a voluntary code of conduct. In the coming year we will continue to campaign for further regulation to ensure these companies are held to account. We must stop companies making a killing.
AIDED BY A FREE TRADE AGENDA, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS HAVE GROWN IN INFLUENCE, EARNING RECORD PROFITS DESPITE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. IN 2010 WAR ON WANT PLAYED A ROLE IN THE MOVEMENT OPPOSING THE EU’S ‘GLOBAL EUROPE’ STRATEGY, WHICH PROMOTES UNFETTERED FREE TRADE. BUILDING ALLIANCES ACROSS EUROPE WITH ALLIED ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING TRADE UNIONS, NGOS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, OUR CAMPAIGN FOR TRADE JUSTICE HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN STRENGTH AND NUMBERS.
Hundreds of War on Want supporters voiced their opposition to EU trade policies during 2010, writing targeted emails to their MEPs and the European Commission to demand justice for poor countries affected by globalisation. We have joined up with many other European trade campaigners under the banner of the Seattle to Brussels Network in order to press for fairer trade policies from the EU.

After years of pressure from War on Want and other organisations, the British government announced a change in policy with regards to CDC, the private investment arm of the Department for International Development. By focusing on lucrative projects designed to generate high returns for investors, CDC has betrayed its original mandate of reducing poverty. Now the government has accepted that CDC must serve the interests of poverty reduction once again.

War on Want will continue to challenge harmful investment practices in the developing world which seek to make money at the expense of the poor.

In a great victory for campaigners, in May 2010 the UK government announced that it plans to introduce a statutory register of lobbyists. A founding member of the Alliance for Lobbying Transparency (ALT-UK), War on Want has long been at the forefront of the movement to rein in lobbyists, who have exerted undue influence on our political system. This has undermined democracy and allowed corporate power to have privileged access to decision makers. A register would cover the whole industry and provide public information about how lobbyists influence government. As our campaign builds momentum we will strive to ensure the register of lobbyists is implemented in 2011, providing much needed transparency to the political system.
IN 2010 WAR ON WANT JOINED A BROAD ALLIANCE OF ORGANISATIONS FIGHTING THE PUBLIC SPENDING CUTS IN THE UK. WHILE THE BANKING SECTOR HAS BEEN BAILED OUT BY THE TAXPAYERS, BRITAIN’S POOR FACE DRAMATIC REDUCTIONS IN PUBLIC SPENDING AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT. WAR ON WANT HAS FOCUSED ON ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO FINANCE THE STATE THAT PROTECT JOBS AND SERVICES.
Working closely with the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), War on Want has helped spearhead the campaign against tax dodging, which costs the British government £120 billion each year. Developing countries are deprived of an estimated £250 billion every year as a result of corporate tax dodging.

War on Want launched the first ever UK campaign for a tax on currency transactions over a decade ago. In the last year we formed part of a coalition of trade unions, women’s organisations and faith groups behind the Robin Hood Tax campaign, which calls for a levy on banking transactions. As well as raising up to £20 billion annually in the UK, this tax represents a way for banks to repay some of their debt to society. We will continue to push for this tax to ensure a fair contribution from the banks to society.

Across the country students, organisations and people are fighting to protect public services and to show that, contrary to the government’s claims, the cuts are not necessary or inevitable. These actions signal the start of a strong, vibrant and wide-ranging movement against cuts. War on Want joins the call for a fully-funded welfare state based on prioritising the needs of ordinary people over the demands of big business and the banking sector, and we will fight the cuts in the year ahead.
War on Want calls for a Tobin Tax on foreign currency transactions; today known as the Robin Hood Tax campaign.

War on Want launches ‘Profits out of Poverty’, the first British campaign to call for the cancellation of Third World debt.

War on Want founder Harold Wilson, prime minister of the day, establishes Britain’s first Ministry of Overseas Development.

War on Want has a proud history of support for radical movements and grassroots organisations around the world, as well as its own ground-breaking campaigns to challenge the root causes of poverty and injustice. Here are a few highlights from 60 years in the struggle.

War on Want is born when thousands of people respond to a letter in the Guardian calling for a global struggle against poverty.

War on Want publishes The Baby Killer, an exposé of baby milk companies that leads to a boycott of Nestlé products across the world, which continues to this day, and the adoption of the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

War on Want calls for a Tobin Tax on foreign currency transactions; today known as the Robin Hood Tax campaign.
2005
War on Want wins change to UK government policy ensuring aid to developing countries can no longer be made conditional upon privatisation or trade liberalisation.

2006
War on Want’s partner the FTZGSEU trade union in Sri Lanka wins the first ever agreement guaranteeing workers an increase in salary every year, annual leave and an end to persecution of trade union activity.

2008
War on Want is named by Third Sector as one of the top five most admired charities in England and Wales.

2009
War on Want’s partner Zaytoun, a collective of Palestinian olive oil growers living under Occupation, becomes the first olive oil to be awarded Fairtrade status.

2010
War on Want partner, the NGWF trade union in Bangladesh, secures a rise in the minimum wage for more than three million garment workers for the first time in four years.
War on Want’s Comedy Gig 2010 was a roaring success, headlined by award-winning comedians Stewart Lee and Ed Byrne (above). The show raised more than £10,000 for our work fighting global poverty and had the audience in stitches.

Over 250 people attended our Fight Supermarket Power conference in February, which was organised jointly with Unite the Union. The event aimed to highlight the struggle against supermarkets’ attack on workers’ rights and communities around the world. Throughout the day practical action was agreed and planned in workshops helping to build momentum for our campaign.

This year our supporters ran, hiked, sang, and sold in an attempt to raise vital funds for our work. War on Want joined the websites JustGiving and Virgin Money Giving making it easier for friends and family to sponsor any number of fun activities. Our supporters raised loads of dosh and we’re really grateful!

As a membership organisation War on Want relies heavily upon the support of our members to remain truly independent in what we do and say. The steadfast commitment of our members in these tough times amazes us every day and we are truly grateful to have such fantastic supporters.
Our outreach teams were super busy over the summer months attending festivals, concerts, schools and the like, to mobilise support for our campaigns. Our teams, largely made up of volunteers, secured thousands of signatures for petitions ranging from justice for Palestine to overseas workers’ rights. We think they’re amazing!

We were delighted that a number of trusts and foundations gave their financial backing to War on Want this year. We are also deeply grateful to those individuals who remembered War on Want in their will — their generosity will help to make a lasting difference to people’s lives.

In the summer, as part of our wider campaign, War on Want hosted the event ‘Who’s going to win the World Cup?’. Over a hundred people came eager to discuss the social, political and economic impacts of the World Cup on poor people in South Africa.

A huge thank you to everyone who took action, donated, volunteered, organised an event, came to an event, spread the word and got involved. You are a vital part of the movement for global justice and we simply couldn’t do what we do without you.
From every £1 you give us we spend 78p on our work fighting global poverty and use the remaining 22p to raise the next £1.
YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT WAR ON WANT BY MAKING A DONATION.

War on Want relies on the generosity of its supporters to continue its work empowering poor people around the world. Every pound counts in our fight against injustice and inequality and we are grateful for your support.

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
Freepost RSKC-UCZZ-ZSHL
War on Want, 44-48 Shepherdess Walk,
London N1 7JP

Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone
E-mail

I enclose a cheque / CAF Voucher / Postal Order / CAF Card / made payable to War on Want
Please debit my Mastercard / Visa / Maestro delete as appropriate
Amount £
Card Number □□□□□□□□
Expiry Date □□□□ – □□□□ Start Date □□□□ – □□□□ (shaded boxes for Maestro only)
Issue Number □□□
Security Code last 3 digits on your signature strip □□□
Name of Cardholder(s)
Signature(s)
Date

Make your gift worth 28% more – at no cost to you

☐ I am a UK tax payer and I would like War on Want to reclaim tax on all donations that I have made in the last four years and all future donations that I make from the date of this declaration.

☐ I understand that I must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that War on Want will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

☐ I am not a UK tax payer (If your circumstances change, please let us know)

You can also donate online at waronwant.org or call 020 7324 5040

Registered charity no. 208724 D384
YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT WAR ON WANT BY BECOMING A MEMBER.

Here’s my life changing gift of £5 a month until further notice
Starting on the 1st 8th 15th 22nd Month Year
Should be at least four weeks from today

Here are my name and address details
First Name Surname
Address
Postcode
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We’d like to keep in touch with you to tell you more. If you don’t want to hear more from War on Want, just let us know

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit
Complete the whole form using a ballpoint pen and return to:
Freepost RSKC-UCZZ-ZSHL, War on Want, 44-48 Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7JP
Do not return to your bank
Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society
To the Manager Bank / Building Society:
Address
Postcode
Name(s) of Account holder(s)
Branch Sort Code – Account No.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay War onWant Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with War onWant and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.
Signature(s)
Date
Originator’s Identification Number [3 8 8 2 4 0] Ref: (War on Want to complete)

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account

Make your gift worth 28% more – at no cost to you

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I am not a UK tax payer (If your circumstances change, please let us know)

If you are already a member of War on Want, please pass this on to a friend so that they can join our fight against poverty. Thank you.
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE WORK OF WAR ON WANT. YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONTINUE FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WORK IN 2010

AA LAW SOLICITORS
COMIC RELIEF
COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION
DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
EUROPEAN UNION
GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS
IRISH AID
ISVARA FOUNDATION
JACKY REES CONSULTANCY LTD
JOSEPH ROWNTREE CHARITABLE TRUST
LIPMAN-MILIBAND TRUST
MARR-MUNNING TRUST
NETWORK FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
PCS
PROSPECT
TRAID
UNITE THE UNION