

Practical input

Our toolkit for digging deeper into poverty and justice issues

Many of the facts, stats and systems behind poverty and injustice – especially at a global level – are complex.

You don't have to be an expert in all this to pray. God loves justice and hates it when the poor are exploited –and we are called to defend the rights of the poor - it's as simple as that at one level.

But being better informed often motivates us to pray more often, and with more conviction, as we become more aware of the reality of the impact our lives have on others, and the desperate need for change at every level. Looking beyond news headlines, and government presentations is important – as we listen to those who are literally taking the side of the poor, we learn new information which is often concealed or misrepresented by those whose power depends upon it.

Many of the resources we write and make available are inspired by the knowledge and expertise of Christian organisations working with, or campaigning for, the poorest communities. Here we point you to where you can find out more about the issues, and explore further how they relate to our faith. Many of these organisations also publish or recommend books and bible studies which help you examine the issues in a faith context.

(Also see 'The Bible, justice and poverty' at www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-articles)

Places to go to find out more about...

1. The reality of global poverty...

... how many people are in need and why; debt; trade justice; climate change; HIV/AIDS; unfair tax policies; natural disasters; sustainable development; advocacy; the millennium development goals; unethical manufacturing; good governance and more... **and also how these issues relate to our faith.**

- www.christianaid.org.uk and www.tearfund.org.uk
The development agency of 41 sponsoring denominations and networks in the UK and Ireland, and The Evangelical Aid and Relief Fund in the UK and Ireland. Both these organisations have many years experience working with partner organisations, equipping churches to respond to the needs of communities, and are both active in campaigning for political change as well as in providing aid and ongoing development work.
- www.micahchallenge.org.uk
The UK wing of a global Christian coalition, working specifically to campaign hold governments accountable to deliver the promises they made through the Millennium Development Goals

If you want to dig even deeper into these issues, these government bodies and secular organisations working on single issues also have useful information.

- www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk
Working on cancellation of 'third-world' debt.

- www.wfp.org
United Nations world food programme (see particularly for statistics on hunger, malnutrition and their hunger map resource).
- www.fairtrade.org.uk
Website of the Fairtrade Foundation.
- www.tjm.org.uk
The trade justice movement, which is a coalition of more than 60 organisations, including most Christian and development organisations.
- www.stopclimatechaos.org
A coalition similar to the trade justice movement, but even bigger, which includes environmental charities but also most Christian development organisations.
- www.dfid.gov.uk
The UK government's Department for International Development website, providing information on what they fund and their policies.
- www.undp.org
The United Nations' Development Programme website, providing information on what they do, and their policies. Each year they publish the Multidimensional Global Poverty Index, which most development agencies use as the standard basis for statistics.
- www.who.int
The World Health Organisation's website, providing information on statistics and what they do.

2. Disadvantaged individuals, groups and communities in the UK...

- www.thechildrenssociety.org.uk
Children's charity founded by the Anglican church which works to help disadvantaged children in the UK.
- www.capuk.org
Christians Against Poverty is a national debt counselling charity working through a network of centres based in local churches to alleviate the poverty and suffering caused by debt.
- www.shelter.org.uk or www.crisis.org.uk
There is no national Christian homelessness charity as most Christian response to homelessness happens at local, service provision level – so find out what is happening near you, and talk to them about how the issues relate to our faith. But visit Shelter for the national picture and statistics.

- www.ageuk.org

There is no national Christian charity for the elderly as most Christian response to caring for older people in their communities happens at local, service provision level – so find out what is happening near you, and talk to them about how the issues relate to our faith. But visit Age UK for the national picture and statistics.

If you want to dig even deeper into these issues, these government bodies also have useful information and statistics.

- www.dwp.gov.uk/policy

UK government's department for work and pensions, which includes government policies in response to issues surrounding benefits, child poverty and more.

- www.direct.gov.uk

Providing access to public services, and details about them.

- www.decc.gov.uk

The government's department on energy and climate change – also providing strategies for fuel poverty in the UK.

- www.thecentreforsocialjustice.org.uk

Independent think secular think tank which responds to government policy.

- www.statistics.gov.uk

Government site for the National Centre for Statistics, which publishes data on a wide range of social and economic issues.