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# WORLDWIDE BID TO ALTER TRADE RULES



Ghanaian chicken farmer Kwaka Brobby

## Help him make a proper living

THIS is just one of millions of farmers in developing countries whose livelihood is threatened by unjust trade rules.

Kwaka Brobby owns a large chicken farm in Ghana, a country that our diocese has close ties with because of our involvement with the Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL).

He and other poultry farmers are struggling to sell chickens in their own local markets

because imported, frozen chickens from Holland and Canada are on sale there at lower prices.

Kwaka's government is forbidden from imposing tariffs on such imports, and from giving him financial aid, whereas the imported chicken is heavily subsidised by western governments.

Changing these unjust rules would help secure Kwaka's future.

## IN Ghana, campaigners will send chickens to Parliament to protest at cheap food imports from the EU.

In Belgium, they will hold a funeral procession to show how free trade is killing livelihoods in developing countries. And in London, they will light 10,000 candles in an all-night vigil.

The Global Week of Action on trade justice will be a truly global event, with millions of campaigners taking the initiative in more than 80 countries. From April 10-16, they will be asking governments to re-write unfair trade rules that keep millions in poverty worldwide.

You can join the growing chorus of discontent, by travelling to London for the all-night vigil from April 15-16, by voting for trade justice in Portsmouth city centre, or by joining a vigil planned in the centre of Newport.

In Portsmouth, the week will begin on April 9, when voting booths will be erected in Commercial Road. Shoppers will be encouraged to 'Vote for Trade Justice' by signing ballot cards that will be sent to our government. Campaigners want ministers to receive one million such 'votes' overall.

There will be a worldwide fast on April 11. The idea is to show solidarity with the 850 million people worldwide who go to bed hungry each night. Church members are encouraged to fast and pray together in their own congregations.

St Simon's Church in Southsea will host a prayer event that evening from 7pm and 10pm. There will be prayer installations on the theme of trade justice and a worship activity on the hour, as well as the chance to sign cards supporting the trade justice campaign. Ring 023-9282 9440 for more details.

And the climax of the week in the UK will come on Friday night in London. Thousands of campaigners will conduct



Bishop Kenneth wears the Make Poverty History white wristband

an all-night vigil on the prime minister's doorstep from 10pm on April 15 to 8am the next morning. The programme of events for 'Wake Up to Trade Justice' includes speeches, comedy, music, workshops and a youth space.

At 4am, there will be a spectacular protest as campaigners light up Whitehall with thousands of candles. There will be time to eat breakfast and make banners before a procession past Downing Street at 7am. Our Christian Aid regional office is organising transport. Contact Amy Allen on 023-8022 0819 for more details.

Campaigners on the Isle of Wight hope to organise their own vigil outside St Thomas's Church in Newport on the same night. The idea is to create a 140-metre Make Poverty History banner to go around the church, and for activists to spend the night in St Thomas's Square. Contact Christian Aid co-ordinator Jim Curtis on 01983-526574 for details. There will also be an all-night vigil at Portsmouth's RC cathedral from 7pm on

April 15 to 7am on April 16.

The idea of a Global Week of Action came when trade activists from across the world met at an international conference in 2003. They wanted to challenge the myth that free trade was the answer to world poverty by organising the biggest global mobilisation on trade justice the world had seen.

The Global Week is the first nationwide event of the Make Poverty History campaign, the year-long focus on poverty during 2005. It has brought together the Trade Justice Movement, Comic Relief, the Church of England and a host of other agencies and organisations. They want the UK government to use its influence to tackle poverty in the year when it will host the G8 summit in July and preside over the EU between July and December.

It was launched with a special episode of *The Vicar of Dibley* on New Year's Day and was backed by Nelson Mandela in a rally in Trafalgar Square. Campaigners have been wearing white wristbands to highlight their support. Bishop Kenneth and his fellow bishops have all backed the campaign, and the *Pompey Chimes* is carrying a Make Poverty History banner during 2005.

The aims of the Make Poverty History campaign include more and better international aid and the cancelling of unpayable debt, as well as trade justice. In July, campaigners will be urged to go to Edinburgh to make their voices heard ahead of the G8 summit hosted by Tony Blair in Gleneagles.

Bishop Kenneth said: "I'm excited that this year could be a watershed moment in the battle to eradicate world poverty. I hope we will all be getting involved in these campaigns in whatever way we can."

For more details, see: [www.april2005.org](http://www.april2005.org), [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org) or [www.tradejusticemovement.org](http://www.tradejusticemovement.org)