

# FOCUS

## ACTION FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE



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**INSIDE** Action on Immigration Bill / Global Economy: Will Capitalism Survive Climate Change? / Activist Voices: Occupy! Resist! Produce! / Waste not Want not / Whose Water ? / Ethical Fashion - Trends for Future



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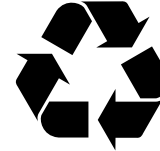
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**Join Comhlámh: take action for global justice**

In a world that seems so unfair, don't you wish that Ireland would stand up for justice? Yet there have been moments to be proud of when Ireland helped make a difference:

- against **apartheid**
- for the freedom of **East Timor**
- for **debt cancellation**

But these breakthroughs only happen because people - like you - **demand change and make justice matter.**

**For 30 years**, Comhlámh (Irish for 'solidarity' and pronounced 'co-law-ve') has been **educating** and campaigning for global justice in **solidarity with the developing world.**

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# Action on Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill

In January 2008, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D., introduced the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2008. The Bill sets out a legislative framework for the management of inward migration to Ireland.

We are very concerned that the Bill grants broad ministerial discretion on critical issues relating to residency in the state, family reunification, procedures for visas, requirement for the production of documentation and biometric data.

## How will the Bill affect immigrants in Ireland?

- The Bill contains broad ministerial discretion and conditions that make it possible to become illegal, even after one is granted 5-year residency. This leaves a tremendous sense of insecurity.
- The Bill does not explicitly recognise in primary legislation the right of those living here to a private and family life. Much is left to secondary legislation, policy statements and excessively broad ministerial discretion. This will make the system extremely vulnerable to inconsistencies, prejudice and the risk of interfering with rights enshrined in domestic and international law.
- The conditions and procedures governing visas and residency in the Bill are premised on preoccupations with security. They are ambiguous and open to varying interpretations and at the same time, overly restrictive.
- The provisions of the Bill requiring foreign nationals to produce documentation and to provide biometric data on demand in an Ireland of growing diversity have the potential to be divisive and will not help the integration process.
- The Bill manifests a tendency towards criminalising those seeking asylum. It makes provisions relating to detention and summary deportation. Further, the conditionality attached to affording limited protection to victims of trafficking does not reflect best practice.

- Provisions of the Bill regarding 'unlawful presence in the State' creates the impression that becoming unlawful in the State would require a deliberate, wilful and conscious act on the part of the person who has become unlawful. This is not often the case in practice as there are myriad ways in which a foreign national can move from lawful to unlawful presence in the State and through no fault of their own.

## What can you do about it?

Bring these concerns to the notice of:

- Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D. Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.
- The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights.
- Your local T.Ds. and local representatives.
- Your local community and encourage them to discuss them with their local T.Ds.



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# Imagining the Immigration Law

*The following stories are possible scenarios should the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill in the current format become law.*

A young Somali woman came to Ireland 2 years ago, aged 14, after her village was attacked during the civil war in her country. She was raped and her father was killed. Her mother and 3 younger siblings remain in her home country. She applied for protection in Ireland. Her application was successful. She was pleased to learn that as a protection declaration holder, she is now entitled to apply for family reunification. She feels very alone and isolated in Ireland and is constantly worrying about the safety of her family. She is distraught when she learns that she can only apply for family reunification for her mother. She would have to show that her siblings were dependent on her in order for them to be allowed to join her in Ireland. She knows that this is impossible as she is still at school. She also knows that her mother cannot come to Ireland and leave the other children behind with no one to care for them.

A Congolese boy is smuggled into Ireland and abandoned at the airport. When he approaches an immigration officer and tells her that he is 15 years old and is alone in the country, the immigration officer refers him to the care of the HSE. He is not registered as a separated child and no Best Interests Determination ('BID') assessment is conducted. He is not provided with legal advice. Nobody asks him why he is in Ireland out of fear that such questions will upset him. He does not make a claim for protection despite the fact that he is from a political family and saw his parents and siblings massacred in the Congo. As he approaches his 18th birthday, he begins to worry what will happen to him when the HSE is no longer responsible for his care. He seeks legal advice and realizes that he should have made a protection application when he arrived to Ireland. Fearing that he will be deported to the Congo without having an opportunity to have his protection claim heard, he disappears.

An Iraqi man flies, on false Syrian documents, to Ireland (as it is impossible for him to travel on his own genuine documents). The airline provides the passenger list and copies of travel documents of all passengers on-board to the Irish immigration authorities before the plane reaches Ireland. Irish immigration authorities have questions about the Iraqi national's passport. Upon arrival to Ireland, he is detained on the plane and it is determined that his passport is not genuine. The Iraqi has very little English and is not able to articulate that he has come to Ireland to seek asylum. The immigration officer refuses him entry to Ireland. The carrier is liable to a fine (for the offence of transporting the Iraqi national on false documents to Ireland).

An Indian software engineer has been working here for the last seven years and he is of good character, is fully tax compliant, speaks fluent English and is not dependent on public funds. If he were to apply for a long term residence permit he would satisfy all but one of the (presently prescribed) statutory criteria. He lives quietly with his family and keeps to himself. Yet this person has no interest in either the GAA or the Irish language or Irish music and (understandably) prefers to celebrate India Day rather than St. Patrick's Day. How could he demonstrate that he satisfies the "reasonable efforts to integrate" criterion?

An American national comes to Ireland to begin an un-paid internship in an environmental organisation. The intern is issued with a non-renewable residence permit for one year. The intern's circumstances change, she forms a relationship with an Irish national. They both want her to stay on in Ireland after her internship ends. They decide to ask the Minister for Justice to consider allowing the American national to change her status to allow her to continue living in Ireland. The couple are shocked to find out that the Minister will not accept any application to modify the conditions to which the American national's residence permission is subject because she is on a non-renewable residence permit. The American has no option but to leave Ireland.

A woman from the former Soviet Union arrived in Ireland with her two children to seek protection. After she made her application, she was sent to live in an accommodation centre in a small town. She received a letter notifying her of the date of her interview. She knew this was very important and would be her opportunity to explain why she had to flee her country and come to Ireland. On the morning of her interview, she received a phone call from her family in her country of origin saying that her mother was very ill. She was very shocked and felt she could not go ahead with her interview on that day. She could not write English very well and made an appointment with a local support group for assistance in writing a letter to the Department of Justice informing them why she could not attend the interview on that day. She was very shocked when she received a letter some weeks later informing her that her application had been deemed withdrawn as she had not contacted the Department within three days. She knows there was no appeal against such a decision and fears being returned to her country of origin.

# Will Capitalism Survive Climate Change?

*Climate change is a looming crisis brought on by over-consumption, writes Walden Bello. Yet humanity's response may be to bring about a better quality of life for all.*



*More and more cropland is devoted to biofuel production, leaves less land to grow food  
Photo: Klaus Sachau*

**T**here is now a solid consensus in the scientific community that if global mean temperatures increase by more than 2.4 degrees Celsius in the 21st century, the change in the planet's climate will be large-scale, irreversible and disastrous. Moreover, the window of opportunity for action that will make a difference is narrow - that is, the next 10 to 15 years.

Throughout the North, however, there is strong resistance to changing the systems of consumption and production that have created the problem in the first place and a preference for techno-fixes, such as "clean" coal, carbon sequestration and storage, industrial-scale biofuels, and nuclear energy.

Globally, transnational corporations and other private actors resist government-imposed measures such as mandatory caps, preferring to use market mechanisms like the buying and selling of carbon credits, which critics says simply amounts to a license for corporate polluters to keep on polluting.

In the South, there is little willingness on the part of Southern elites to depart from the high-growth, high-consumption model inherited from the North and a self-interested conviction that the North must first adjust and bear the brunt of adjustment before the South takes any serious step towards limiting its greenhouse gas emissions.

## Contours of the Challenge

In the climate change discussions, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility is recognized by all parties, meaning that the global North must shoulder the brunt of the adjustment to the climate crisis since it is the one

*"The central problem is in short: Capitalism."*

whose economic trajectory has brought it about. It is also recognized that the global response should not compromise the countries of the global South's right to develop.

The devil, however, is in the detail. As Martin Khor of Third World Network has pointed out, the global reduction of 80 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, that many now recognize as a necessity, will have to translate into reductions of at least 150 to 200 per cent on the part of the global North if the two principles—common but differentiated responsibility and recognition of the right to develop of the countries of the South—are to be followed. But are the governments and people of the North prepared to make such commitments?

Psychologically and politically, it is doubtful that the North at this point has what it takes to meet the problem head-on. The prevailing assumption is that the affluent societies can take on commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions but still grow and enjoy their high standards of living if they shift to non-fossil fuel energy sources. The subtext is: techno-fixes will make the transition relatively painless and—why not?—profitable, too.

There is, however, a growing realisation that many of these technologies are decades away from viable use and that, in the short and medium term, relying on a shift in energy dependence to non-fossil fuel alternatives will not be able to support current rates of economic growth. Also, the trade-off for more cropland devoted to biofuel production is less



land to grow food and greater food insecurity globally.

It is rapidly becoming clear that the dominant paradigm of economic growth is one of the most significant obstacles to a serious global effort to deal with climate change. But this destabilising, fundamentalist growth-consumption paradigm is itself more effect rather than cause.

The central problem is a mode of production whose main dynamic is the transformation of living nature into dead commodities, creating tremendous waste in the process. The driver of this process is consumption – or more appropriately over-consumption – and the motivation is profit or capital accumulation: Capitalism, in short.

It has been the generalisation of this mode of production in the North and its spread from the North to the South over the last 300 years that has caused the accelerated burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil and rapid deforestation, two of the key man-made processes behind global warming.

### **The South's Dilemma**

One way of viewing global warming is to see it as a key manifestation of the latest stage of a wrenching historical process: the privatisation of the global commons by capital. The climate crisis must thus be seen as the expropriation by the advanced capitalist societies of the ecological space of less developed or marginalized societies.

This leads us to the dilemma of the South: Before the full extent of the ecological destabilisation brought about by capitalism, it was expected that the South would simply follow the “stages of growth” of the North. Now it is impossible to do so without bringing about ecological Armageddon. Already, China is on track to overtake the US as the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, yet the elite of China as well as those of India and other rapidly developing countries intent on reproducing American consumption driven capitalism.

Thus, for the South, the implications of an effective global response to global warming include not just the inclusion of some countries in a regime of mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, although this is critical: In the current round of climate negotiations, for instance, China, can no longer opt out of a mandatory regime on the ground that it is a developing country.

These steps should be seen as the initial steps in a broader, global reorientation of the paradigm for achieving economic well-being. While the adjustment will need to be much, much greater and faster in the North, the adjustment for the South will essentially be the same: a break with

*“We can be sure that the vast majority will not commit social and ecological suicide to enable the minority to preserve their privileges.”*

the high-growth, high-consumption model in favour of another model of achieving the common welfare.

In contrast to the Northern elites’ strategy of trying to decouple growth from energy use, a progressive comprehensive climate strategy in both the North and the South must be to reduce growth and energy use while raising the quality of life of the broad masses of people. Among other things, this will mean placing economic justice and equality at the centre of the new paradigm.

The transition must be one not only from a fossil-fuel based economy but also from an over consumption-driven economy. The end goal must be adoption of a low-consumption, low-growth, high-equity development model that results in an improvement in people’s welfare, a better quality of life for all, and greater democratic control of production.

It is unlikely that the elites of the North and the South will agree to such a comprehensive response. Growth will be sacrosanct, as will the system of global capitalism.

Yet, confronted with the Apocalypse, humanity cannot self-destruct. It may be a difficult road, but we can be sure that the vast majority will not commit social and ecological suicide to enable the minority to preserve their privileges. However it is achieved, a thorough reorganisation of production, consumption, and distribution will be the end result of humanity’s response to the climate emergency and the broader environmental crisis.

### **Threat and Opportunity**

In this regard, climate change is both a threat and an opportunity to bring about the long postponed social and economic reforms that had been derailed or sabotaged in previous eras by elites seeking to preserve or increase their privileges. The difference is that today the very existence of humanity and the planet depend on the institutionalisation of economic systems based not on feudal rent extraction or class exploitation but on justice and equality.

# Occupy! Resist! Produce!

*Noelia Carrazana and Fionuala Cregan explore how  
Argentines reclaimed their companies*



*All workers earn the same, from the manager to the worker on the factory floor  
Photo: Fionuala Cregan*

**I**magine working in a company without a boss or any kind of management structure, where decisions are made collectively. Imagine that it is you, along with your co-workers that took possession of that company, threatened with bankruptcy and closure, and transformed it into something that belongs to you and your community. Imagine overturning the logic of capitalism.

Across Argentina, there are 10,000 workers who have done just that. There are now approximately 200 reclaimed factories and companies working in sectors as diverse as tourism, printing and ceramics, all of which were salvaged from the economic crisis which hit the nation in December 2001.

Once Latin America's industrial giant, the onset of neo-liberal reforms from 1975 onwards led to a process of de-industrialisation in Argentina, which reached a peak in the 1990s. Increased privatisation of state companies, led to a rise in the number of factory owners who suddenly ceased production, refused to pay their workers wages, declared bankruptcy and closed down. By 2001, unemployment in Argentina was at a record high of over 20%, with a further 40% unable to find adequate employment.

It is in this context that the phenomenon of reclaimed factories appeared. Out of necessity and desperation, workers decided to take over the factories where they had formally been employed and to attempt to start up production themselves without a boss or an owner.

Luis Caro, a lawyer with the National Movement of Recuperated Enterprises (MNER) who has helped a large number of worker run factories explains how it works:

"The process generally started with a physical take over of the work place. Workers occupy the factory and with support from the local community, trade unions and other cooperatives, sleep in the building to safeguard the machinery and/or other equipment".

The workers then must engage in a number of legal tactics, initially to get a rental contract for the property, but ultimately, to get full legal possession of it. "One of the first questions they ask when they find themselves in this situation is 'Where are we going to get our start up money from?' and 'Just how do we start out?'", says Caro, "But in fact, starting up is not about money. The first thing they should do is to request permission from either a judge or the current owner to rent the property. Obtaining a rental contract does not cost anything. Workers should be thinking about the fact that they are defending their right to work and carry out lawful industry, as stated in article 14 of the Argentinean Constitution."

Despite this, the lack of any clear legal framework on recuperated enterprises such as a National Expropriation Law has made it impossible for workers to gain a full legal title to their company and thus their future remains uncertain.

Currently, workers in most recuperated enterprises have been given a temporary legal permit to continue production under a Bankruptcy law introduced in 2005. The temporary nature of these legal permits (between two to five years) means that once the permit is up, workers are faced with either violent eviction by the State or a renewed legal battle in the courts. This leaves them in an extremely vulnerable situation, and many workers have

*"Out of necessity and desperation, workers decided to take over the factories."*

found that much of their energy goes not into focusing on production, but into defending themselves against eviction.

Furthermore, without a full legal title to the factory, they are not entitled to take out loans or have access to credits or subsidies and therefore are unable to invest in technical support and expertise, or in skills training. Given that much of the equipment in the factories is outdated and that most of the workers do not have experience in running a company, there is a strong need for investment in these areas. In addition, given that these factories have little chance of surviving in the capitalist market, they have also had to work on building an alternative market for their products.

Despite these major challenges, the worker run companies have managed to survive and flourish, setting an example to the world that workers can organize production without a boss or owner. One of the reasons for their success is the fact that decisions are made together by all workers at assembly meetings, resulting in a strong sense of ownership of the process. There is no management structure, but an administrative council, whose role is to carry out the decisions made at the assembly, which also has the power to revoke the council at any time.

*"Decisions are made together by all workers at assembly meetings"*

Furthermore, earnings are distributed equally. There is no salary scale – all workers earn the same, from the manager to the worker on the factory floor, the contribution of all workers is seen as equal and part of one collective objective. This process in turn has changed notions of what exactly is meant by the profitability of a company – for the workers profitability means taking something home for the family and the community.

In this way the recuperated enterprises challenge the very notion of capitalism and the idea that without capital there is no work. These workers have illustrated that without work, there is no capital. While recognising the right to private property, they demonstrate that it is their work which will produce profits for the collective benefit of workers and their communities.

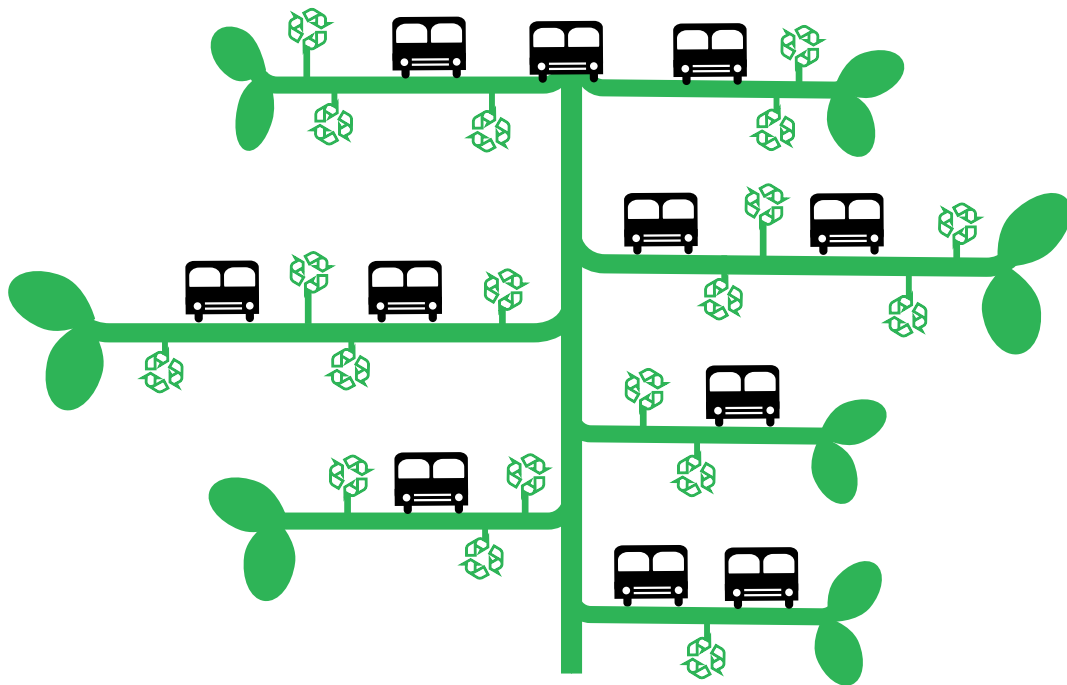
There is a lot of instability and uncertainty regarding the future of these new worker managed undertakings. Nonetheless, they are increasingly becoming a source of hope for the working classes who see recuperated factories as a way of overcoming unemployment and social exclusion, and not least, as a means of survival. All that they are asking for is the right to work. Why then, ask the workers, does the State stand in the way and block this right which is at the very root of maintaining human dignity?

And, as a world economic recession looms, will we ourselves be looking towards Argentina, its recuperated enterprises and the economy they have created, as an example to follow?



# Waste not, want not.

*Sadhbh Goggins investigates why we are wasting our waste, when we could be using it to generate fuel.*



**W**hat do municipal waste, parkland grass clippings and abattoir belly grass have in common? Not much you might think, but amazingly they could all be used to create fuel to power our public transport system.

“Rubbish!” you say? Exactly. Three kinds in fact. However, instead of dumping it all in landfill, where it currently makes up part of the 1.8 million tonnes (2005) of waste diverted to landfill every year, it could be processed to produce methane, which in turn could fuel transport.

This timely response to Ireland’s burgeoning waste, energy and climate crises comes from a civil engineer and lecturer at University College Cork, Dr. Jerry Murphy. According to Dr. Murphy the answer is simple; waste equals methane equals fuel. “Dublin Bus currently uses 27,000 litres of diesel every year,” he points out. “We can make bio-methane at 66c per litre of diesel used and it’s a clean fuel; there are no particulates in gas.”

The process apparently is very simple. The waste is stored in a tank without oxygen and digested by anaerobic bacteria, producing methane as a by-product. The methane is then cleaned and fed into the national grid, where it can be accessed by gas run buses.

Cork City council have shown strong interest in the proposal and are discussing the acquisition of 89 gas run buses for the city.

The most astonishing fact about all this is that they’ve been doing

*“Sweden, Germany and Austria all have public transport fleets run on bio-gas and Italy has over 400,000 vehicles running on it. So why are we still throwing good money away?”*

this on the continent for years. Sweden, Germany and Austria all have public transport fleets run on bio-gas and Italy has over 400,000 vehicles running on it. So why are we still throwing good money away? Dr. Murphy explains; “I’m trying to sell a vision, but in order to sell a vision it has to be attractive to business because it requires money. It also requires a fleet. I have a developer who is interested in the project; someone who has already invested in renewable energies but until we have a fleet to run on gas it is hard to move forward.”

There are other possibilities too. “The landfill site in Cork is soon to be remediated” says Dr. Murphy. “If we grew grass on this site, which covers 80 ha, this would provide enough fuel for 10 or 11 buses. The age of oil is ending. The hydrogen economy is due in 2050. Hydrogen can be made from methane; this is the next logical step.”

# Whose water?

*Privatisation of water has not increased access to water for the poor, write Alison Leahy and Miren Maialen Samper, and it is in better hands when it is in the ownership of communities.*



Photo: CIRANDA

**E**duino de Mattos from Partenon, a working class neighbourhood in Porto Alegre in Brazil, is proud that his city provides safe water to 99.5% of its households. This was not always the case; as recently as 1989 only half the households, those situated in the downtown and affluent areas, were catered for.

This changed when the Worker's party took over the city council in the early '90s. Eduino, as the president of his neighbourhood association, was invited to take part in a system called Participatory Budget. He describes this as "the government coming to the people, instead of the people having to mobilise themselves, in order to be allowed to ask for an appointment." Access to safe water and sanitary sewage collection increased, including in periphery and shanty areas, while water borne diseases reduced.

However, there is continuous struggle to keep public control over the water supply. The city council administration in 2001 argued for privatisation in response to pressure by the Inter-American development bank. Civil society resisted and defeated legislation that would have allowed the sale of state and municipally owned companies. "It is important to keep going. Every year we have to agree a new budget. The process is ongoing, hard work as volunteers, but we are proud of it."

Global trade in water is a \$1,000 trillion business. Yet privatised water systems have not increased access to safe water for the poor, and in particular the rural poor. Although the World Bank estimates the cost of providing everyone clean water at just \$30 billion, 25 million people still die every year from contaminated water.

In Porto Alegre citizens attend neighbourhood meetings to vote on how they want to invest the water department's budget in water works and services. They also use this system for education and housing. Participatory Budget uses elements of direct democracy on a local level. Its agenda, and thus the criteria and rules of participation, are determined by the participants, making it possible to include disadvantaged social sectors more effectively.

According to Eduino it was a huge challenge to get citizens engaged in ownership of their public resources. "When we started with the participatory budget back in the early '90s people were already tired of false

*"In Porto Alegre citizens attend neighbourhood meetings to vote on how they want to invest the water department's budget in water works and services."*

promises. They did not believe in this new process."

Now he believes that "public investments are no longer seen as gifts from the politicians. State resources are public and therefore the possession of every citizen, access is now seen as the right of every citizen." For Eduino it has become "a motivation to be a citizen. In fact, to exercise the rights of a citizen". Water is not a business but a social service, and a natural resource that every citizen can control and access.

Community involvement could provide an effective and inclusive alternative to privatisation, and an end to the preventable death of millions every year from lack of access to potable water. Examples like Porto Alegre prove that those best equipped to manage a scarce resource are those who depend on it for their livelihood, and are the best way to defeat calls for privatisation that are blatantly driven by an unquenchable thirst for money.

Visit the Latin America Solidarity Centre's water campaign at [www.lasc.ie](http://www.lasc.ie)  
[www.wdm.org.uk/campaigns/water/index.htm](http://www.wdm.org.uk/campaigns/water/index.htm)  
[www.wateraid.org/uk](http://www.wateraid.org/uk)  
[www.tni.org](http://www.tni.org)

You might think water privatisation is not an issue in Ireland. Visit [www.indymedia.ie](http://www.indymedia.ie) and <http://localplanet.ie> to see how the Irish government and multinational corporations are colluding to privatise our water by stealth.

# Ethical Fashion – A Trend for the Future

*It's time we put more thought into what we wear, writes Carol Doyle.*

**F**or an industry which is all about trends and constant change, the fashion production has been very slow to address the criticisms of labour and environmental abuses inherent in it.

If change is slowly happening within the industry, it is consumers who are leading the way to mainstreaming ethical products. In the UK alone, the ethical market was worth £32.2 billion in 2006. While the Irish figures are significantly lower, it is certainly an indication of what lies ahead for us.

It can be difficult as a consumer to get information in the crowded ethical market place because fashion supply chains are complex and there is no “one size fits all” definition. Ethical fashion has a strong environmental ethos. It should be locally made, ideally with local or sustainable materials, which also means it is environmentally friendly. Cotton alone uses one fifth of the world's insecticides and a tenth of all pesticides.

Fair trade is another important factor. Fairly traded clothes incorporate a fair producer price, long-term relationships, capacity building and empowerment of producers as well as compliance with labour and environmental regulations.

Fairtrade Certified Cotton is the only independent guarantee that cotton farmers are paid a fair price and that a social premium goes to the cooperative of which the farmer is a member.

Linked to fair trade is ethical trade, where companies take agreed steps to ensure their supplier companies respect the rights of their workers by adhering to national labour laws and the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation. Companies can also sign up to voluntary codes of conduct, like the UK Ethical Trading Initiative. Without independent verification or inspection, however, consumers have to trust the companies to adhere to these codes.

Remodeling clothing is predicted to become a main stream trend in the coming years. Second hand and vintage shopping add to your wardrobe with placing any added burden on the environment.

The fashion industry has the potential to have an enormous impact in the reduction of poverty across the globe - but only if ethical



Photo: Carol Doyle

fashion begins to infiltrate the mainstream and move out of being a niche category.

Ultimately greater legislation and independent labelling or verification are necessary. It's just like the public's pressure to mainstream fair trade and organic food products; when it comes to clothing, consumers have power. The more that we demand that the clothes we buy are made under decent conditions, the more likely it is that retailers will respond.

*“When it comes to clothing, consumers have power.”*

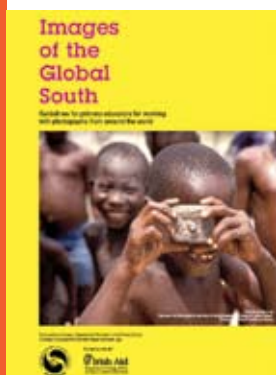
However a more ethical world will not simply evolve out of ethical shopping. To make a difference through our shopping requires that we buy less - and shop less.

## Shops & Sources

- The Loft Market, Powerscourt Townhouse, Off Granfton Street, Dublin has a mix of irish made clothing & ethical labels.
- Fableclothing.com – Irish designer using only Fairtrade labelled cotton. Mostly Tshirts. Check out their limited edition range of dresses at the Loft or online at [www.fableclothing.com](http://www.fableclothing.com).
- belleEtik.com – A new Irish webshop, with a range of fairly traded and environmentally friendly clothing, available as well at the Loft Market.
- Second hand shops all around the country.
- Oxfam Fair trade Shops for Tshirts & Accessories in Dublin, Cork & Galway.
- More and more organic clothing and Fairtrade labelled clothing on the highstreet. Marks & Spencers are leading the high street in terms of their committment to an ethical supply chain.
- Keep asking your favourite shops & labels when they will get in some Fairtrade labelled cotton or introduce organic, or source from exisiting Fairtrade brands.

## Guidelines for teachers

Photographs are one of the most direct and accessible means of introducing the wider world into the classroom, but images can be contentious and complex. Compass - Development Education in the Primary School recently launched a free leaflet that is designed as a guide for primary school educators. It provides specific criteria on how to go about choosing images of the developing world, suggestions for developing photo-literacy in the classroom, ideas for incorporating image work across the curriculum, and resources and contacts for further reference. For copies of the leaflet contact Lizzie Downes at Comhlámh, [lizzie@comhlamh.org](mailto:lizzie@comhlamh.org) or download on [www.comhlamh.org](http://www.comhlamh.org).



## Global Day of Action: Put Poor People First!

Marking the annual World Economic Forum being held in Davos, Switzerland, and supporting the Global Day of Action on the 26th of January, campaigners from Ireland staged a protest in front of the Central Bank in Dublin's city centre to highlight the effect of damaging global economic policies on people in the developing world. They called on world leaders to put the interests of people living in poverty at the heart of global policy making. The protest was part of a Global Day of Action to mark the annual World Social Forum, which brings together environmental and social justice campaigners and activists from around the world. The World Social Forum was this year marked by more than 430 events and protests in 85 countries across the globe, highlighting the impact of profit driven globalisation on the poor.



Photo: Bryan Meade

## The Irish Political System: Course for Immigrants

The new Comhlámh and Africa Centre course aims to introduce immigrants to the workings of the Irish political system and its institutions, so as to facilitate their greater engagement in Irish society as educators and community actors. The course will take place over two weekends and also includes a visit to the Dáil. It is open to legally resident immigrants and there are some contributions towards transport and childcare costs available and some Comhlámh bursaries for asylum seekers. This course is funded by the Immigration Integration Fund, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. For dates, venue and registration please contact Jim on 01 478 3490 or [info@comhlamh.org](mailto:info@comhlamh.org).

## Graduate Certificate in Development Education

The Graduate Certificate in Development Education is run by Comhlámh in association with DCU. It is a one-year distance-learning programme with on-line components, combined with face-to-face classroom contact during three residential weekends. This programme aims to strengthen the knowledge base of participants on global issues, to build on participants' facilitation and pedagogical skills, to reflect upon and clarify on their values base and its impact on their practice and to position participants to examine their roles as educators. The programme is intended for recent graduates, for those working or involved in development education and for those

who would like to integrate aspects of development education into their work (e.g. teachers, adult educators, community and youth workers).

Those interested in registering for the 2008/09 programme may contact the programme chairperson, Eileen Connolly in DCU School of Law and Government for further details on +353 1 700 5536.

Alternatively details may be found on [www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie) under the School or Law and Government's Taught programmes prospectus.

# Campaign update: EPAs

For the past years the Comhlámh Trade Justice Group has been campaigning against the European Union's unfair trade deals, called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), with 76 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. In the months leading up to the signing of these agreements at the end of 2007, ACP countries were put under tremendous pressure to sign from the European Commission. The Commission threatened non-LDC countries (Least Developed Countries) to reduce access for their goods into the European market and diminish levels of aid if they did not sign an EPA. This bullish approach has resulted in rushed deals.

There is some good news anyway: Your actions have made a difference. Thanks to your pressure, and resistance from campaigners all over Europe and in the ACP countries, NOT ALL the 76 countries have signed up to EPAs (35 signed an interim EPA) and also the Irish Government has at times adopted a more progressive position.

The bad news: The EU is still pressurising poor countries to engage in further negotiations. So in the next few months we have to put pressure on Europe's leaders. We call on them to support calls from the ACP to revise, or where wanted, renegotiate the signed agreements, bring back the focus in the negotiations to Development and Partnership and to discuss alternatives with those countries that have not yet signed. Furthermore, it has to be ensured that any further negotiations on areas such as services and investment should only take place if requested by the ACP.

Find a full update on the agreements and next steps to take on [www.comhlamh.org](http://www.comhlamh.org).

# Change Trade Trade Justice



University College Dublin  
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

## UCD SCHOOL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Equality Studies at UCD

Equality Studies is an exciting and dynamic interdisciplinary programme that provides students with a unique and challenging opportunity to examine a wide range of equality, human rights and global justice issues through research and analysis. The four main themes underlying the Equality Studies Programme are: Social Class Structure and Equality; Gender Inequalities; Global North/South Inequalities and Development; Minorities and Discrimination (addressing issues of racism, disability, language, and sexualities).

**MSc in Equality Studies**  
**Graduate Diploma in Equality Studies**  
**Graduate Certificate in Equality Studies**

Students in these programmes take a range of core and optional modules. The MSc may be taken by coursework only, or by coursework and dissertation. All programmes may be taken on a part-time or full-time basis. Most lectures are held in the late afternoon/early evening. The programmes are especially suited to people who are working or have worked in the equality, human rights, social justice and development fields. Students from a diverse range of backgrounds are welcomed. To date, students have been drawn from a wide range of countries and across Europe, North America, Asia and Africa, and from public, private, voluntary and community organisations.

### Women's Studies at UCD

Women's Studies at UCD offers a wide range of both full-time and part-time courses with a particular interest in the following: Theories and Politics of Feminism; Gender Equality and Public Policy; Gender and Globalisation; Irish Literary Cultures and Histories; Lifelong Learning and Adult Education; Women in the Community and Voluntary Sectors; Lesbian and Queer Theory and Politics; Feminist Research Methodologies.

**MA in Women's Studies**  
**Graduate Diploma in Women's Studies**

Students in these programmes take a range of core and optional modules. Students are accepted from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds and countries, and mature and 'returning' students are also encouraged to apply. The MA and Graduate Diploma may be taken on a 1 year full-time or 2 year part-time basis.

**PhD Programme**  
**MLitt Programme**

Both Equality Studies and Women's Studies organise a supportive programme of activities for doctoral students that includes high quality research supervision and fortnightly roundtables where students meet to present and discuss their work. Students also attend some courses in the MSc/MA programmes and research methods training organised by the College of Human Sciences.

For further information and application forms please visit [www.ucd.ie/socialjustice](http://www.ucd.ie/socialjustice) or contact:  
The Administrator, UCD School of Social Justice, James Joyce Library Building,  
University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

Applications should be submitted by Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
Late applications will be accepted subject to availability of places.

These graduate programmes are part of UCD's commitment to innovative 4<sup>th</sup> level education and are coordinated through the UCD College of Human Sciences Graduate School.



## TRINITY COLLEGE

The University of Dublin

Irish School of Ecumenics,  
Ireland's Centre for  
Reconciliation Studies

Full details of all programmes are  
available at: [www.tcd.ie/ise](http://www.tcd.ie/ise)

### Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict & Dispute Resolution Studies – Email: [cdrssec@tcd.ie](mailto:cdrssec@tcd.ie)

This programme interests those, in both the public and private sectors, who wish to study civil mediation and other non-adversarial dispute and conflict resolution processes (ADRs) which are increasingly a part of legislative and management structures in the EU and internationally. Through an alliance with Mediation Forum-Ireland those who complete the CDRS programme will have an opportunity to have their names included in the relevant specialist panel of Accredited Mediators. This programme is taught at ISE, Milltown Park on two evenings per week over 24 weeks, with two practical, skill-based mediation training workshops held on Saturdays.

### M.Litt. and Ph.D. Degrees - Email: [ressec@tcd.ie](mailto:ressec@tcd.ie)

ISE is recognised world-wide for the unique manner in which it brings the fields of politics, sociology, theology and religion into a disciplined interaction. The School offers supervision of Master of Letters (M.Litt.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) work in a range of fields of specialization including: religion and politics; ecumenical theology; inter-religious dialogue; politics of peace and conflict; ethics in international affairs; theologies of reconciliation; international relations theory; religious fundamentalism. Students taking research degrees (M.Litt. or Ph.D.) can choose to do their research in either Dublin or Belfast.

### M.Phil. in Ecumenical Studies (Dublin) - Email: [ecumsec@tcd.ie](mailto:ecumsec@tcd.ie)

Ecumenics brings together in a disciplined manner, theology, social and political theory and the study of interreligious relations, so as to engage critically with the plurality of religions and value systems, with a view to strengthening truthful and just relationships within the *oikoumene* (one inhabited earth). The programme focuses on three key areas in which mutual understanding and relationship inform respective identities, ongoing conflicts and approaches to reconciliation – intra-Christian, interreligious and with other ethical and political agents and agencies.

### M.Phil. in International Peace Studies – Email: [peacesec@tcd.ie](mailto:peacesec@tcd.ie)

International Peace Studies examines the sources of war and armed conflict and suggests methods of preventing and resolving them through processes of peacemaking and peacebuilding. The programme combines perspectives from international relations, ethics and conflict resolution to reflect critically on the wide range of social, political and economic issues associated with peace and political violence. Students can pursue either a broad-ranging programme in International Peace Studies or specializations in Ethics in International Affairs or Peacebuilding and Development.

### M.Phil. in Reconciliation Studies (Belfast) – Email: [reconsec@tcd.ie](mailto:reconsec@tcd.ie)

This Belfast-based degree is an innovative cross-border programme which takes an inter-disciplinary approach to the challenges of social reconciliation in the aftermath of armed conflict. Particular attention is given to ethnic conflicts and the role of religion in such conflicts. Courses allow specialization in the fields of politics, social research, theology and religions. The programme also includes a one-week Spring School in Dublin.

The closing date for the degree programmes is 30 June 2008, and 30 July 2008 for the diploma programme.

Applications will be considered after these dates only if places remain. M.Phil. students can study full-time for 12 months or part-time for 24 months. A one term (ten weeks) programme is available and is ideal for those on sabbatical, or for those who prefer a shorter period of study. There is also the option of attending one course.

Contact:

Bea House, Milltown Park, Dublin 6,  
Tel. +353.1.2601144; Fax. +353.1.2601158  
683 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4EG.  
Tel. +44.28.9077.5010; Fax: +44.28.9037.3986



## COURSES IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Programmes commencing September 2008:  
BA / MA / Post Graduate Diploma



HETAC accredited 01 4064386 / 4064380  
[info@kimmagedsc.ie](mailto:info@kimmagedsc.ie) [www.kimmagedsc.ie](http://www.kimmagedsc.ie)



## Cluster Bombs Can Be Banned



From 19-30 May 2008 the Irish Government is hosting the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions, where countries will negotiate the final terms of a new treaty banning cluster munitions.

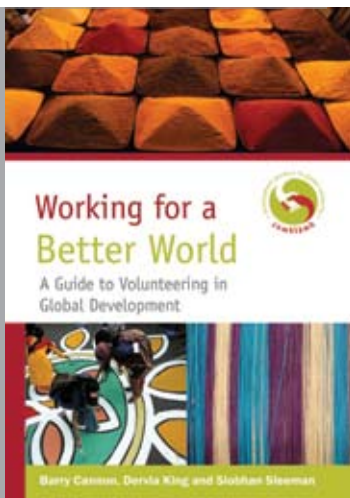
In the run up and during the conference the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Ireland organises a campaign to increase public awareness of the civilian harm caused by cluster munitions, and to ensure the Dublin Conference results in a meaningful and robust humanitarian instrument banning cluster munitions.

Contact: Susan Hensel at  
[susan@stopclustermunitions.org](mailto:susan@stopclustermunitions.org)

# Interested in volunteering in a developing country?



## Working for a Better World: a Guide to Volunteering in Overseas Development



Available in shops now!

You can also order copies  
from the Volunteering Options  
website

[www.volunteeringoptions.org](http://www.volunteeringoptions.org)