

How to involve others in campaigning

- 1. Use Act Fast:** Act Fast postcards are the perfect way to introduce someone to campaigning, as they only take a few minutes to complete. Maybe you can leave a stack at church, or put one on every seat as part of a service. You can order copies of the latest Act Fast by calling Tearfund Enquiries on 0845 355 8355.
- 2. Get your friends and church on SuperBadger:** If your friends use the social network site Facebook, make sure they search for SuperBadger, our campaigning application. SuperBadger allows users to send emails directly to government and corporate targets, on a range of issues from Fairtrade to climate change. It's the easiest introduction to campaigning they'll ever get.
- 3. Chat to your church leader:** Have a coffee with your church leader to find out what opportunities there are to promote campaigning. Could you have a slot in a service or start a group? Would they consider preaching on justice and poverty? If your church has a youth leader, Tearfund offer a range of materials for young people and students.
- 4. Get a slot at church:** Find out if you can have a five minute slot to talk about campaigning. Promoting Act Fast might be the best option, though if an event is coming up, you may want to publicise that. Try to get slots at midweek groups too.
- 5. Promote Fairtrade:** Fairtrade is an easy entry point for engaging people with poverty. If your church isn't already using Fairtrade products, why not encourage them to make the switch? If they are already using tea and coffee, you could introduce products like sugar, biscuits and fruit juice.
- 6. Visit your MP:** This isn't as scary as it sounds, particularly if you take a group along with you. Meeting your MP is one of the most effective routes to influence, and it will show others that their voice really does count, as well as helping your church build stronger links into the local community. Most MPs run local surgeries in their constituencies on Friday or Saturday. Visit the resource zone on www.tearfund.org/campaigning for a full guide to meeting your MP.
- 7. Use the web:** Whether it is finding out what is happening in your area, reading updates on a campaign issue, or downloading resources, the internet is a great source of information. Maybe you could promote an action or issue on your church website or emails? Make www.tearfund.org/campaigning your first stop.
- 8. Contact your Tearfund Regional Volunteer Manager:** Your local Tearfund office is there to help you. Find out who your local contact is by visiting www.tearfund.org/Volunteering/Regions or by calling Tearfund Enquiries on 0845 355 8355
- 9. Organise a group:** Are there others in your church, or among your friends who have a passion for justice? Why not ask them if they'd like to meet up monthly, to pray, take campaign actions and share ideas. Tearfund prayer resources are available at www.tearfund.org/praying or by calling 0845 355 8355. If a physical group isn't possible, why not start some regular conversations over email?
- 10. Take groups to events:** For many people their first experience of campaigning was at a mass public event like those connected with Jubilee 2000 or Make Poverty History. Next time there's a big event, why not organise a church trip to be a part of the day?
- 11. Give a talk:** Maybe you'd feel up to giving a talk on an issue like climate change? Powerpoint presentations are available to download from www.tearfund.org/campaigning. Your small group is a good place to start, if that goes well, why not put on an evening event? If you were speaking on climate change you could show the film 'An Inconvenient Truth'