



TheWell

# The Justice Charter

*Responding to injustice, together*



tearfund



## Together, we respond

Biblical justice is a commitment to right relationships: it's about reconciliation with God, each other and the wider creation. Doing justice is part of God's mission to redeem and restore the whole of creation. Our world, though broken by sin and evil, is now being redeemed through the finished work of the cross of Christ and the end-goal of this work is the promised new creation, populated by the redeemed from every nation and culture.

When we look at the contribution of African and Caribbean churches in the UK, we see that challenging injustice is at the heart of our rich heritage. As a new generation has emerged so have new challenges: climate change, changing gender roles, and our digitally connected world. What hasn't changed is that travelling together enables us to go far. Unity is still a sign that God has sent us (John 17:20-21).

With The Justice Charter, we refresh the vision under which we, as African and Caribbean churches, come together. The 14 commitments set out in the Charter provide practical and transformational ways for the church to address economic, racial, gender, climate and religious injustices, within the UK and globally. Signatories to this charter are committed to acting in at least one of the five areas of justice for one year or more.

**'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'**

**Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)**




# The Justice Charter

1. We commit to living a life of justice, seeking to do justice in the world through the ways we live and act, and by challenging systems of injustice to reduce inequality around us.

## **Economic justice**

2. We commit to supporting entrepreneurship and the positive role of business to bring dignity, livelihoods and foster a flourishing society.
3. We commit to being responsible consumers, asking the questions of how the people and places involved in our food, clothes and purchases are treated, choosing to buy ethically and calling on corporations to provide fair wages and just working conditions.
4. We commit to calling on governments and corporations to cancel the debts of economically marginalised countries and pursue trade practices that are built on fairness and equity.

## **Racial justice**

5. We commit to eliminating racial disparities through launching or engaging with programmes in areas such as education, economic marginalisation, healthcare, employment, political representation and others.
  6. We commit to fostering reconciliation where there are racial and ethnic divisions within our church and society.
  7. We commit to calling on governments to eradicate policies that perpetuate racism through public and private institutions, and prevent the introduction of new policies to the same effect.
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## Climate justice

8. We commit to preaching and teaching on the biblical basis for God's love for the whole of creation, and our duty to respond to the climate crisis.
9. We commit to investigating and reducing our plastic use and carbon footprint in any church buildings we own or use, and encouraging our members to do the same at home.
10. We commit to calling on governments to take action and follow through on their promises to tackle the climate crisis, and move to a greener economy that brings justice and helps reduce inequality.

## Gender justice

11. We commit to promoting a liberating biblical understanding of the inherent worth and dignity of both men and women, and to practising the full equality and participation of women and men in all aspects of the church and society.
12. We commit to challenging and condemning all forms of gender-based violence in the church and society, and to providing and advocating for the adequate provision of counselling and pastoral care, healthcare, and criminal justice for survivors of gender-based violence.

## Religious justice

13. We commit to standing in prayer with our Christian sisters and brothers who are experiencing persecution, and with all those oppressed because of their religious beliefs. We commit to championing the freedom, peace and reconciliation that Christ modelled.
14. We commit to calling on governments to eradicate policies that allow for the mistreatment and marginalisation of individuals and communities because of their religious beliefs, and to prevent the introduction of new policies to the same effect.



# The Well

## Introducing The Well

The Justice Charter is born from collaboration between leaders from The Well, Tearfund, Churches Together in England and Wales, One People Commission of the Evangelical Alliance and Dr Dulcie Dixon McKenzie, brought together to support and celebrate Black Majority Churches and Christians of African and Caribbean heritage in their pursuit of justice.

The Well is a dedicated space where individuals and institutions, local churches and whole denominations from the Black Christian community can unite, come together and collaboratively respond in a unique, distinct way to the call to support international development through prayer, action and giving.

Through events, initiatives, resources, publications and campaigns, The Well is a networked alliance of Black Majority Churches inviting every member of their congregations to join in the journey of whole-life transformation. The Well provides thought-leadership in international development, sharing knowledge and supporting key networks with examples of best practice.

To sign the Charter and join the movement, visit [tearfund.org/charter](https://tearfund.org/charter)

📷 **Worship at The Justice Conference UK 2020**  
Photo: Marc Gilgen/Tearfund

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