

“Must we starve our children to pay our debts?”

Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania

Dear friend,

The US House of Representatives will vote on the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation (HR 2634) **tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15th!**

Please take action by [calling your Representative TODAY](#)

Join us today as we call on Congress to pass the Jubilee Act and break the chains of debt for the world’s impoverished countries (additional information below the call script).

Please take the simple steps below:

1. Find out who your Representative is by entering your zip code at www.house.gov (upper left corner).
2. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.
3. Ask to be connected to your Representative's office. The receptionist will answer. Introduce yourself as (your name), a constituent from (city, state). Ask to speak with the staff person who handles IMF/World Bank issues.
4. You will be connected with the staff person (or their voicemail). “I am calling today to urge Representative _____ to vote yes on the Jubilee Act (HR2634), which will be considered on the House floor on April 15th. This bill would expand eligibility for debt cancellation to 24 additional impoverished countries provided they meet criteria to ensure that the money is used for poverty reduction. *(If you’d like, add an additional sentence about why this issue is important to you)*. Do you know how Representative _____ plans to vote on the Jubilee Act?” **If the staff person doesn’t know or if you are leaving a message, request that they call you back with the Representative’s position.**
5. Be sure to thank the receptionist when you are finished.

Background Information:

Today, the world's most impoverished countries spend more than **\$100 million each day** in debt payments to wealthy governments and financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF. In countries where the majority of the population lives on less than \$1 per day, this money should be spent on clean water, basic health care, and education, not sent to the world's wealthiest financial institutions.

In 2000 and again in 2005 world leaders came together to cancel billions of dollars of debt in dozens of impoverished countries around the world. The money freed by debt cancellation so far has been used to fight global AIDS, enroll children in school, provide clean water, improve rural infrastructure and more. But there is still much more that needs to be done – dozens of impoverished countries around the world are still waiting for debt justice!

The most important and prophetic debt legislation in 7 years, the Jubilee Act will expand access to debt cancellation to all the countries that need it to fight extreme poverty. Without debt cancellation, it will be nearly impossible for many countries to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.

The Jubilee Act also requires that debt cancellation be provided without harmful economic policy conditions attached, calls for the initiation of a responsible lending framework, and requires a debt audit in countries like South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo which have a heavy burden of odious debt.

For more information go to www.jubileeusa.org or contact Jubilee Policy Fellow Danielle Pals at 202-783-0215 / Danielle@jubileeusa.org.

General Assembly guidance

In 1998, the General Assembly called upon presbyteries and congregations to support the goals of Jubilee 2000 by sending statements of support to key policy makers in the U.S. government and multilateral lending agencies. The resolution endorsed and supported the "definitive cancellation of international debt in situations where countries with high levels of human need and environmental distress are unable to meet the needs of their people ... in a way that benefits ordinary people and facilitates their participation in the processes of ... debt relief." (*Minutes*, 1998, p. 676).