



**WEE
VOTE
BIG VOICE**

**BY JOINING TOGETHER
THIS ELECTION, YOUR WEE VOTE
CAN BECOME A BIG VOICE.
PLEASE USE IT TO FIGHT INJUSTICE
AND BUILD A BETTER WORLD!**

THE NEXT UK GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS THE ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING THE POOREST COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD - THOSE IMPACTED BY INJUSTICES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SHORTAGES, CORPORATE EXPLOITATION AND CONFLICT.

As a rich and powerful country, the UK could be a force for good in the world. Yet, the UK continues to fall short on climate action, protecting big business rather than the rights of the poorest people, and offering less and less overseas support to those who are suffering most.

WHEN DO WE NEED YOUR HELP?

We need you to reach out to your local candidates **BEFORE** the 4th July General Election – but we'll also be looking for your help **AFTERWARDS** to follow up with your elected MP on the priorities SCIAF have identified.



WHAT IS SCIAF CALLING FOR?

SCIAF has identified some of the most important issues affecting the poorest communities in our world. This is what we want to see prioritised by candidates in this General Election.

SCIAF'S ELECTION PRIORITIES



Fix the food system



Champion climate action



Action on aid



Challenge corporate power



Lasting peace in the Holy Land

1. FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM: AT THE HEART OF THE UK'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN MUST BE A COMMITMENT TO ERADICATE GLOBAL HUNGER, FIX THE BROKEN FOOD SYSTEM AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRACTICES.



The food system is broken. The way we grow, distribute and consume food needs to change. In 2015, world leaders set a target to eradicate world hunger by 2030, yet today, 2.4 billion people don't have access to the food they need. Of those, 700 million are undernourished.

People aren't getting the nutrients they need in their diets, damaging their health and happiness.

Small scale farmers produce 1/3 of the world's food, yet they get little help and face many unfair obstacles to growing food and earning a living. Climate change is making it even harder. The current system is dominated by, and geared towards, an industrial agricultural system that focuses on meat, sugar and soy products.

QUESTION FOR YOUR CANDIDATE

Will you support a UK aid programme that addresses global hunger?



"THE WORLD PRODUCES MORE THAN ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE, YET SO MANY STILL GO HUNGRY. WE NEED TO FIX THE BROKEN FOOD SYSTEM TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE IS FREE FROM HUNGER!"

Ben Wilson
SCIAF Director of Public Engagement



2. CHAMPION CLIMATE ACTION: THE UK MUST LEAD ON TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS, GIVEN OUR ROLE IN CREATING IT. ALL NEW FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENT MUST BE STOPPED, WITH MONEY SPENT ON GREEN, RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTEAD.

The UK is in the top five in terms of historic climate emissions, and the world's 6th biggest economy today. The UK is also one of just five High Income Countries in the world who are planning the majority of expansion of new oil and gas fields through to 2050. The science tells us we cannot afford to do this – it risks making the planet even more unliveable.

The UK is starting to count the cost of climate change with increased floods devastating communities – and its negative impacts on our domestic food production. Yet the UK Government gave £3.35bn in public money to support fossil fuels!

At COP28 in Dubai every country in the world, including the UK, agreed to “transition away from fossil fuels”. It is inevitable that the fossil fuel era is coming to an end. In the countries SCIAF works, people urgently need this transition, as they are already suffering from cyclones, droughts, floods and heatwaves caused by greenhouse gases.

Workers in Scotland need certainty too, and a just transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy is good for people here as well. The next UK Government should reverse all planned expansion of oil and gas fields for the sake of planet and people, all over the world.

“WE ARE IMPACTED BY THE CHANGING CLIMATE.

“ONE YEAR AGO WE HAD FLOODS. THE FLOODING TOOK ALL OF OUR CROPS. IT WAS 5PM. IT WAS RAINING A LOT. WHEN WE CAME OUT OF THE HOUSE, WE FOUND THE WALL AND TOILET WERE DESTROYED.

“YOU CAN SEE HERE HOW THE HOUSE LOOKS BECAUSE OF FLOODING. YOU CAN SEE HOW THE HOUSE IS DESTROYED. WE CAN'T SLEEP IN THE HOUSE, WE SLEEP OUTSIDE.”

Alphonse and Jacqueline,
Rwanda

QUESTION FOR YOUR CANDIDATE



Will you call on the next UK Prime Minister and relevant Ministers to announce that they are reversing their plans to expand new oil and gas fields?



3. ACTION ON AID: IN 2020, THE UK REDUCED INTERNATIONAL AID SPENDING FROM 0.7% OF GNI TO 0.5%. THIS RESULTED IN MILLIONS OF POUNDS BEING TAKEN FROM THE HANDS OF THE POOREST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, THOSE STRUGGLING FOR FOOD, CLEAN WATER AND SHELTER. THIS MUST BE REVERSED.

The UK is the world's 6th biggest economy. Committing to 0.7% of our national income would help millions around the world.

Debt and inequity are forced upon lower income countries and communities. In practice, this means there is less to spend on education and health. Climate change disasters are also making things worse, as the poorest countries affected first and worst by this crisis must borrow money to repair schools, roads, and hospitals.

What's more, almost a third of the UK's current aid budget is being spent in the UK covering refugee settling expenses – and not in the poorest communities in the world who face global inequality. Helping refugee communities settle is important but should not come from the overseas aid budget.

We cannot balance our budgets on the backs of the world's poorest. As Pope Francis said, "Poor people in heavily indebted countries bear overwhelming tax burdens and cuts in social services, as their governments pay debts contracted insensitively and unsustainably."

The elected UK Government needs to champion a better way of delivering aid: one which helps build capacity in the countries we are looking to support. And one that shifts decision-making to local and regional bodies. That is how SCIAF and the global Caritas network work – the Government should work this way too.

ACTION ON AID, THE FACTS

- ✘ Just under half of the global population lives on less than \$6.85 a day
- ✘ 2.4 billion women don't have access to equal economic opportunities
- ✘ More than 700 million people are undernourished
- ✘ Every year 5 million children still die before their fifth birthday

QUESTION FOR YOUR CANDIDATE



Will you work to ensure that UK aid returns to 0.7% of GNI and that it is only spent on overseas projects and programmes?



4. CHALLENGE CORPORATE POWER: A BUSINESS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT MUST BE BROUGHT FORWARD, ENSURING UK COMPANIES PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL HARM AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THEIR SUPPLY CHAINS.



There is a global consensus that businesses have a responsibility to prevent the potential and actual negative impacts of their businesses on people and planet.

Voluntary measures aren't enough to keep bad behaviour in check. Climate change, biodiversity loss, degradation of ecosystems, deforestation, pollution and mismanagement of waste can be consequences of a company and their supply chain operations.

Without effective legislation, business activity can have a negative impact on many human rights, particularly for women, Indigenous Peoples and historically marginalised groups.

This new law would ensure the UK keeps up with other countries in the EU, such as France, Germany and Norway.

POLLING ON CORPORATE POWER

YouGov polling in 2024 showed that four in five adults in the UK support new laws requiring UK companies to prevent human rights abuses and serious environmental damage in their operations or supply chains.

QUESTION FOR YOUR CANDIDATE

Will you call for a Business, Human Rights and Environment Act to be enacted in this parliament?



5. LASTING PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND: THE NEXT UK GOVERNMENT MUST REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO END THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN THE HOLY LAND AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CREATE A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL.

The situation in Gaza and the West Bank continues to deteriorate. By the time the General Election comes around it could be much worse without the international community stepping up calls for peace and reconciliation.

Populations in the Holy Land are seeing traumatic events every day, and there are increasing numbers of orphaned children. Growing malnutrition and a lack of clean water for the vast majority living in Gaza is an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe. Humanitarian agencies are continuing to call for land corridors to enable aid to be transported at the scale needed. And all hostages must be released.

The people of the Holy Land urgently need a ceasefire agreement. Once this is agreed, all international actors must redouble diplomatic efforts towards a just and lasting peace, ensuring that international law is respected, and international agreements are upheld.

THE SCALE OF SUFFERING IN GAZA

- ✘ Over 1 million people have been forcibly displaced
- ✘ Over 35,000 have been killed
- ✘ At least 50% of casualties have been women and children
- ✘ At the end of May, only 1/3 of hospitals in Gaza were functioning
- ✘ One in three children under the age of two in northern Gaza are suffering from acute malnutrition.

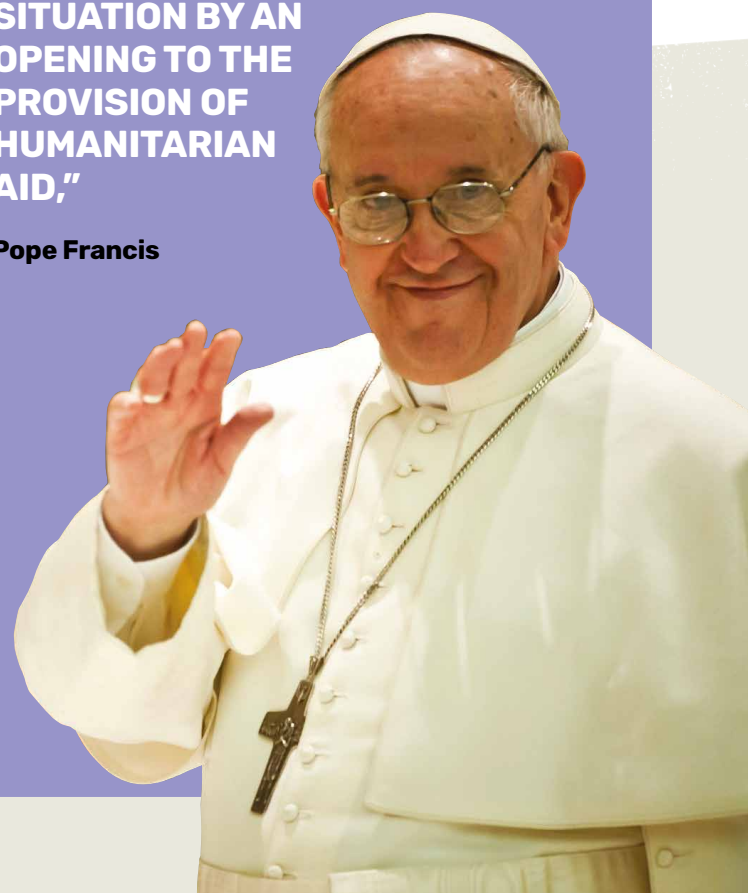
QUESTION FOR YOUR CANDIDATE



Will you press our next Prime Minister to call for an urgent ceasefire and commit to redoubling diplomatic efforts to secure a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land?

**"I PLEAD FOR AN END TO THE
MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH
THEIR APPALLING HARVEST
OF INNOCENT CIVILIAN VICTIMS,
AND CALL FOR A SOLUTION TO
THE DESPERATE HUMANITARIAN
SITUATION BY AN
OPENING TO THE
PROVISION OF
HUMANITARIAN
AID,"**

Pope Francis



HOW CAN WE USE OUR VOICE?

Together, we can raise our voices to call for action. Here are some ways you can ensure the next UK Parliament addresses global inequality and helps build the just and green world we all want to see:

WRITE

Write to the candidates in your area to share what you are most concerned about. Individual letters, emails and public social media messages are taken seriously. You can find their details by putting in your postcode to the [Local Intelligence Hub](#).

CAMPAIGN

Use SCIAF's [campaign](#) website to send a message to your candidates, highlighting our manifesto demands.

DEBATE

Attend hustings and raise a question on an injustice you would most like addressed.

CHALLENGE

Engage with candidates or the party representatives coming to your door, taking the time to talk over the issues you care about and why addressing them is important. You may have limited time, so think about what issue or issues you want to press them on most.





WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO CATHOLICS IN SCOTLAND?

As Christians we have a long tradition of being actively involved in the big issues of our time. With over 700,000 Catholics in Scotland, the next General Election is an opportunity to bring attention to the issues that matter to us.

The Church tells us that every person has the duty to contribute to the common good by voting. Additionally, it teaches us that responsible citizenship is a virtue and participating in political life is a moral obligation. At the heart of these issues are human beings with dignity, families and dreams.

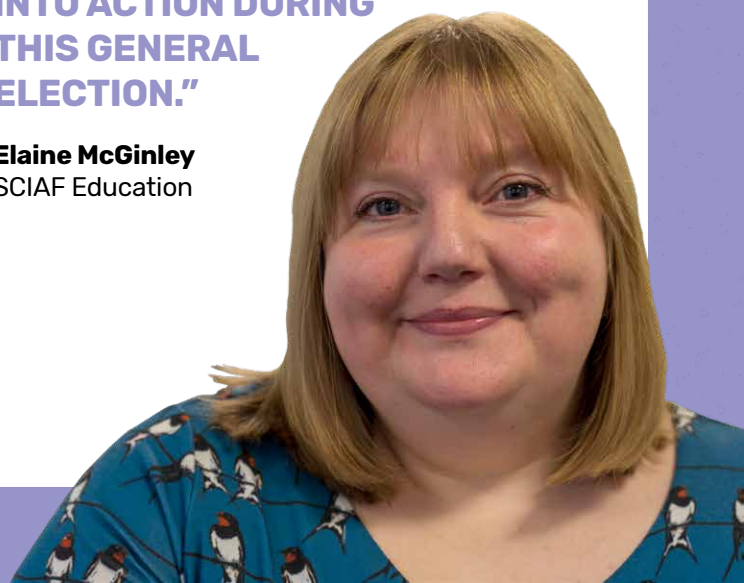
In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis reflects on the importance of politics in bringing about a better world: "I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor! It is vital that government leaders ensure that all citizens have dignified work, education and healthcare."

SCIAF is inviting supporters across Scotland to reach out to their local candidates before 4th July. This is not about political affiliations, but rather about strengthening community participation, advocating for justice, and putting faith into action to campaign for a better world.

In short, we are following the call in Micah 6:8
"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

"THIS IS A CHANCE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AT HOME IN SCOTLAND, AND OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS LIVING IN THE POOREST PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT'S MY DUTY AS A CATHOLIC AND A GLOBAL CITIZEN TO RAISE MY VOICE AND PUT MY FAITH INTO ACTION DURING THIS GENERAL ELECTION."

Elaine McGinley
SCIAF Education





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