



Together we are the solution
to climate injustice - **Join us.**

Activist Toolkit

Climate justice campaign

trōcaire
Working for a just world.

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Introduction - What is an 'activist toolkit'?

Climate change is the greatest injustice of our time. The people who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most. Those with most power to address it have so far failed us.

Trócaire believes it doesn't have to be this way. Together we can tackle the injustice of climate change. We can make the transition to a more sustainable and equitable world. Food can be produced in ways that are more sustainable and help vulnerable farmers to overcome the impacts of climate change. Clean energy can be produced that is available and affordable for all. This is all possible if we all stand together.

This activist toolkit informs and provides tips and tools on how to advocate on climate justice. It is designed to give you the resources and information you'll need to become active on this issue and bring others with you on that journey. Whether you are a volunteer, a student, a parishioner, or a Trócaire supporter interested in getting active on climate justice, this is your guide. There are different ways to get active on this campaign – from contacting your politician to involving your community. Find all the resources you need to help you in this activist toolkit.

PRAYING FOR RAIN IN NORTH ETHIOPIA

We are always in drought. There is a scarcity of rainfall, a scarcity of water. As a result of the drought there isn't much crop production. The second problem is with livestock feed. My cattle have only wooden sticks to eat.

*Ali Weldeanenia
(far left in the photo below)*

Rain is a memorable event for Ali. It's so rare that last year it rained for just three days in his village. Ali lives in a rural area in Ethiopia called Sebeya, five kilometres from the disputed Ethiopia-Eritrea border in the northern region of Tigray. From 1998 – 2000, Sebeya was at the frontline of a bloody conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea over border territory. The war with Eritrea has ended, but Sebeya is battling for its land once more, this time against the weather.

Fr Solomon Beyene Tesfayohannes, parish priest of the Catholic Holy Trinity parish, has lived in Sebeya for five years. He remembers a time when Sebeya was very green and swampy. Now it's dry with no water to be seen. According to him, climate change is attacking Sebeya.

When all else fails and the rain doesn't come, the only resort is prayer for the farmers of Sebeya.

"We hope for rain in June and we will prepare the land. If the rain doesn't come, the only option is to pray to God."

Ali Weldeanenia



Praying for rain in north Ethiopia

The causes and effects of climate change

What is climate change?

Climate change describes the changes in our climate due to higher levels of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide. Science is definitive that human activities have contributed largely to climate change. Since the start of the industrial revolution “industrial countries” have used a huge amount of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas or oil) to produce energy and they continue to do so. Increasingly, large developing countries have also dramatically increased their emissions. As a consequence, the global atmosphere and oceans are warming up, increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather patterns.

Why is climate change a human rights & anti-poverty issue?

People in the developing world, facing the worst consequences of climate change, are struggling to survive in the face of drought, storms and floods. Rains are becoming more erratic and extreme weather more common. Year after year crops are failing. Families can no longer plan and the hungry season is extending. This is a silent emergency. We cannot continue to tackle poverty in the world without addressing the issue of climate change and helping people to adapt to impacts of it.

“Disasters are the most commonly felt impact of climate change: communities might not understand emissions, but they feel it when there’s drought, when there are floods.”

Regional NGO, Asia

What do the experts say?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the primary authority on climate science. It publishes major assessment reports every few years on climate science, impacts and responses. These reports draw on research from thousands of scientists, and are endorsed by world governments before being published. The latest IPCC, Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was published in three parts from late 2013 to mid-2014. One of the key findings in this report is the attribution of more than half the increase in global surface temperatures from 1951-2010 to human activities, underlining the dominant role of fossil fuel burning as a key driver for climate change.¹ At a global level, the IPCC claim that climate change impacts will slow down economic growth, exacerbate inequalities, worsen existing poverty in most developing countries, and trigger new poverty traps in both developed and developing countries.

¹ <http://www.ipcc.ch/>



We need a climate justice response

Together we are the solution to climate injustice - Join us.

“Climate Change is not a natural phenomenon... but a relation between people, between powers, and in terms of resource management”.

Regional NGO, Southeast Asia

A climate justice response to climate change recognises at its core that the people who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most. Also, that those with the most power to address it have so far failed to meaningfully tackle the issue. This is unjust; together we can do better, together we can advocate for a ‘climate justice’ response.

A climate justice response means developed countries, who historically are the most responsible for causing climate change do their fair share to both limit their contribution to climate change at home (such as reduce carbon emissions) and provide the financial and technical support to vulnerable women and men in the developing world to adapt to its impacts. We need a climate justice response that puts people at the centre. The people who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most. Those with most power to address it have so far failed us.

REVERSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA

“Because of the irrigation, we have water for our crops now and can grow different fruit and vegetables. Everything is here now. Maize is here, bananas are here, coffee is here. Before the water wasn’t coming. We had to go outside the village to find food. Now we produce three to four times a year.”

*Borhu Abrahe
farmer from Tigray*

Trócaire’s partner, Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat (ADCS) has had success implementing irrigation schemes across Tigray. Outside the regional capital, Mekelle, the organisation has transformed an area of highly degraded terrain into farmable, workable land that is producing for farmers like Borhu.

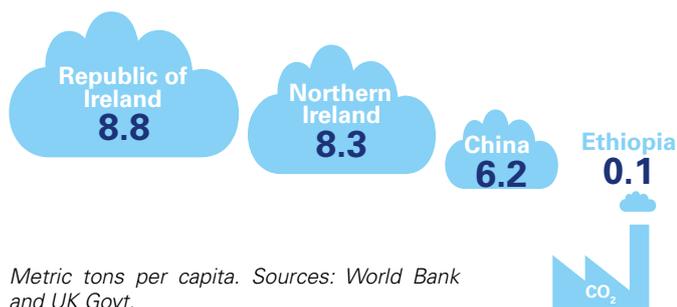
Previously, families like Borhu’s had only one harvest a year that lasted up to three months. Thanks to this irrigation scheme, Borhu now has three to four harvests per year.

Trócaire believes that we can make a difference. Together we can tackle the injustice of climate change by empowering vulnerable farmers like Borhu overcome the worst impacts of climate change.



Borhu Abrahe shows off handfuls of red coffee berries, a product of the irrigation scheme recently introduced in her area, thanks to Trócaire’s partner ADCS

What needs to change in Ireland?



Ireland, both North and South, has one of the highest rates of carbon emissions in Europe. A climate justice response demands that we play our fair share in significantly reducing our emissions that are based on science, on fairness and human rights standards. This response needs to be supported by a major transition towards sustainable development. In Ireland we need to respond to the global climate crisis in a responsible and just way by implementing

an effective framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, making a shift towards more sustainable ways of producing and consuming food and energy, and providing sufficient finance to support people in developing countries to adapt to its impacts. Despite repeated promises, the Republic of Ireland Government and Northern Ireland Assembly have not yet passed climate change legislation, which would set us on the path towards achieving these aims and transitioning to a genuinely sustainable future.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

*Margaret Meade,
American cultural anthropologist*

Hold our political leaders to account

Republic of Ireland (ROI)	Northern Ireland (NI)
<p>In ROI, the ‘Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill’ as it is known, is vital to putting Ireland on track for a low carbon future. Despite being in the programme for government since 2011 it has been an uphill struggle to get this piece of legislation past the post. An apparent u-turn by Minister Hogan (then Minister for the Environment) back in November 2011 nearly took the Bill off the table altogether, but with lots of support from our campaigners, over 7,300 of whom have taken action to call for the Bill, we have managed to keep the issue alive.</p> <p>The Taoiseach has committed to enacting the Climate Bill before the end of 2014. Debate on the Bill in the Oireachtas is a critical moment for getting the Bill strengthened in key areas.</p> <p>Get involved in this campaign at trocaire.ie/climatejustice and join us for this key political opportunity. We need to continue to keep this issue on the political agenda in the coming years to ensure it is enforced. Only by doing so can we effectively reduce Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>In 2008 the UK Government introduced a Climate Change Act. This has legally binding targets to reduce the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions. However, this Act does not extend to the devolved regions. Whilst Scotland and Wales have got their Climate Change Acts in place, Northern Ireland is still lagging behind! We are now the only region in the UK without climate change legislation.</p> <p>Northern Ireland is also the poorest performer in the UK in reducing our emissions. Whilst the UK as a whole has achieved 26.5% reduction in carbon emissions, Northern Ireland has only managed 16% decrease. It’s time we start doing our fair share to tackle climate injustice.</p> <p>Despite lagging behind on climate change, this important issue still isn’t high enough up the political agenda at Stormont. We need to make our voices heard; by telling our MLAs that we care about climate injustice and demanding they act to urgently introduce a strong Climate Change Act!</p> <p><small>Northern Ireland Department of the Environment (2014) The latest emission figures in the Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, 1990-2012 http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-doe/news-doe-june-2014/news-doe-100614-latest-data-show.htm</small></p>



Trócaire is part of **Stop Climate Chaos** alongside over 28 organisations who, together with your help, have been campaigning on climate change since 2007.

Demand global leaders act

“I think about my grandchildren who will be in their 40s in 2050 and will share the world with nine billion others. It will be a world that will find it very difficult to feed itself. There will be far more droughts, far more cyclones and far more catastrophic climate shocks. And what will they say about us? Because we had a chance to make the right decisions. We have to do it, and we have to do it in 2015.”

*Mary Robinson,
UN Special Envoy on Climate Change*

2015 is a key year in the fight for climate justice.

In December 2015, world leaders will meet at the UN Summit (COP21) in Paris, to agree a global agreement on climate change.

So far global leaders have failed us. But if we all stand together we can demand the change we want to see in the world!

We need a legally binding agreement with strong and fair commitments from countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. This new agreement should promote the rights of those most vulnerable in the developing world, including small-scale farmers, and strengthen their resilience to climate change. Developed countries should also provide enough financial support to help developing countries tackle the ongoing impacts of climate change, which is rapidly driving more people into hunger and poverty.

Over the coming year, Trócaire will highlight opportunities for you to make your voice heard and influence this new agreement!

“If we want a chance to limit the global rise in temperature to 2 degrees Celsius, our emissions should peak by 2020. If we carry on business as usual, our opportunity to remain below the 2 degree limit will slip away, well before the middle of the century.”

*Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the UN's
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
Change*

Demand World Leaders Act
Together we are the solution to climate injustice
Join us www.trocaire.org/climatejustice

SEPTEMBER 2015
The Millennium Development goals end and the UN will agree new sustainable development goals

MARCH 2015
Deadline for all Countries to submit their climate plans to the UN ahead of Paris

DECEMBER 2014
World Leaders Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru

PARIS
DECEMBER 2015
World Leaders' Climate Change Conference

trócaire
Working for a just world.



**JOIN US AND SIGN UP TO
THE CLIMATE JUSTICE
CAMPAIGN**

Keep global temperature rises as far below 2°C as possible and ensure that the most vulnerable women and men can adapt to the impacts of climate change.

trocaire.ie/climatejustice

We need a strong and fair global agreement that:

- Sets legally binding targets for countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases
- Promotes the rights of those most vulnerable in the developing world, including small-scale farmers, strengthening their resilience to climate change
- Ensures enough financial support is provided to help developing countries tackle the ongoing impacts of climate change

Join us in living and consuming more sustainably



There is something deeply wrong with the way that we as a society produce food, energy and the amount that we consume and waste. Food can be produced so that small-scale and family farmers in the developing world are resilient to the impacts of climate change and so that we can all have nutritious and sustainable food. Clean energy can be produced that is available and affordable for all. This is possible if we all speak up and make the change happen. In private, in public, as individuals, as communities, as companies and as governments, we are all part of the solution.

It's up to us to conserve our precious resources and protect our environment.

By living sustainably we can be confident that our choices will not have a negative impact on our environment or the environment of people in developing countries. We can do this by changing how we consume, conserving resources and being less wasteful at home and in our workplaces. Many of these changes are easy to implement and save money in the long-term.

Go to Trócaire's webpage trocaire.ie/climatejustice to get lots of ideas on how to live more sustainably so that together we can create a more sustainable world.



Please share your tips and updates on living sustainably with us. Get in touch with us on Twitter by tweeting to @Trocaire, or post your tips and stories directly to our Facebook page.



CIDSE 
together for global justice
ensemble pour un monde de justice
juntos en pro de la justicia global

Trócaire is part of CIDSE, a European group of Catholic organisations, which speaks with a united Catholic voice in UN climate change negotiations. CIDSE works through its members in different European countries, Bishops' Conferences and partners in developing countries.

Trócaire, along with the wider CIDSE network, will have a presence at the forthcoming UN climate talks in Paris (COP 21).

Get your politician to support climate justice



Image: Fergus Lambe Trócaire volunteer (far right) lobbied Jim Wells MLA (left) on climate change at Stormont - May 2012

TO PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE PUSHING PEOPLE DEEPER INTO POVERTY, WE NEED TO CALL ON OUR POLITICIANS TO:

1. Enact Climate Change legislation that is based on science, on fairness and human rights standards, in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
2. Champion a fair, adequate and binding international agreement on climate change at the upcoming UN Climate Conference of world leaders in Paris in December 2015.

We need both of these to ensure adequate political action is taken. Support Trócaire in holding our politicians to account, using any of the suggestions below.

Write a letter or an email

We all like to receive personal email messages or letters. Politicians are the very same. They are more likely to respond to your personal message than they are a mass petition. See page 12 for a sample lobby letter you can send to your TD/MLA.

Use social media

Most politicians now have a twitter account where you can get in contact with them. Tweeting directly to politicians is an effective way to build a relationship with them and inform them of the issues that matter

to you. If you choose to tweet a politician on this issue, include Trócaire in the conversation by using the @Trocaire tag.

Meet your politician

A face-to-face meeting is by far the best way to get your message heard. You can do this by booking an appointment for a private meeting or visit their clinic. Elected representatives usually have regular clinic sessions within their local constituencies, traditionally on a Friday. You can ring or email the local constituency office to establish the opening times for your local clinic.

- Find out who your TD is, visit www.whoismytd.com.
- Find out who your MLA is, visit www.TheyWorkForYou.com.

Use the next section of this toolkit to find out how to prepare and deliver your message.

“Taking a meeting with your local politician can have an amazing impact! Politicians want to know what their constituents care about and their job is to serve you. Hearing first hand from a constituent why an issue such as climate justice is so important to them can mean the difference between action and in-action. Your voice is powerful”

*Orla Quinn,
Campaigns Officer, Trócaire*

Invite your politician to a climate justice event

You can invite your local political representative to visit a group that you're involved with; whether it be a Trócaire volunteer group, your local parish group, your youth group or your class room. You may wish to invite them to an event, or to take part in a debate on climate justice. The difficult part is arranging a time that suits everyone, but once you pass this hurdle, the visit should go smoothly if you follow the 'Top tips for meeting your politician' section below.

Top tips for meeting your politician

1. Prepare

Your key points

The meeting may be as short as 10 minutes, so have a maximum of three key points you would like to get across in your meeting. You can bring them written down to the meeting if that's helpful. See our 'key facts to get across to your politician' box for some useful stats.

Learn about your politician

If you've a bit more time, it's worth finding out some information about your politician so you can tailor your argument. Some key things to try and find out are:

- If they are part of a political party, what is their position on climate change?
- Do they hold a key position of power on this issue? For example, are they a Minister or part of the Environment Committee?
- Are they supportive of overseas development?

KEY FACTS TO GET ACROSS TO YOUR POLITICIAN

- Taking the most optimistic climate change scenario, there could be 86 million more malnourished children in the world by 2050 due to the effects of climate change.¹
- Most of Africa is expected to experience decreased crop yields, with rain-fed crop production predicted to fall by up to 50% in some African countries by 2020.²
- At present it costs \$150 billion each year to adapt to climate change globally, and by the year 2030 this will have risen to \$1 trillion each year.³
- The most authoritative source on climate science (the IPCC) have concluded that keeping temperature rises below 2°C is both achievable and affordable. All we need is the political will.⁴

1 Nelson et al., (2010), *Food Security, Farming and Climate Change to 2050: Scenarios, Results, Policy Options*, IFPRI

2 IPCC (2007) Working Group II Report "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"

3 Chinery-Hesse et al., (2012), *Climate Vulnerability Monitor A Guide To The Cold Calculus Of A Hot Planet*, Climate Vulnerable Forum DARA.

4 IPCC AR5, working group 3 <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

2. Your meeting

You don't have to be an expert

Remember what is important is that you are a constituent who cares deeply about this matter and as your representative, you would like them to take up this issue.

Keep the conversation on track

Climate justice is about people. Use the story of Ali in Ethiopia or your own story to convey your message. Strong stats and analysis also help. Preparing your argument helps a lot. Understanding what you'll say and how you'll say it can make all the difference. The meeting will probably be short so make sure you get your main points across. Politicians are often, by their own admission, good at dodging questions and side-tracking conversations. Remember it's your meeting to ask and discuss what you would like. So don't be afraid to politely bring the conversation back to the key issue if it starts to drift.

Ask for a clear commitment

At the end of your meeting, ask your politician to outline what they plan to do on climate justice. For example, raise the issue in the Dáil or NI Assembly or write on your behalf to the relevant Minister.

Take a photo and share your meeting on social media

Let everyone know what you just did! Tell your friends and family about your meeting through Facebook, Twitter or other social media sites. Include a photograph or a quick video if you can. Keep Trócaire up to date by adding @Trócaire to your tweets, or posting directly on our Facebook page.

3. Follow up

Write a letter/ email to your politician

It's a good idea to do this, to summarise the key commitments and actions your politician agreed to at the meeting, as well as to request correspondence on key developments as they champion this issue.

Let us know how you're getting on

We want to know if you lobby your TD/ MLA and if he/ she takes action. This helps us track politicians' positions and target them better.

Email: campaigns@trocaire.ie

Phone: (ROI) 00353 (0)1 5053266 or
(NI) 0044 (0)28 9080 8030.

Twitter: @Trocaire

Get your community involved

Campaign stall/event – Raise awareness and get people signed up to support climate justice at your local events, such as community markets or festival. To order campaign materials email campaigns@trocaire.ie



Newry volunteers organise a fun day - music & petition stall March 2012

Films – Organise a film screening in your community on the issue of climate change and arrange a 'question and answer' session with a member of Trócaire staff to create a discussion after the screening. Here are a few suggested films to get you started.

SUN COME UP

This documentary film tells the story of some of the world's first environmental refugees, the Carteret Islanders. The film follows relocation leader Ursula Rakova and a group of young families as they search for new homes in war torn Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.

CLIMATE OF CHANGE

A documentary focused on the efforts of everyday people all over the world who are making a difference in the fight against global warming.

Get creative – Organise a publicity stunt, vigil, street drama, demonstration or a flash mob! This is a fun way to raise awareness on this issue and a good opportunity to attract local media attention.

KEY INTERNATIONAL DATES FOR CLIMATE RELATED STUNT ACTIONS

- World Water Day - 22 March annually
- World Environment Day- 5 June annually
- UN Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - September 2015
- World Food Day - 16 October annually
- UN Summit on Climate Change (COP21)- December, 2015



On Sunday 21st September 2014, campaigners in Belfast and Dublin participated in a climate picnic at Queen's university and St Stephen's Green respectively as part of a worldwide mobilisation highlighting the need for action on climate change, ahead of the Ban Ki Moon UN summit. It was one of 2,646 events that took place in 162 countries around the world.



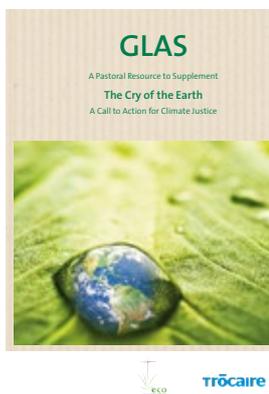
Get your community involved



Volunteer Póilín Brennan with the then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague TD, at a joint Trócaire and Summer Row Community Garden event, 2009.

In your parish – To bring the message of climate justice alive in all aspects of your parish life, you can download this amazing resource which will bring you step by step through the process;

- Glas - Trócaire's practical 'hand's-on' pastoral resource designed for parishes and other local community groups.



In your school or youth group - If you are a teacher or youth worker you can access our website, at trocaire.ie/education, where you will find a wide range of resources such as lesson plans, worksheets, case studies, videos, animations and presentations, that will help you deliver effective and engaging development education to young people.

Why not get the young people you work with to produce a short video of a rap, song, poem, or testimony on climate justice? Get your young people to share this action in a fun and relevant way. The more creative, the more likely it is to go viral! Watch how David, Tommy and Joel from 5th class in St Ultan's national school, perform a great rap they created in April 2014. Watch 'St Ultan's Rap' on YouTube.



Be a Volunteer: Trócaire has vibrant volunteer groups in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Belfast and in the North-West of Ireland. As a volunteer you can get involved in a range of activities including: campaigning and advocacy, fundraising, online media, event organising, festivals and community outreach.

We understand your time is precious. That is why Trócaire offers regular training sessions and the opportunity to get involved with or help organise a range of activities and outreach throughout the year.

Whether you have one hour a month, or one day a week to spare, we appreciate and value the time you can give.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, contact:

volunteering@trocaire.ie

Remember the power of social media to promote and share these events. You can tweet or post on facebook/ Instagram, during or after the event.



Create community partnerships – Link with a local community garden or green school to co-organise an event highlighting the importance of tackling climate change. Dublin volunteers teamed up with Summer Row Community Garden in 2009 to bring a 'glocal' voice to climate change - see photo at top left of this page.

Conclusion and further information

Additional resources to compliment this toolkit are available at trocaire.org/activism.

Further information and materials can be found at the following websites:

'Feeling the Heat': Read our latest research paper, based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence, to find out how climate change is driving extreme weather in the developing world, trocaire.ie/resources/policyandadvocacy/feeling-the-heat

Blogs: For climate change related blogs, trocaire.ie/blog/climate-change

Videos: Watch our Bar Stool Soapbox and other videos, vimeo.com/trocaire

Photos: If you'd like to use any of our excellent photos for your activism, visit our flickr account, flickr.com/photos/trocaire

If you have any questions, contact your regional campaigns officer:

for ROI, contact Orla Quinn, oquinn@trocaire.ie, +353 (0)1 5053229;

for NI, contact Mary Friel, mfriel@trocaire.ie, +44 (0) 28 9080 8030.

Further References

Nelson et al., (2010), *Food Security, Farming and Climate Change to 2050: Scenarios, Results, Policy Options*, IFPRI.

IPCC (2007) Working Group II Report "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability".

Flood., 2013, Projected Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Irish Agriculture, Stop Climate Chaos.

SAMPLE TD/MLA LOBBY LETTER

Your Address / Date

We are the Solution to Climate Injustice

Dear TD/ MLA, (insert name and include correct title)

Climate Change is the greatest injustice of our time. The people who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most. I'm deeply concerned that those with most power to address climate injustice, aren't acting quickly enough to prevent further large-scale human suffering. I believe it doesn't have to be this way. Political leadership and action from you and your party can help tackle the injustice of climate change.

[Include a sentence or paragraph about why this issue is important to you]

To prevent climate change pushing people deeper into poverty, we need you and your party to:

1. Enact & enforce climate change legislation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland that is based on science, fairness and human rights standards.
2. Champion a fair, adequate and binding international agreement on climate change at the upcoming UN Climate Conference of world leaders in Paris in December 2015.

This issue is important to me as a climate justice advocate and as a voter. I look forward to hearing from you about what steps you are taking to make this happen.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]

Working for a just world

Trócaire

Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland
T: +353 (0)1 629 3333, F: +353 (0)1 629 0661
E: info@Trocaire.ie

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland and a member of CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis. Irish charity number: CHY 5883.

www.trocaire.org