



Talking points: We pay. Why don't they?

TAX GIVEAWAYS TO THE FEW HURT US ALL

- In many countries, jobs and pay are being cut, benefits slashed and public services closed. Still the tax giveaways to the rich continue, and multinationals are allowed to pay little or no tax.
- As the elite few demand and hoard ever greater wealth, quality public services – health care, education, safe drinking water, environmental protection – are slashed. This undermines opportunities for workers and our families. It threatens the foundation of democratic, equal, civil societies.
- Developing countries lose more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year. This is enough to stop AIDS in its tracks, give a basic education to 72 million children who are currently denied that opportunity, and end hunger twice over.
- In developed countries, it's estimated that an amount equal to 10 percent of gross domestic product is hidden in foreign tax havens to avoid taxes. Billions are lost. Domestic investment is reduced. Fewer new jobs are created.
- Multinational corporations and the wealthy dodge taxes with impunity. The amount they hide in tax havens has hit record levels. Ninety-eight of the largest corporations listed on the London Stock Exchange have operations in tax havens.
- With their disproportionate influence on governments, corporations and the wealthy are paying less and less. When tax systems favour the rich, ordinary people pay more than their fair share.
- Working people and the poor pay for the tax giveaways to corporations and the obscenely wealthy.

WE MUST CHALLENGE HARMFUL TAX POLICIES THAT FAVOUR THE WEALTHY

Current international tax rules and practices weaken the ability of national governments to collect a fair share of taxes from multinational corporations and wealthy individuals.

To win social and economic justice, as well as future sustainability, we must:

- End tax dodging by multinationals and the super-rich.
- End the race-to-the-bottom tax competition between nations and replace it with multilateral cooperation on taxes, including a financial transactions tax to raise revenue for quality public services and tackle the challenge of climate change.
- Demand our governments raise revenues through progressive taxes (not just income or VAT consumption taxes) where everyone – including banks, multinational corporations and the rich – pays a fair share.
- Ensure transparency and accountability of all taxation policies and administration and eliminate corrupt practices.
- Hold governments accountable for democratic and appropriate investment of tax revenues to ensure the provision of quality public services to all.