



June 2012

Dear Friends,

On July 1, 2012, student loan interest rates are set to double for almost 7.5 million students unless Congress takes action. On behalf of Jubilee USA Network, I invite you to take action with your faith community the weekend of June 24th by incorporating a prayer into your weekly service to protect the futures of our students.

Jubilee USA Network is an interfaith network which has won over \$100 billion dollars in debt relief for poor countries. Jubilee USA is taking action because we believe students are our future, and recognize that in these times we must make connections between unjust loans that hurt our local and global communities.

During the weekend of June 24th religious communities and congregations will join with Jubilee USA Network in one simple and essential way -- have your faith community incorporate a prayer into your weekly service.

In this packet you'll find resources on sample prayer content for Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities. There will also be information to connect the dots between global and student debts, and to go the extra mile, a petition you can spread alongside the prayers in your community.

I hope that you will join in us in this simple and prayerful action the weekend of June 24th. Together, we will let our elected leaders know -- our student's future is not a game of politics.

Gratefully,

Eric LeCompte
Executive Director

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Prayer for Student Debt Justice

Depending on your faith tradition and the way your community organizes worship you can use the following to pray alongside communities across the country. Please feel free to incorporate the below prayer or alter it where appropriate for your faith community where it best fits in your weekend service. In each of your communities you can find the most appropriate place to come together in worship around this important issue.

If appropriate, first introduce to the community the realities at hand:

On July 1, 2012, student loan interest rates are set to double for almost 7.5 million students unless Congress takes action. These loan increases will harm the affordability and access to education for students around the country and negatively impact all of our communities.

Interfaith prayer:

We pray for students who are our future, may they not be burdened with unjust and unsustainable debts as they seek to expand their knowledge and prepare to take up the responsibilities as tomorrow's leaders.

We pray for those who currently struggle with student loan payments, and those who may struggle in the future.

We pray for the Members of Congress who must make hard decisions in hard economic times, that they will support and maintain student loan affordability and help to make a more fair and just future.

We pray that Congress will act in a way that supports students and broader social equity and justice across our communities.



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Connect the Dots between Global Debt and Student Debts

As the global debt crisis spreads from Global South to the Global North we must continue to broaden our vision on a true jubilee.

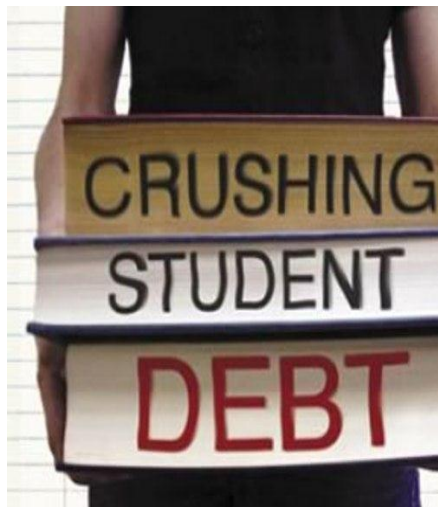
When talking with students across the country about the work of Jubilee, often, the first question asked is if our work is related **to student debt and student loans**.

The student loan crisis is another opportunity to grow, bridge and strengthen our movement for responsible lending and borrowing around the globe.

For nations in the global South:

- We know that debt burdens nations – it prevents governments from providing access to healthcare, education and infrastructure.
- We know that instead of investing in their communities, nations pay back debts, most often due to arrears and **interest rates**.

For students here in the United States:



When time runs out **on July 1, 2012, student loan interest rates will double for almost 7.5 million students**. For every year Congress fails to act, students will be pinned with \$1,000 more on their subsidized Stafford student loans. Students with the most need will pay about an additional \$5,000.

- We know that while a university degree grants greater access to better jobs, **student loan debt affects where a graduate lives, the careers they may pursue, when to start a family, buy a home or car, or even save for retirement. And this affects the entire economy.**
- We know that a change in interest rates may **push students and families towards more private, risky, and irresponsible loans**

Connect the movements! Prevent high interest rates that increase debts to unpayable and unsustainable levels and prevent all of our communities from being restored.

Take Action the weekend of June 24th:

Have your faith community incorporate a prayer into their service around student debt issues

Go the extra mile and sign and distribute the petition located at jubileeusa.org homepage.

Contact Jeremy at Jeremy@jubileeusa.org to sign up, for more info and support!