

# Jubilee Vision

*We envision a world in which we have restored relations between nations and people, a true Jubilee. One in which poverty is eliminated and all meet their basic needs in their communities. A world in which families and communities have a voice in economic policies and in decisions that affects their lives, a world where right relationships are restored between nations.*

Jubilee USA Network is part of the worldwide movement of people of faith and conscience seeking to cancel the debts of impoverished countries and work toward a responsible and just international economy. Jubilee USA is a broad range of religious, social justice, environmental and development organizations, as well as thousands of individuals who share a moral commitment to finding a definitive solution to the international debt crisis. Jubilee USA's vision is connected to the year of Jubilee proclaimed in the Hebrew Scriptures: every fifty years, all debts were cancelled, land was returned, and people were freed from all types of bondage.

Thus, the vision of Jubilee calls for the building of right relationships between communities, peoples and nations. As people of faith, we are called to care, responsible for seeking peace in the world, turning neglect into compassionate action and fighting injustice within ourselves, our communities and our world. The current international financial system operates according to principles wildly different from these. The international discord caused by vulture funds suing low-income countries is not peace, but disharmony. Multinational corporations funneling billions of dollars of tax-free profits out of impoverished nations is not compassionate action, but neglect. Poor countries paying back massive loans squandered away by past corrupt governments is a blatant act of injustice. These policies and systemic failures must be reversed.

And they can be. Movements turn the impossible into the inevitable, and the growing chorus of concerned people of faith who have contacted our elected leaders, educated the media and reached out to our communities has already started to prove it. Through the work of these supporters, the global debt crisis, corporate tax avoidance and a sovereign debt workout mechanism have all been placed on the international agenda. The imperative now is to continue to act.

***When people of faith join together for a purpose, we can turn the tides of economic injustice, challenge harmful and destructive policies and advance a prophetic vision of fairness and equality for the world's impoverished people.***

# The Jubilee Movement

In the late 1990s, a broad network of people of faith and conscience from across the globe came together under the banner of Jubilee 2000, engaging their communities and challenging policymakers to address the international debt crisis. This mobilization brought the issue of debt onto the global stage, but it did not end the debt crisis.

Since then, Jubilee USA has won critical global financial reforms and more than \$130 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest people. After Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010, we pushed for and won full debt cancellation for Haiti in the amount of \$1.2 billion, allowing the country to focus on rebuilding rather than repaying. This year, we helped form the Jubilee Caribbean Debt Relief Network, we filed an amicus brief with the US Supreme Court in opposition to predatory "vulture fund" behavior and we brought religious leaders from across the country to Washington to advocate for fair tax policies. Since the beginning of the year, we have been covered in over thousands of news outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *National Public Radio*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and more.

As the debt crisis spreads to northern economies, like Greece and Ireland, Jubilee USA continues to work to transform the financial system to prevent the accumulation of future debt. We continue to push for responsible lending and borrowing, for an international bankruptcy process that eradicates the power imbalance between debtors and lenders and for the return of corporate profits to the impoverished countries that made them possible.

**Together, we will create a true Jubilee.**

