

## **#BlackBand Thursday action - 6 April 2023**

### **Get ready to stand in solidarity against the IMF and the World Bank**

#### **Film screening and discussion: Life & Debt**

Join us for our next #BlackBandThursday action on 6 April 2023 where we will ***stand together in solidarity against the IMF and the World Bank***. Globally the IMF and the World Bank's neoliberal agenda is driving inequality, with more and more countries and people towards breaking point. This year we will be increasing our collective campaigning against this destructive role, and push for alternatives to the current economic system that serve people and planet.

Thursday 6 April sees the return of our monthly #BlackBandThursday action. This month you can host a film screening of ***Life & Debt*** documentary and have a discussion afterwards on the issues raised in this film, and what this means for our struggles to fight inequality across the world.

#### **What is the Life & Debt documentary about?**

Released in 2001, this hard hitting documentary examines the impact of the IMF's global economic policies on Jamaica's people and economy. Life & Debt exposes the devastating impact of loans from international lending agencies on Jamaica's economy, which owes over \$4.5 billion to the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The country is paying out increasingly more than it receives in total financial resources, resulting in increased unemployment, sweeping corruption, higher illiteracy, increased violence, prohibitive food costs, dilapidated hospitals, and increased disparity between the rich and the poor. The film also highlights the exploitation of workers in Free Trade Zones, where women sew five-six days a week for American corporations for the legal minimum wage of \$30 USD/week. Foreign companies are allowed to bring in shiploads of material tax-free to have them sewn and assembled in factories in the FTZs, then immediately transported out to foreign markets. The Jamaican government also agreed to the stipulation that no unionisation of workers is permitted in the Free Trade Zones, and the women who have spoken out and attempted to organise to improve their wages and working conditions have been fired and included on a blacklist.

#### **[Watch the trailer here](#)**

This film is just one example of how the IMF and World Bank damage a country's economy and its people. There are many more examples from other parts of the world. You can join in on #BlackBandThursday and take a stand against the IMF and the World Bank.

#### **Should I join in?**

Anyone can join in the action! If you have had enough of spiraling inequality and you want a more just, equal and sustainable world, then a bigger YES! The movement fighting inequality is growing around the world. We must demonstrate our diversity and our collective strength and the #BlackBand Thursday Action is one of the ways we will do this in 2023. You can join in whichever community, organisation, movement or country you are in.

You can join in as a feminist, an environmentalist, a worker, a person of faith, an unemployed person, an LGBTQI+ activist, a young person, a dalit activist, a smallholder farmer, a TikTokker, an artist etc, etc.

### **How to get involved**

- 1: The film will be made available to you for free via Vimeo streaming service from 4 April 2023. Send an email to [info@fightinequality.org](mailto:info@fightinequality.org) to request access to the film
- 2: Organise a screening of the documentary wherever you are
- 3: Download these [resources](#) and share in advance for people to gain more information and knowledge for an engaging and important discussion.
- 4: Watch the film on 6 April and hold a discussion afterwards
- 5: Get your black bands ready! Wear your black band and record a short video or take a picture, post it on Twitter and tag us in it using the #BlackBandThursday and #FightInequality. In your post tell us why you are taking a stand against the IMF and World Bank