



Guidance note: Blackband Thursday 6 May

Over the past 2 years rising prices have been hitting people hard across the world with devastating results. Our governments are still too often making the situation worse through their neoliberal policy interventions, implementing austerity measures or failing to act. As Fight Inequality Alliance we have members all over the world who are being affected personally, in our communities and in our societies. We have a lot of stories to share, both in terms of the experience of rising prices and austerity but also in terms of how we resist and call our governments to act in the interest of its people.

As we build pressure on our governments, we need to make the everyday reality of this crisis more visible and louder in all our spaces. which is why we will be holding our **#BlackbandThursday** action for May on ***rising prices and austerity***. This guidance note will assist you with your preparations for the discussion. By the end of the discussion you can take a picture and post it on Twitter and tell us about rising prices and austerity in your country and what you are doing to fight against this.

How to get involved and what should I do next?

- Get a group of people together to participate in the action. The number can be large or small. You can be in an office, a community center, at a park, or online or anywhere else that works best for you.
- Download the session plan (see below). Share these ahead of the day with everyone who will be participating in the action.
- on Thursday 4 May hold a discussion on the impact of rising prices in austerity in your country.
- Get your black bands ready! Wear your black band and record a short video or take a picture. Post it on Twitter and tag **#BlackBandThursday** and **#FightInequality**. Say why you are taking a stand against rising prices and austerity in your country.

If you are not familiar with #BlackbandThursday and want to find out more visit our [website](#). I look forward to hearing how your #BlackbandThursday actions went.



FIGHT INEQUALITY

Introduction (5 minutes): Start by introducing the topic of rising prices and austerity and why it's important to understand how it affects different countries and causes inequality. Explain that we'll be looking at Argentina, the United Kingdom, and Kenya as examples.

Rising prices and austerity explained:

Rising prices and austerity measures drives up levels of inequality meaning it is harder for those people who are already marginalised and continue to be pushed even further to breaking point. This means ordinary people who can't afford basic necessities like food, housing, access to health care, transportation and basic social services are most impacted. In many societies across the world we see women, people of color, and those with lower incomes most impacted. As a result, inequality can increase, making it even harder for all of us but most significantly those who are on the frontlines of inequality.

Argentina (15 minutes): Show a [short video](#) about the economic crisis in Argentina and how it has led to rising prices and austerity measures. Discuss the causes of the crisis, such as high inflation and government debt. Highlight how the government has responded with austerity measures, such as cutting public services and increasing taxes, and the impact this has had on the people of Argentina.

United Kingdom (20 minutes): [Show a short video](#) about the impact of austerity measures in the United Kingdom. Explain how the government has implemented cuts to public services and welfare programs in order to reduce the deficit. Discuss the impact this has had on different groups of people, such as the elderly, disabled, and low-income families.

Kenya (20 minutes): [Show a short video](#) about the impact of rising prices in Kenya. Discuss the factors that have contributed to the rise in prices, such as inflation and drought, and how this has affected the cost of basic necessities like food and water. Highlight how the government has responded with measures like subsidies and price controls, and the impact this has had on the economy and people's lives.

Conclusion (5 minutes): Wrap up the session by summarizing the key points and highlighting any similarities or differences between the three countries and your country too. Encourage participants to reflect on what they've learned and what plans and strategies they use to challenge their governments to address rising prices and austerity .



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