



**#BlackBandThursday Action -Towards Peoples' Alternatives to the World Bank and IMF**  
**Thursday 3 August 2023**  
**Session Plan**

Join the next #BlackBandThursday action taking place on 3 August 2023 as we build momentum towards the Peoples' Alternatives mobilisations through Peoples' Assemblies, Caravans and Tribunals happening from August to October 2023. Groups in over 40 countries have already signed the call to action that brings us together as part of the Peoples' Alternatives initiative. [We are getting ready to mobilise 1 million people](#) around the world in order to reach 1 billion people with the message that we, the people, will build Peoples' Alternatives to an economy that serves the richest and has failed the poor.

On Thursday 3 August, we will hold #BlackBandThursday where we look at the recent examples of the real cost of the IMF and World Bank on our countries, our economies, and on people and the planet. We will also use the #BlackBandThursday to share more information about how to organise and join the Peoples' Assemblies mobilisations, and plan our actions if we have not done so as yet.

**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, online or anywhere else that works best for you.
- Download the session plan (see below). Share the articles to read ahead of the day with everyone who will be participating in the action.
- On Thursday 3 August hold a discussion on the impact of the IMF and World Bank and how we will use assemblies to advance Peoples' Alternatives
- 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.

**Session plan**

**Introductions (5 minutes)**

Begin the session by introducing the role of the IMF and World Bank on people and the planet and that one of the ways we are organising globally against the IMF and World Bank is through [Peoples' Alternatives](#). In this session our objectives are to:



- Share ideas on what we can do collectively to raise awareness about the impacts of the IMF and World Bank policies and the resulting inequality and austerity.
- Plan our Peoples' Assemblies to take place as part of the Peoples' Alternatives initiative.

### **First case study to be discussed (10 mins) - Kenya**

Article 1: "[Kenya Cost of Living Protests Explainer](#)"

- Ask participants to discuss their understanding of the context and causes of the recent protests in Kenya due to the cost of living increases.
- Identify any connections between IMF or World Bank austerity policies and the economic challenges faced by the Kenyans as a result.

### **Second case study to be discussed (10 mins) - Pakistan**

Article 2: "[How IMF and World Bank Policies Impact Education in Developing Nations](#)"

- Explore in conversation the effects of austerity measures on education systems in developing countries, focusing on reduced government spending and its implications for access to quality education

### **Third case study (10 mins) - Argentina**

Article 3: "[Austerity Measures and Healthcare: The Human Cost](#)"

- Discuss how austerity measures can lead to reduced healthcare budgets and compromised health services.
- Identify the disproportionate impact on poor and working class communities and vulnerable populations, who are more dependent on public healthcare services

### **Fourth Case Study (10 mins) - Egypt**

Article 4: "[Inequality and the IMF: An Uneven Economic Recovery](#)"

- Discuss the potential alternatives to austerity measures that could lead to more equitable economic recovery

### **Developing Solutions: Moving Towards a Peoples' Alternatives (20 mins)**

- How can communities, activists and citizens come together to resist austerity measures and advocate for more equitable economic policies? Share your ideas online and using the #BlackBandThursday and #FightInequality.

**Peoples' Assemblies (*what, when, why?*) What are the struggles?**



As part of the Peoples' Alternatives initiative, people in many countries across the world are organising Peoples' Assemblies from 14 August - 21 August.

### ***What is it?***

A popular assembly is a fundamental form of political action. It is based on bringing together members of the same community, whether physical or social, to analyze the problems they face as a group and make decisions to face them in a participatory and democratic manner. Peoples' Assemblies will be the forum where people will articulate the inequality issues that concern their communities, organisations, towns, and neighborhoods.

### ***Why is it part of the Peoples' Alternatives mobilisation strategy?***

Nationally across Peoples' Alternatives we will convene assemblies where members come together to highlight their inequality struggles, alternatives and demands on how inequalities should be addressed. In these assemblies we will show the role of governments and IMF and World Bank collusion in pushing more and more people towards breaking point. The Peoples' Assemblies will be a dynamic and inclusive space for people to raise their voices and share their demands.

### ***Where?***

These assemblies will take place both physically and online to ensure wider participation and engagement. The Peoples' Assemblies will show the connection between IMF and World Bank policies and rising levels of inequalities. Additionally the Assemblies will be a space to collate demands and alternatives for the Peoples' Tribunals taking place in September 2023.

### ***How?***

The vision and organisation of the assemblies should be coordinated by the national working groups. The subjects, issues to be addressed, the people speaking from the floor, demands, challenges and resolutions will depend on the national working groups, and based on every context and political experience.

### ***How to organise an Assembly***

- Searching for a venue located near the communities taking part, preferably open air like a park or a community center, Any location where you can gather in numbers.
- Ensure that we invite members of the alliance, non-members and the general public to participate. Invitations should also be extended to grassroots communities, activists, community based movements, social movements, trade unions, faith based organisations, precarious workers, farmers, feminist groups, leaders, artists, young



people, etc, to identify the social, economic, cultural and gender issues that affect the life of the people.

- Generate a general mapping of national and local problems, promoting reflection on who is responsible for this. The national coordinators should provide information on how international organisations have acted, for example, in introducing austerity measures, and how this affects people's lives.
- Once the main inequality issues are identified, the assembly must decide which of those themes emerging from discussions should be brought to the Peoples' Caravans and Tribunals as part of the demands and alternatives being proposed.

***All the Assemblies should follow these principles:***

- Respect for people's opinions, offering a safe space to share experiences
- People living on the frontlines of inequality should have their voices heard primarily
- Diversity, inclusion and gender equality in the interventions
- The assemblies are based on experiences of people, communities or neighborhoods, not policy based or technical jargon.
- The main idea is to identify how the daily social problems and their consequences in the lives of people, are linked to political decisions. This is a politicising exercise

***When?***

14- 21 August 2023