

Notes on 17th GCAP. General Call for Action Against Poverty.

If anyone would like a copy of the full report I can supply one. I have a list of Key moments in the 50 days of Action (Copies here).

GCAP was set up in 2005, it is the alliance of NGO's, trade unions, and other civil society organisations working together against poverty across more than 100 national coalitions/platforms. BOND offices where the meeting was held connects UK organisations to GCAP. And their advocacy manager Glen Tarman is one of the European representatives. on the International decision-making body, GCAP Global Council. BOND/GCAP try to bring Agencies and others together The word Collectivity was mentioned quite a lot. You may agree or disagree ?

This was their [International Development Campaigning Forum day on behalf of us all.](#)

I thought the day well worth while. Mentioning all sorts of action days, and ways to carry on Campaigning. It was the main launch of the **50 Global days of Action Against Poverty 1st September to 20th October.** Because our meeting was moved back we are now a fortnight into this but never mind there is still plenty time left to make our mark and protest. **CULMINATING WITH STAND UP WEEK-END 17th to 19th October.** Dates and actions on this sheet.

There was a brief introduction by Tim Gee, Glen Tarman, and Ben Margolis.

At this introduction Owen Tudor said that the Trade Unions would not have enough time to organise for the 50 days but I thought it was a negative statement to make at this point, we needed a positive send off and on our behalf I said so! After that quite a number of people agreed with me.

The speed sessions were just that, I always find that you listen for 15 minutes, & there is hardly anytime to get into any deep discussions, but I did get to talk a little with Ashok Sinha (Climate Chaos) Because I believe that CC is our biggest challenge at this time, **2 years ago we were talking about 2050 for ice caps to melt and 1 year ago we were talking about 2020 now we are talking next year or the year after !! One thing is certain that it has speeded up somewhat and that the poorest among us will be hit the hardest.**

About making our mark, I found that most people I spoke too were envious of the work that MPHNE does in the north east and how we manage to keep things moving. I think we can do more but we are a team that do try to keep ahead of what is happening, and of course we have David chivying us along all the time. The fact that we still include in our name **“Make Poverty History”** makes us the envy of most of the groups I was in contact with. If you have read the report of the day you will see that 3 times I mention that it is the name and the slogan that has kept our prominence apart from the work we do and that GCAP should look to another slogan for their work to bring them more to the headlines.

The Fayre at lunch was fine, and in the afternoon I went to the mobilisation session by Ben Margolis He set the scene for the 50 days of Action and happenings up to December. GCAP is growing, it is not just in U.K. Or Europe but all over the world and, it is recognised worldwide. He said the MDG's are the only measurement for all governments of the world, and this is GCAP's main focus We should question whether our govt. is being held to it's commitment. Common lobbying positions are:-

1. No increase in inequality & exclusions
2. Holding Govts accountable
2. More active civil society participation
3. Women at the heart of solutions.

Unfortunately I heard nothing of Salil Shettys talk as I could not hear or get further forward.

At the plenary I mentioned again about the need for a Slogan and that we should aim higher. Collectivity was mentioned a number of times and I agree with this, we need to work together. Paul Brannen (Chris Aid) said that we need something to get the British public around, such as in 2005. New York (The next meeting) was too far away and also that CAid are working with **Climate Chaos as Climate change was becoming our greatest challenge.**

I enjoyed the day with Anne and we got to know each other a little better and this lead me to think about us here. We have a good name among other groups in the rest of the country because of our outreach and how we work together, but I wonder if one of us at each meeting (time permitting) could give a brief testimony?

Just to say a few words about their life, where we come from, where we stand. Etc.