

Robin Hood Tax Campaign – General Meeting
Wednesday 2nd February 2011: 10am – 11am
Notes

Present		
Hayley Baker (Robin Hood Tax)	Helen Heather (Tearfund)	Louisa Leadlay (Unicef)
Liz Chinchin (TUC)	Dave Hillman (Stamp Out Poverty)	Anna Nolan (Oxfam)
Sarah Edwards (Health Poverty Action)	Ryan Hogarth (Stamp Out Poverty)	Elena Uderzo (Oxfam)
Sophie Freeman (RHT) notes	Christina Kelling (Cafod)	Ama Uzowuru (Comic Relief)
Helen Gibson (UCATT?)	Steve Kemp (GMB)	Amy Whalley (Unicef)
Olga Golichenko (Aids Alliance)	Max Lawson (Oxfam) Chair	Peter (NASUWT)

1. Political Update

a) Domestic

- Bob Diamond’s appearance at the Treasury Select Committee gathered a lot of media attention.
- Good polling results from Daily Mirror 81% of people agreeing that the Government should take further efforts to “claw back bankers’ bonuses through the tax system”. Encouragingly 76% of Conservative voters questioned also agreed with this statement.
- Government working on ‘project Merlin’ trying to do a deal to increase lending but this has attracted more negative than positive attention.
- Nothing has moved at official level – Government still supportive of a second bank tax at the EU level and in favour of a FAT rather than a FTT.
- Trade Unions are also looking at issue of unpaid corporation taxes.

b) International

- German government is very serious about an FTT. Team within the finance ministry are looking in depth about how they could implement one. 2bn Euros revenue from an FTT has been put into the budget. However, they are not making a public link between the revenue raised and international development or climate change. Planning a trip to UK for conversations with UK Treasury.
- Sarkozy has now publicly put FTT as a priority for his G20 agenda. It has now been expressly mentioned in a press conference, at Davos and at the African Union Summit. French are serious about gathering Southern support. At a meeting with Christine Lagarde (French Finance Minister), she was aware of the campaign and encouraged continued pressure on the UK government to help ease progress of a FTT at the EU level.
- Japanese has recently had a change of government / cabinet and have come out against the proposal of an FTT.
- Next step will be G20 Finance Minister meeting on 18th /19th February. Nick Stern will be addressing the group on innovative finance mechanisms.
- Managed to secure positive reaction from Soros, working to get public support from Bill Gates.

2. Activities

a) St Pauls event on 7pm on 29th March

- Panel includes: Evan Davis (BBC), CEO of London Stock Exchange, CEO of Institute of Chartered Accountants, Rev Peter Selby, and Baroness Shirley Williams.
- No ticket reservation need just turn up on the night.

ACTION: Christina to send info and invite around the group for promotion.

b) Poll

- Oxfam are commissioning poll in several countries on aid in general but with two questions on the Robin Hood Tax – has the sector done enough to pay back the cost of the crisis? Do you support a Robin Hood Tax? UK will include political breakdown.

C) TUC – March for Alternative – 26th March

- Family friendly march in central London – culminating in a rally at Hyde Park. Looking for at least 100,000. Daily Mirror will be getting behind the March and running a series on frontline workers affected by the cuts. Robin Hood Tax will feature as part of this series.

c) **MP Action**

- Will be a long running political action for 2011. Allows supporters to contact MPs via our website. Template-free emails with prompts about how Robin Hood could help the issues that they're passionate about. Will totalise number of emails going out and to which MPs to help put on further pressure. There will be further options to contact MP via social media channels. Will also provide offline lobby packs to help encourage supporters to visit their MPs.
- The primary ask at launch will be targeting Osborne and centred on action he can take at the Budget. This primary ask will change as the year progresses so that it can also look at international development and climate change.

d) **Global Day of Action - International**

- 17th February before the G20 Finance Ministers Meeting on 18th/19th. 12 definite countries taking place and good outreach taking place with Southern countries.
- Two strands: Embassy lobby targeting key countries (France, Germany, UK); and media stunt to show the breadth of the campaign. Stunt varying from country and country but arrows and masks to act as unifying image.
- In the UK hoping to link the Global Day of Action with work demonstrating support for the campaign from the older demographic and 'middle England'. Will also hopefully form part of second strand of engagement work targeting the banks (providing a wake up call and looking to reduce the influence of their lobbying power). Supporters will take part in a 'family friendly' photo stunt in front of local bank branches. Further details to be covered in campaigns group meeting.

3. **Campaign Structures / Processes**

- 2011 Plan: Thank you to everyone who gave feedback on the draft plan, this has been responded to individually. The updated plan will go round early next week.
ACTION: Sophie to circulate updated 2011 plan.
- Meetings: Keen to continue big face to face meetings. Will be booked in for the first Wednesday of every month.
ACTION: Sophie to secure venue for coalition meetings and circulate details
- Comms: Will aim to reduce email traffic (apart from breaking news) and send round weekly newsletter updating coalition of activities, media coverage.