



All Party Parliamentary Group on Debt, Aid & Trade

Chair: **Ann McKechin** MP
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David Drew MP **John Battle** MP
Secretary: **Andy Reed** MP
Treasurer: **Vernon Coaker** MP
Co-ordinator: Matthew Hulbert
Tel: 020 7219 8239 e-mail: hulbertm@parliament.uk

20th June 2005

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the **All Party Parliamentary Group for Debt, Aid & Trade**, (formally the APPG for HIPC). I am very pleased to invite you to an **International Parliamentarians'** meeting on the **2nd July, 9.30-11.00am** held at the **Augustine's Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK**.

The event will bring together a select number of International Parliamentarians', Ambassadors and NGOs to hear top speakers from the North and South, including:

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development

Mr. Donald Kaberuka, Rwandan Finance Minister & former Chairman of the African HIPC Ministerial Council

Luisa Morgantini MEP, Chair of the International Development Committee in the European Parliament

Dr Kumi Naidoo, Secretary-General & CEO of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Mr Charles Abugre, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy for Christian Aid

Chaired by Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP, First Minister of the Scottish Parliament (*tbc, a member of the Scottish Executive is confirmed either way*)

The event has been coordinated in collaboration with the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly; the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the International Parliamentarians' Petition, who have all agreed to rally support for the event. It also benefits from major logistical back up provided by Oxfam International. It is also a key event in terms of *hearing from African speakers and the developments that they would like to see*.

It is hoped that over 200 international parliamentarians' and ambassadors can come together from around the globe in a show of unity on the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** day in Edinburgh. The George IV Bridge is only ten minutes away from the start line of the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** rally, which means this is a fantastic location for parliamentarians to make their way over to the rally and to show their support for the MPH campaign.

Given this is the only parliamentary event organised in Edinburgh, it will undoubtedly attract widespread media coverage with an excellent photo-opportunity for local and national press, (a giant white banner has kindly been made available). I would be absolutely delighted if you could make an appearance, not least to help make a positive impact for international civil society through your attendance.

Please RSVP to Matthew Hulbert (Tel: 02072198239 Fax: 02072191770) or hulbertm@parliament.uk as Coordinator of the Group. For logistical help and transport arrangements please contact Katy McDermott of Oxfam International on (01865 312339) kmcdermott@Oxfam.org.uk

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKechin

Ann McKechin MP
Chair of the APPG for Debt, Aid & Trade