

# Supporter Election Guide: Cancel the Debt



June 2024

This election we have a big opportunity to get the global debt crisis onto the political agenda. And with 54 countries in debt crisis, the urgency has never been greater.

Right now, political candidates of all colours will be vying for our votes. This makes the run up to the general election on 4<sup>th</sup> July a key time for us to be pushing candidates to answer questions about what they would do to bring an end to the biggest debt crisis in thirty years.

Below are some of the key ways that you can get the issue of lower-income country debt under candidates' noses, including some example questions.

## *Hustings events*

Hustings events are where candidates standing for election debate policies and answer questions from the audience. They can be themed around a particular topic, like climate or the cost-of-living crisis, but they can also be general.

Hustings are generally open to anyone. To find out where they're happening in your area, look in your local newspaper, community notice boards, libraries, doctors' surgeries, on local radio stations and in shop windows. Online, try checking [events listings pages like Eventbrite](#), looking on social media, in relevant local Facebook groups or by searching relevant hashtags.

## *On your doorstep*

Party activists may be knocking on your door or phoning you to see whether you would consider voting for them. This is a prime opportunity to question them on what their party would do to ensure debt cancellation for lower-income countries.

## *Get into the local press*

Local newspapers will be interested in publishing letters from residents which set out what their political priorities are. Local radio stations will also be hosting debates and phone ins discussing the issues that matter to people in the area. Try contacting your local media outlets to see if they'll cover the global debt crisis - you are more likely to get coverage if you explain why this issue matters to you personally, and why you think candidates should be responding to it.

You could also *submit a question to the leaders' debates*

The BBC are hosting many of the leaders' debates, and are asking members of the public to submit questions via their online form:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/send/u176326009>

### ***Suggested questions***

Below are some suggestions for questions you could put either to your local candidates or party leaders - your question is more likely to be picked if it's written in your own words but you can use these as a guide:

- I'm seeing more and more coverage in the news about how lower-income countries are facing the worst global debt crisis in 30 years. The UK governs most of the debt contracts between private lenders and countries in crisis - what would your party do to bring an end to the global debt crisis?
- It was recently revealed that the [debt payments by the most vulnerable lower-income countries to climate change have soared](#). What will your party do to help countries that are being hit by both debt and climate crisis?

For support in drafting your question or to let us know how you get on, drop an email to [info@debtjustice.org.uk](mailto:info@debtjustice.org.uk)

<p><b>About Debt Justice:</b> We are a campaigning organisation working with others to end unjust debt and the poverty and inequality it perpetuates, in the UK and across the world.</p>
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