

Jubilee Scotland

# Annual Report 2019-2020

## CAMPAIGNING FOR DEBT JUSTICE

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## **Our main campaign: Rethinking Private Financing**

This was a big year for Jubilee Scotland as we embarked on a campaign that brought things a little bit closer to home. We looked at the problem with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Scotland, long-term contracts where the private sector designs, builds, finances and operates an infrastructure project. Often with disastrous results. Our infrastructure is costing taxpayers billions more than it's actually worth, because of contracts that let private companies drain public funds year after year.

Private financing models that have been used in the UK since the early nineties, often seen as a way to build infrastructure like schools and hospitals quickly, but there have always been underlying problems with them. Unfinished and unsafe buildings, a lack of transparency or accountability and a heightened financial burden on local councils has made it unclear why we keep having to rely on these schemes.

The main focus of the campaign was to produce an extensive report which exposed the scale of the problem with Public Private Partnerships in Scotland and; pressure every party to commit to ending the use of PFIs in Scotland.

### **Conducting research with experienced campaigners**

Working with civil society organisations and leading academics in the field, we conducted research on not only why PPPs aren't working, but how we can stop them from having a larger financial impact on us in future. Collaborating with People vs PFI we were able to map the financial overview of PPPs in Scotland. This led us to questioning the unaudited accounts for three local councils to gain more insight into how much local councils are spending on old and newer PPP deals.

Discussions with two major trade unions, UNITE and UNISON helped us build a campaign strategy, as they have long criticised the use of PPPs. UNISON have called for the Scottish Government to act on buying back the most expensive PPP/PFI schemes, estimating that billions could be saved by restructuring and getting rid of them. We were able to learn from the wide range of work that both organisations have done on the issue. After looking at the situation locally we started to research how this subject affects people globally, and

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participated in an international PFI conference in Berlin to gather inspiration from how organisations around the world fight PFIs.

### **Putting pressure on MSPs to take action**

In order to pressure every party to commit to ending the use of PFIs in Scotland, we met with Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) from every party and found support among MSPs from the Scottish Greens, the Liberal Democrats and Labour. Neil Findlay - a Labour MSP - was so sympathetic towards the campaign that he tabled a motion against PPPs, posed questions about the PPP contracts in Parliament which we had formulated and hosted the launch of our report at Scottish Parliament.

A social media campaign was also launched to pressure MSPs to take action through a Write your MSP campaign, and we sent christmas cards to politicians to raise awareness of the event. We did two flyering events in Edinburgh where we highlighted how much public money is wasted on PFIs by using the case of the UK treasury having to pay £900 for PFI contractors to



put up a Christmas tree. We brought out a Christmas tree to the streets and flyered people with the question “how much would you pay someone to put up your Christmas tree?”. This was to encourage public awareness of PPPs and the Write your MSP campaign.

### **Launching our report**

With the wealth of research we had conducted, we produced a report that examined the situation of Scottish PPPs, [‘Rethinking Private Financing’](#). It was launched at Holyrood on the 29th of January 2020, co-sponsored by Neil Findlay MSP and attended by Scottish Green, Liberal Democrat and Labour MSPs, social policy campaigners and ally organisations such as Oxfam and UNISON.



*Photo from Report Launch, Scottish Parliament, 29/01/20*

Speaking at the event was [Helen Mercer](#) (from People vs PFIs), Malcolm Fraser (an Edinburgh architect working with the Common Weal and others to promote innovation and renewal in Scottish public life), [Dexter Whitfield](#) (Director of the European Services Strategy Unit who has researched and advised trade unions and public bodies on the impact of PPPs for 25 years), Jubilee Scotland Board member Gail Hurley and our Campaign Director Line Christensen.

In the report we emphasised the model of a *Local National Partnership* (as championed by Common Weal) to combat the current 'wild west' of private financing. In a Local National Partnership local authorities would be empowered to make better decisions about how to finance infrastructure, supported by a national body - which could take the form of a Scottish National Investment Company (SNIC) that can offer guidance to local councils in legal, energy and construction issues, looking over financing packages that fit them and avoiding the traps of short term thinking and expensive problems that come from these extended contracts. [A video was produced to explain how this model would work to promote the wider work of the report.](#)

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The report was shared with 18 news outlets and promoted on social media via blogs for our own site and featured on a newsletter for the Scottish International Development Alliance.

### **Book Launch & PPP Workshop**

Dexter Whitfield, one of the speakers at our report launch at Parliament released his new book 'Public Alternative to the Privatisation of Life' in January 2020 so we held a book launch for it in Edinburgh. Chaired by Robin Mcalpine of Common Weal, the launch was an opportunity to talk about the impact that privatisation has had on public services in the UK. Robin opened up a forum for discussion with the audience, eager to talk about how it has affected elements of their lives.



*Photo from Book Launch, Edinburgh, 28/01/20*

A month on from the launch of the report, we hosted a workshop alongside Clare Flenley, an expert on Participatory Budgeting and Irene Mckinnon of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO), who is work with the campaigns Democracy Matters and Meet

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your MSP. The aim of the workshop was to talk about our findings within the PPP campaign and empower people to take political action on issues that they are passionate about in their community.

All the work on PPPs in Scotland was made possible by a grant from Network for Social Change, which allowed us to focus on this campaign the whole year.

### **Other work throughout the year**

This year we've been strengthening our bonds with different organisations and taken part in a wide variety of events:

- In April 2019 we co-hosted a Solidarity Ceilidh with Global Justice Now, which was both a fundraising opportunity and a chance to talk to people about our work.
- On May Day 2019 we had a stall at the Pleasance Bar, which was an opportunity to meet the many politically engaged people taking part in Edinburgh events of the day.
- In August 2019 we were on a Just Festival panel entitled 'Transition from a consumer to a compassionate society and state'. It was Chaired by Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and put us in conversation with Lisa Hough-Stewart from the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.
- In September 2019 we took part in Doors Open Edinburgh, as tenants of Augustine Church. This year's theme was Global Connections, and alongside Christian Aid we had the chance to talk to visitors about our international work.
- In October 2019 we co-hosted a Climate Debt Workshop with Oxfam that brought engaged participants together to discuss the moral and legal implications of the issue during Edinburgh World Justice Festival.

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This year we joined Scotland's International Development Alliance (SIDA) - an organisation committed to creating a fairer world, free from poverty, injustice and environmental threats. After joining we [wrote a guest blog about PPPs in the global south](#) and have participated in many of their events, workshops and meetings.

We have also become a member of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. The UN Climate Summit of 2020 (COP26) will take place in Glasgow and we are looking to highlight the impact that climate debt is having on countries impacted by climate change. We hosted a Debt campaign COP26 call for the international Jubilee Network. On the call the participants from London, USA, Berlin, Eurodad and Latindadd had an opportunity to discuss plans for COP26 and coordinate climate debt related activities.

Despite our local focus this year, we have continued to engage with international debt issues through e.g. participating in EURODAD global debt coordination calls and by signing on to open letters to international organisations. Jubilee Scotland endorsed letters such as the open letter to IMF about the need to stop bailing out reckless lenders; a letter to the World Bank on the problems of education privatisation and; a Eurodad lobby letter on the UN debt resolution. We also endorsed a Eurodad call for the European Executive Directors to ensure the World Bank reorients its approach to PPPs - which of course was very timely for our PPP campaign.

## News from the organisation

This year Jubilee Scotland has welcomed three new staff members:

- **Line Kikkenborg Christensen** has been serving as Campaign Director of Jubilee Scotland since March 2019. Line has a background in Development and International relations, and did her PhD dissertation in Political Science. She makes sure everything is running smoothly in the office, that the campaigns are strong and appealing.
- **Anne Funnemark** joined Jubilee Scotland as Campaign Assistant in June 2019. Anne completed her undergraduate degree in International relations (MA) last year, and is currently studying for an LLM in Human Rights Law. Anne has been working hard at

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our PFI Campaign and making sure that we reached our ambitious goals.

- **Peter Carson** joined the team in December 2019, as our Communication and Admin Assistant. Peter is dedicated to building a strategy for the communications and social media of the organisation. He has a background in journalism, video production and live performance and has worked with the BBC, the Wee Review and Shortcom Film Festival.

Jubilee Scotland's Board of Directors have also grown. Two new Directors have joined the Board:

- **Katie Bailer** is an experienced audit manager with nearly 8 years of experience. She has worked in accounting in Hartford, Boston and Edinburgh, and has recently left accounting in pursuit of values-driven work in the third sector.
- **Gail Hurley** is an expert on development finance and serves on the . She is currently working as an independent advisor on sustainability and finance for several development organisations and foundations. She spent 10 years with the United Nations Development Programme in New York as a Senior Advisor on development finance, working to support developing countries to access the finance they need to fund development. Previously, she worked for the European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD) in Brussels where she led their debt advocacy work. Most recently, through the Global Ethical Finance Initiative, she provided advice on the ethical framework of the Scottish National Development Bank to be launched as a new entity later this year.

In January 2020 Jubilee Scotland embarked on a mentorship process with SIDA mentor Ceris Jones. Ceris has vast experience working with small organisations, helping them to reach their potential and review practises. The mentorship has allowed us to reflect on a broad range of issues within your organisation such as governance, financial management, partnership working and sustainability. Ceris facilitated an MOT - involving all the key players from the organisation - which has enabled us to review Jubilee Scotland's work both against a set of principles of good practice in international development and benchmarks of good operational practice.



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## Get involved

There are many ways to get involved with Jubilee Scotland's work:

- **Donate:** We rely on committed and engaged supporters to keep our campaigns going. You can make a donation or set up a monthly standing order with the following information, Account no.: 65196409, Sort Code: 08-92-99
- **Join our mailing list:** Stay up to date on the latest debt developments and opportunities to take action. Sign up on our website, or email us about it.
- **Promote our campaigns via social media:** find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram under the handle @jubileescotland
- **Join our board as an individual:** We are always looking for talented individuals willing to donate their time and skills. Read more about this on our website (under About us → Jobs and Volunteering)
- **Take action:** Check out our website for the latest debt justice campaigns, or talk to us about if there are any volunteer opportunities in campaigns we are running.
- **Write for our website:** If there's a debt justice issue that you're particularly interested in then write about it and we shall feature your piece on our website
- **Become a member:** Organisations can join Jubilee Scotland as members. Contact us to hear more about membership fees and how we can collaborate. Member organisations can nominate a representative to our board and have a say in the running of the organisation and its campaigns.

If you have questions about any of these way to get involved, email us at [mail@jubileescotland.org.uk](mailto:mail@jubileescotland.org.uk) or visit our website: [www.jubileescotland.org.uk](http://www.jubileescotland.org.uk)