



News Release

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AN AFRICAN SCANDAL?

For immediate release

Christian Aid presents ***An African Scandal?*** – an event addressing the issues highlighted in a Channel 4 documentary 'The Great African Scandal', which exposes the scandal behind some of the rice, chocolate and gold sold on our high streets, and discovers how unfair economic policies are crippling farmers and locking their families into a life of deprivation. It takes place at the Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol on Wednesday 27 February at 7pm, as part of a national tour. It will feature clips from the documentary and a performance from the Bristol based Renewal Choir. Sherrie Eugene will lead panel discussions that will include special guests, including Adjoa Andoh (from Casualty and Eastenders), Dr Robert Beckford, Vernon Samuels and Pastor Edson Maburutse, with questions from the audience. There will be free refreshments and goodie bags.

Last year, with Christian Aid's support, academic, theologian and filmmaker Dr. Robert Beckford travelled to Ghana to find out why, after 50 years of independence, a country so rich in natural resources remains trapped in poverty. His journey was documented in the Channel 4 film 'The Great African Scandal'. Dr Beckford said: 'As a theologian, justice and the ongoing fight for change are central to my writing, teaching and film-making'.

Christian Aid's trade campaign partners have focused on the rice sector in Ghana for many years. Damaging conditions attached to World Bank and IMF loans have forced the country to open its markets to foreign produce and prevented the government from supporting its own farmers. Local farmers used to supply around 50per cent of their domestic market, but as rice imports have flooded in, especially from the USA, local rice farmers have seen their market share collapse.

Mohammed Adam Nashiru, a rice farmer from Botanga, Ghana said 'We are being cheated...pushed to the wall'

Christian Aid has worked in Ghana since the 1970s and funds programmes through eight local partner organisations, some of which campaign on economic justice issues.

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For press information contact Ruth Davey or Martin Parkes on 01454 415923

Notes to editors

- 1. For more information please call the Christian Aid Bristol Office 01454 415923**
- 2. Each event will include clips from the Channel 4 programme, a panel discussion with questions from the audience and special guest appearances. Dr Robert Beckford will participate in the events. Refreshments will be provided. Entry is Free.**
- 3. Christian Aid is an international development agency working in 50 countries with people of all religions and none.**