



National Catholic Student Coalition

45 Lovett Avenue † Newark, DE 19711
www.catholicstudent.org † ncsc@catholicstudent.org

NCSC/RES/2001[1]

POSITION PAPER - Cancellation of the World Debt

Whereas:

- The National Catholic Student Coalition [NCSC] is committed to participating actively in the Roman Catholic Church and to representing U.S. Catholic students in national and international forums; and
- The NCSC stands firmly against any attack on the dignity and inherent worth of all human life.

Concerned with the widespread poverty in the world.

In the Spirit of Leviticus 25:8-12, which calls us to forgive debt in Jubilee years.

Taking note of:

- The 2.8 billion people, out of the 6 billion total of the world, who live on less than \$2 a day and the 1.2 billion who live on less than \$1 a day; c
- The promise made by President Clinton with the Cologne Initiative to forgive 100 percent of the debts owed to the United States by the world's most heavily indebted poor countries.

Recognizing foreign external debt as one of the contributing factors to poverty.

Acknowledging:

- The call of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* to reduce "if not canceling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations;" and
- The call of United States Catholic Conference in its April 1999 statement to "stand with the poor in their just call" for debt relief.

Be it resolved that:

- We, as the NCSC are challenged by the Church's teaching of a preferential option for the poor;
- We, as the NCSC accept that challenge and work to alleviate poverty both within the United States, as well as in the world; and that
- We, as the NCSC urge all governments especially the United States, intergovernmental institutions such as the United Nations or the World Bank, as well as Church leaders to work on effective methods to alleviate poverty, including debit cancellation.



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Sponsored by: Kevin Ahern, Fordham University, Northeast Regional Team

Presented and accepted by the NCSC at the 17th annual leadership conference, in Louisville, KY December 2000.

[1] USCCB, *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* , November 14th, 2001

[2] Catholic Relief Services "What do you know about Africa" from the packet "Africa Rising Hope and Healing" Summer 2001

[3] USCCB, *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* , November 14th, 2001

[4] The NCSC is the US Federation of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana). Through this membership the NCSC is connected to the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana) and the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS). All three have strong presences in Africa.

[5] Monterrey, Mexico, March 18-22, 2002

[6] World Development Report 2000/20001: *Attacking Poverty.*” World Bank. Washington D.C. 2000

[7] “A Jubilee Call for Debt Forgiveness: A Statement by the Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference.” April 1999.