

# AFRICA MATTERS MODULE

A learning opportunity for you which has been developed by Amicus in partnership with the University of Leeds and Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA).

It is funded by the Department for International Development through the TUC.

The primary aim of this learning opportunity is to provide you and your colleagues with the knowledge and resources to become actively involved in Amicus' Africa Matters Campaign.

**The Africa Matters Campaign seeks to raise awareness about aid, trade, debt, HIV/Aids and human rights in Africa. You are encouraged to get involved:**

## **As an individual:**

- Supporting campaigns run by Amicus and Actsa and campaign groups about the situation in Africa.
- Informing yourself on issues affecting Africa.

## **Through your union:**

- Finding out what Amicus is doing nationally and getting involved.
- Finding out what the global federation representing your sector is doing and getting involved in supporting their campaigns.
- Finding out if Amicus has links with any of its sister unions in Africa, and thinking about setting up a formal link between your branch and one in an African country.

## **At work:**

- Finding out about the organisation you work for and, if it has African operations, building links with the African unions representing your co-workers.
- Spreading the message about Africa in your workplace
- Taking up direct practical links with sister unions in Africa
- Encouraging your workplace group to get involved in specific campaigns about Africa
- Persuading your branch to affiliate to Action for Southern Africa to provide ongoing support and be kept up to date.

*amicus*  
the union

**ACTSA**  
Action for  
Southern Africa



2005 is a critical year for Africa. In the wake of the Commission for Africa report and with the UK taking over the presidency of the G8 and the EU, it is time for the talking to stop and for action to start. Africa should not be poor - it has been made poor. Africa doesn't want charity; it wants justice.

Since Africa Matters was launched by the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown in May 2004, visiting African trade unionists have met with Amicus members in their work places and shared with them first hand what is happening in Africa. As part of this campaign Amicus members are urged to sign up for the Africa Matters module - through this I hope that Amicus members will set up practical relationships with their sister trade unions in Africa which will benefit all workers.

**Derek Simpson, General Secretary**



[www.harriet please supply](http://www.harrietplease.org)



## Who are the partners?

Amicus has 1.2 million members working in the public and private sectors in such areas as Manufacturing, Finance, Health, Graphic/Print and Media, Higher Education and the Voluntary Sector. Amicus has links with unions across the globe and campaigns vigorously for international solidarity.

The University of Leeds has been providing learning opportunities for Amicus members for many years. The University of Leeds has worked with Amicus in developing accredited courses and pathways into further learning opportunities for union members such as the new Building Bridges into Higher Education initiative.

Action for South Africa (ACTSA), is a partner with Amicus in the Africa Matters campaign. ACTSA campaigns with the people of Southern Africa as they strive to build a better future. ACTSA influences decision-makers in Britain and Europe on policies that affect Southern Africa through lobbying, the publication of reports, briefings and media work.

## Who are the potential Learners?

The Africa Matters module is designed for Amicus members who want to learn more about the issues affecting Africa in an accessible way and who want to do more as individuals or as a workplace group on Africa.

## Regional Seminars

You will be given the opportunity of attending a half day Regional Seminar. These seminars will introduce you to the module and give you an opportunity to find out more about studying at a distance. But more than this you will hear firsthand from a visiting African trade unionist about what is happening in Africa.

“ I have had the opportunity to visit Amicus members in their workplace on more than one occasion. Such meetings have been crucial in getting word out to our sisters and brothers in Amicus in the UK about what is happening here in Zimbabwe. Through such exchanges we have been able to get real support from British trade unionists.

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Colin Gwiyo, President Zimbabwean Banking and Allied Workers Union and Deputy General Secretary of the Zimbabwean Congress for Trade Unions



## What will the Africa Matters Module cover?

The Africa Matters module will:

- Provide a short historical introduction to the contexts that have shaped African countries.
- introduce Amicus members to a number of key issues facing the peoples and countries of Africa today. These include issues such as health (aids), economic development (trade, aid, poverty) and security (trade unions, democracy).
- encourage Amicus members to design and implement initiatives that develop links and solidarity activities between trade unionists here and in southern Africa.

## Aims of Africa Matters module

The Africa Matters module seeks to equip you to:

- Understand the current African context within a global and divided world and the role African trade unions play.
- Promote the involvement of members in your workplace in Development matters within Amicus.
- Explore and practice concrete measures of support and solidarity involving the workplace, trade union and the wider community including organising across borders in multinational companies.
- Identify and involve other trade unions, agencies and groups in the Africa Matters and ACTSA campaigns.
- Be familiar with the wider policy framework and initiatives involving Africa and poverty reduction and the role of trade unions in developing the policy agenda.
- Understand the trade union role in poverty reduction around the world and their contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

## Is the Africa Matters module accredited?

The Africa Matters module will be accredited by the Open College Network. This will enable you to claim credits at Levels 1, 2 and 3 on successful completion of the module. These nationally recognised credits can be used, along with other credits awarded through other Amicus education courses, to access further learning opportunities through Amicus and through Further and Higher Education institutions.



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



Gerry McCann

## How can I study?

You will be able to choose the way in which you wish to study in a flexible manner and at your own pace. Therefore the module will be offered as a distance learning opportunity in both paper-based and on-line forms. The module will require you to carry out some research and involves some written tasks. It is hoped that you will be able to enjoy using the module to develop networks of Amicus members who can participate in joint campaigns in support of African trade unionists.

## How will I be supported in my studies?

On registration you will be allocated an experienced tutor who will help you develop your understanding of southern Africa and your solidarity plans.

## How much will it cost?

If you apply to study this module and commence your studies prior to 31st March 2006 you will not be required to pay any fee. The union will review any cost applying to this module after this date.

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*Amicus has a long history of international solidarity and I applaud the work Amicus members have been doing to increase awareness about Africa. I commend the Africa Matters module as an effective way of building practical links with southern African trade unionists.*

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## Further learning opportunities available through Amicus

It is hoped that you will use your credits from this module to access further learning opportunities offered by Amicus. Full details of the residential, regional and distance learning opportunities made available by Amicus can be obtained from the Education Department at Hayes Court. To find out more contact Joanne Ferry on 0208 462 7755 or at [joanne.ferry@amicustheunion.org](mailto:joanne.ferry@amicustheunion.org)

Website address

## Next steps

If you are interested in finding out more about the Africa Matters module you can contact Andy Murray, Amicus Education Officer, on 07768 931290 or [andrew.murray@amicustheunion.org](mailto:andrew.murray@amicustheunion.org). To find out details regarding your local Africa Matters Regional Seminar contact your Regional Secretary.



Pictures: Gerry McCann

# APPLICATION FORM FOR CAMPAIGN INFORMATION PACK

**Please fill in this form if you would like us to send you a Campaign Information Pack which includes an application form for the Africa Matters module.**

Once you enrol for the module, which will be available from September 2005, a copy of the materials will be sent to you:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone Number:..... Email:.....

Membership Number:..... Workplace or Branch:.....

Return this slip to: Harriet Eisner, International Department, Amicus, 35 Kings Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8JG