

Our four strategic workstreams / What we are doing and why

Financial secrecy

Financial secrecy drives economic instability and facilitates illicit financial flows, including tax avoidance, tax evasion and corruption. We produce research that ranks countries by the degree and scale of secrecy offered to clients (the Financial Secrecy Index) and by the extent to which their corporate tax system facilitates avoidance (the Corporate Tax Haven Index). We promote policy solutions to improve transparency, including automatic information exchange, public registers of beneficial ownership and public country-by-country reporting.

Scale of tax injustice

Tax avoidance and evasion increase economic inequality and distort economies, especially in low-income countries. We undertake research that provides reliable estimates of the scale of the problem. We support international processes to track and/or curtail tax injustice, such as SDG indicator 16.4 and BEPS indicator 11. We advocate to reform the global tax architecture (such as setting up a globally representative intergovernmental tax body) and rules (such as replacing the arms-length principle with unitary taxation).

Human rights

Global tax injustice worsens inequality (especially for women). When that inequality reaches a point where some cannot meet their basic needs, it threatens their human rights. We develop conceptual frameworks to map the intersection between tax, inequality and individual rights. This supports global and country-level advocacy, led by civil society, governments and international institutions, to ensure that global human rights standards and treaties include tax justice clauses and hold national governments accountable to them.

Race to the bottom

Competition between countries to reduce tax rates and regulation (the race to the bottom) is bad for everyone, creating distortions and inequality; but any country can opt out. We produce evidence of the damage done by competition between countries and by oversized financial sectors that distort economies (the 'finance curse'). We also look at the benefits of higher tax rates, reduced tax incentives, better financial sector regulation, and more balanced economies. We produce films, articles and reports to raise awareness and change the narrative.

Plans for 2020 and 2021 / New activities and funding needs

Financial secrecy

We are producing the next Financial Secrecy Index in 2020 and the next Corporate Tax Haven Index in 2021. We need to raise an extra £270,000 per year to cover the research team and £30,000 per year for comms work.

Scale of tax injustice

We plan to produce a flagship annual report on the state of tax justice, which will cost £100,000 per year. We also want to hire a staff member to focus on advocacy with the UN and OECD, which will cost £60,000 per year.

Human rights

We need to raise an extra £60,000 per year to cover our existing staff member, £50,000 per year to hire a staff member to support the human rights research work, and £15,000 per year to cover external consultancy support.

Race to the bottom

We need £100,000 per year to fund the two staff members who are producing research reports and films on this subject, as well as £30,000 per year for comms support. Film production is being financed separately.

We also need to invest in our institutional capacity to build a sustainable and successful organisation. We are therefore looking to raise £143,000 per year on top of the £715,000 above to invest in core costs.