## **Turn Debt into Hope**

## The Jubilee tradition, historically one of restoration and release, is a call to free those oppressed by unpayable debts, offering them a renewed path and hope towards human dignity. In response to Pope Francis’ heartfelt appeal to cancel unjust debt – a call that echoes the profound principles of the Jubilee year – Caritas Internationalis launched a one-year Jubilee campaign called “Turn Debt into Hope”.

## In partnership with Caritas Internationalis, we are calling on world leaders to:

## Stop the debt crisis now by cancelling unjust debts

## Prevent future debt crises by reforming the global financial system to prioritise people and the planet

## Establish a binding debt framework within the United Nations.

## **Relay of Hope**

## The **Relay of Hope** is a symbolic gesture on a global scale proposed by Caritas Internationalis as part of the **Turn Debt into Hope** campaign for the 2025 Jubilee. Inspired by the Olympic torch, this candle-lighting activity reflects our shared mission to spread light, life and hope. Rooted in the official Jubilee theme of *Pilgrims of Hope*, the *Relay of Hope* will connect communities worldwide and symbolize our unity and solidarity in calling for debt and economic justice.

## This gesture was chosen because **light** represents hope that the Jubilee principles will inspire much-needed change. The **relay** signifies the Caritas family and wider global community journeying collectively to spiritual and social transformation. **Each lit candle** represents a call to action for debt justice and turning debt into hope.

## **When?**

## Although it can be done at any time in the *Jubilee Year*, we are invited to especially organize a *Relay of Hope* during the **Season of Creation** between Monday 1 September and Saturday 4 October 2025. This will contribute to a wave of action around the world, forming a symbolic chain of unity and solidarity.

## **Materials**

## Provide candles and a match/lighter for the group or ask participants to bring their own candles.

## Bring printed copies of the [petition](https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/tdih-petition/) to be signed during the event. Or, share the link to sign the online [petition](https://www.caritas.org.au/debt-petition).

## **During the Event**

## **Welcome the participants**

## Share information about the campaign, invite them to sign the petition, ensure that everyone has a candle.

## **Explain the purpose of the event**

## Say why it is taking place during *Season of Creation*. Talk about the message of the global *Turn Debt into Hope*campaign, which calls for debt justice and economic transformation. Emphasise that each lit candle will represent a call to action for debt justice.

## **Start the Relay of Hope**

## Have people line up, side-by-side or a stand in an inward-facing circle with their unlit candles in their hands. Explain that the flame will be shared from one candle to the next.

### Instruct people to say “Turn Debt into Hope” out aloud (or a prayer or wish of no more than a few words for the easing of poor countries’ debts) when lighting their candles.

### Light the first person’s candle and have them pass the flame on to the next person’s candle, and so on.

### Continue until all the candles are lit.

### Take a photo to share and inspire others.

## **Finish the Relay of Hope**

## Reiterate the importance of acting in this *Jubilee Year* to cancel the unjust debts of countries that will never be able to repay them.

### Adapt the [short talk to sign the petition](https://devp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Short_Talk_Sign_Lent_2025.pdf)to invite people once again to sign the petition (on paper or online at [caritas.org.au/debt-petition](http://www.caritas.org.au/debt-petition)) and ask them to share it in their networks.

### Conclude the event with a moment of reflection by reading the campaign’s [Prayer for wisdom and justice in addressing external debt](https://devp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/EN_prayer_card_2025.pdf).

## **After the Event**

## To show the scale of this movement, share any photos or videos online and tag Caritas Australia.

## Use the hashtags #TurnDebtIntoHope #RelayOfHope #Jubilee2025

## Let us know that you have completed your relay by emailing us at act@caritas.org.au.

## We will let Caritas Internationalis know about your event so they can add it to their map showing where Relays of Hope have taken place around the globe.

**Additional Resources**

* [Turn Debt into Hope – Parish PowerPoint](https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/tdih-parish-ppt/)
* [Turn Debt into Hope Petition](https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/tdih-petition/)
* [Turn Debt into Hope Webinar](https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/tdih-webinar-recording/)