

Synagogue Action Guide 2009



Unfair trade rules continue to lock millions of people in the developing world in poverty. Two billion people – a third of humanity – work hard to support themselves yet still struggle to survive on £1 per day or less. Through Fairtrade we are trying to help tip the balance of trade in favour of poor farmers and workers. Fairtrade also provides us as shoppers the opportunity to fulfil our responsibilities to our neighbours in our efforts of *Tikkun Olam* (healing the world). You can help by taking action in Fairtrade Fortnight (23 February – 8 March 2009) and throughout the year.

צדק צדק
תרדף

Justice, justice
shall you pursue
Deuteronomy 16:20



Tea producers in Sri Lanka

Thamara Weerasena (43) is married to Sugath Nuwarage (52) and they own a tea farm in Sri Lanka. For years the family struggled to meet their living costs because their sparse tea bushes were neglected and provided little income for the family. The prices paid by middlemen were so low that investing time and money to improve the crops was not worthwhile. Income from Sugath's work as a driver was never enough but Thamara struggled to continue sending the children to school, at times taking high interest loans from banks, pawning her jewellery to pay the interest.

The family's circumstance has greatly improved since Small Organic Farmers' Association (SOFA) was established. Thamara can now sell all her tea directly to Bio Foods, a Sri Lankan exporter, at a Fairtrade price of 31 Sri Lankan rupees per kg (about 18 pence), much higher than the 15 Sri Lankan rupees per kg (about nine pence) paid by local intermediaries. Fairtrade guarantees that producers receive a minimum price which covers the cost of sustainable production and means can Thamara can afford to continue her children's education.

On top of the minimum price producers also receive an extra amount of money, the Fairtrade premium, to invest in projects that will benefit the whole community. The co-operative decided to use some of the premium to improve their crops. They are growing their new tea plants organically. Thamara is much happier working without the chemicals that used to make her ill and her tea leaf production has increased nearly tenfold. The Fairtrade premium has been used to repair and build new roads around the farms, enabling farmers to transport their crops to the market much more easily. SOFA have also used the premium to provide low interest loans to farmers. Thamara has been able to buy roof sheets and other materials to improve and extend her house. Fairtrade has made Thamara feel much more hopeful for her, and her children's future.



Fairtrade Synagogues

More than 4,500 places of worship have met the goals to become a Fairtrade Synagogue, Church or Mosque. On becoming a Fairtrade Synagogue you receive a certificate to display to tell people you have made a commitment to Fairtrade.

You can apply to be a Fairtrade Synagogue if your synagogue council has agreed to meet the following goals:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all synagogue meetings for which you have responsibility
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, juice and fruit
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and other times of the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

New resource coming soon!

In February 2009 a new educational resource, produced by the Jewish community and the Fairtrade Foundation will be available to order. As well as information about Fairtrade and producer profiles, *A Jewish Guide to Fairtrade* will contain Jewish sources and ideas for actions you can take to let your family, friends and the wider community know about Fairtrade.

MAKE IT HAPPEN
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE



What can you do for Fairtrade?



During Fairtrade Fortnight 23 February – 8 March 2009

- Be part of a Fairtrade World Record. Get your synagogue and local schools involved in the Fairtrade banana eating record attempt during Fairtrade Fortnight! Look out for more information on this event on our website: www.fairtrade.org.uk/gobananas
- Attend one of the thousands of fayres, talks, film showings and other Fairtrade events taking place between 23 February and 8 March 2009. Check out our online events calendar www.fairtrade.org.uk/events to see what's going near you
- Organise a talk or debate about Fairtrade and trade justice in your synagogue. There is more information in the Fairtrade Fortnight Action Guide or a presentation for you to download from our website: www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources
- Hold a film showing of *Black Gold*, *The Great African Scandal* or other films about Fairtrade. You can also find several short films on our website or order the DVD: www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/films

Coffee, tea, herbal teas, chocolate, cocoa, sugar, bananas, grapes, pineapples, mangoes, avocados, apples, citrus & other fresh fruits, dried fruit, juices, smoothies, biscuits, cakes & snacks, honey, jam & preserves, rice, quinoa, herbs & spices, seeds, nuts, spirits, ale, confectionery, muesli, cereal bars, oils, yoghurt, ice cream, flowers, sports balls, sugar body scrub, cosmetics, cotton products including homeware, cloth toys and cotton wool

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Throughout the year

- Look for products with the FAIRTRADE Mark and tell your friends and family about Fairtrade
- Run a Fairtrade session with your youth group – you can get ideas for activities by visiting www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/support_resources
- Hold a blind taste testing event to see which Fairtrade teas and coffees come out on top!
- Buy Fairtrade products for your *Kiddush*
- Hang Fairtrade fruit in your *Succah*
- Use Fairtrade products in your *Bar/Bat Mitzva* celebrations, weddings and other life cycle events
- Sell Fairtrade products regularly at your synagogue. Find out about Traidcraft schemes to help you here: www.traidcraft.co.uk/buying_fair_trade/fair_traders and www.traidcraft.co.uk/caterer



Hot Tip

Let local journalists know about your events. It will raise publicity for your event and let your local community know what your synagogue is doing for trade justice.

Resources

- Order the Fairtrade Fortnight Action Guide packed with ideas and events that will help raise awareness of the FAIRTRADE Mark or view it online: www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources
- Order promotional materials and merchandise for your Fairtrade event from posters and leaflets to inflatable bananas and Fairtrade bunting. Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources
- Sign up to our campaigns e-newsletter which goes out every month with the latest news and information www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/newsletter_signup.aspx



Kosher Fairtrade products

The Really Jewish Food Guide 2009 will highlight Fairtrade products which are kosher and *A Jewish Guide to Fairtrade* will give more information about where these can be bought.