

Come On In! - A Round-up of Fairtrade Fortnight!

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight was one of the best yet and a big thank you to all parliamentarians who were involved in some way – whether it was attending the parliamentary reception, meeting with a local Fairtrade school or business, writing an article in your local paper or speaking in the Westminster Hall debate. As ever, the stars of the show were our Fairtrade producers from Uganda, Panama, India and Indonesia, who battled the 'Beast from the East' to share their stories up and down the country, of producing Fairtrade coffee and bananas.



Over 80 MPs and Peers joined us to hear from Fairtrade producers, **DFID Minister Lord Bates**, to meet Fairtrade supporter **Nick Hewer**, and sample some Fairtrade Ben & Jerry's! Thank you also to the Co-op and Greggs who also spoke, pupils from The Gilbert School in Colchester and APPG co-Chairs, Holly Lynch MP and Will Quince MP. During Fairtrade Fortnight, MPs also participated in a **Westminster Hall debate** which touched on a number of important Fairtrade issues – thanks to Labour & Co-operative MP, **Geraint Davies**, who secured the debate.

Fairtrade & Global Challenges – APPG Q&A

Please put **Tuesday 26th June** in your diaries now! The Fairtrade APPG will be hearing from Darío Soto Abril, the CEO of Fairtrade International. This will be a chance for MPs & Peers to hear about the challenges and opportunities for Fairtrade globally – from Brexit to tackling Modern Slavery, please come with your questions!

The meeting will take place from **2.30-4pm** in **Committee Room 12**.



Please contact the APPG to RSVP via the co-Chairs, Holly Lynch MP and Will Quince MP, or via: helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk



Fairtrade producer, **Ketra Kyosiimere**, meeting with DFID & FCO Minister, **Harriett Baldwin MP**, at an event during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Calling for a Fashion Revolution!

The Fairtrade Foundation was happy to support Fashion Revolution Week in April and their campaign, 'Who Made My Clothes?' 5 years on from the Rana Plaza tragedy, many workers, the majority of whom are women, continue to be exploited in garment supply chains. Fairtrade launched a new video, [Unravelling the Thread: the Story of Cotton](#), to help young people understand the impact of fast fashion. To hear more about Fairtrade's work on cotton and textiles, please contact helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk

Fairtrade and Brexit

Brexit continues to be a big theme for the Fairtrade Foundation, as we seek to understand its implications for the UK's trade with developing countries, and for the particular commodities that comprise the bulk of the Fairtrade market: coffee, sugar, tea, bananas, sugar and flowers.

MPs and Peers may have read our briefings on both the **Trade and Taxation (Cross-Border Trade) Bills**, and we will prepare a further briefing, once the date for Third Reading and Report Stage is announced. We would be happy to speak with any MPs and Peers about Brexit and Fairtrade, and to share our analysis of the different ways that trade with developing countries may be affected. One aspect of trade policy requiring urgent attention is **trade governance**, especially the role of parliament in the scrutiny and approval of trade deals. Interesting papers have recently been published including by the [International Chambers of Commerce](#), and we are pleased to see that a new Inquiry has been launched by the International Trade Committee. Please contact helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk for more information.

Fairtrade & the Commonwealth

In February, the Fairtrade Foundation published a report exploring opportunities for promoting and developing [Fairtrade across the Commonwealth](#). Trade was much more prominent than before on the CHOGM agenda and so we were keen to see debate on the terms of trade and its impact on the poorest farmers and workers. The report included recommendations on women's economic empowerment, modern slavery and living wages and incomes, some of which were taken up at the Summit itself. Fairtrade leaders from around the world wrote an open letter which was published in The Telegraph, and we were delighted to get a mention on Thought for the Day.

This report built on evidence that our CEO gave last year to the Trade out of Poverty APPG Inquiry: 'Can the Commonwealth help developing countries trade out of poverty?' We were pleased to see that our recommendation for a 'Fair & Sustainable Trade Initiative' was proposed in their final report, and we look forward to working with them to develop this idea further. [Why not have a read of our blog!](#)

New Chair for the Fairtrade Foundation

The Fairtrade Foundation is delighted that **Lord Mark Price**, former Trade Minister and former Managing Director of Waitrose will be taking on the role as Chair of Trustees. Lord Price will take up his role with us in September.

Where next for the Groceries Code Adjudicator?

The Fairtrade Foundation has been part of a coalition calling for an extension of the GCA's remit to cover indirect suppliers, and we were disappointed by the government's response in February which falls short of this, despite support for an extension from the EFRA Committee.

Tackling unfair trading practices remains a key priority and we are pleased to see positive [developments at an EU level](#) to strengthen the position of farmers in supply chains.

To read our statement following announcement of the planned Sainsbury's/Asda merger, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ybm9evtv>

Parliamentary Inquiries

In addition to the Brexit-related inquiries mentioned above, the Fairtrade Foundation was also asked to give oral evidence to the International Trade Committee's inquiry into the **Trade and the Commonwealth: Developing Countries**.



More recently, we have also submitted evidence to the International Development Committee (IDC) Inquiry into **DFID's Economic Development Strategy**. You can read our submissions online or by emailing helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk for a copy!

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