



Fairtrade All-Party Parliamentary Group

Report for AGM, 12th September 2018

Introduction

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Fairtrade was formed in late 2015, with initial members from Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP and SDLP. The co-Chairs were agreed as Jason McCartney (former Con MP, Colne Valley) and Holly Lynch MP (Lab, Halifax).

At the Inaugural Meeting in 2017 following the General Election, Holly Lynch MP (Lab, Halifax) and Will Quince MP (Con, Colchester), were elected as the co-Chairs and the following were elected to serve as Vice-Chairs: Stephen Doughty MP, Gareth Snell MP, Maggie Throup MP, Catherine McKinnell MP and Cat Smith MP.

The stated purpose of the Fairtrade APPG is: *“To promote Fairtrade within Parliament; to deepen the relationship between local Fairtrade organisations and parliamentarians; and to further raise awareness of the importance of Fairtrade”.*

Fairtrade APPG Activities

- 1) The **Fairtrade APPG was reconstituted** on the 12th July 2017, with an inaugural meeting, discussion of Fairtrade activities and a ‘photo drop-in’, which enabled MPs and Peers to publicly show their support for Fairtrade. Twenty-eight parliamentarians participated in this event, a number of them sharing their support for Fairtrade on social media.



APPG co-Chairs, Will Quince MP and Holly Lynch MP with Fairtrade Foundation CEO, Michael Gidney

- 2) The Fairtrade APPG was keen to better understand the decision by Sainsbury’s (a long-standing Fairtrade-supporting retailer) to move away from Fairtrade certification in tea and pilot its own ‘Fairly Traded’ range. To this end, representatives from **Sainsbury’s were invited to attend an APPG meeting in September 2017**, to present details of the pilot and to answer questions from members. Minutes of this meeting are available on request. A number of APPG members took the initiative following this meeting, to seek some

clarification on the marketing of 'Fairly Traded' tea from the Advertising Standards Authority. This case was resolved in March 2018.

- 3) In November 2017, the Fairtrade APPG was kindly invited by the APPG for the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development to jointly host a meeting on '**Post-Brexit Trade Policy and the SDGs**'. This meeting was chaired by Lord Jack McConnell and co-Chair Holly Lynch MP was invited to say a few words. The panel included contributions from Liz May of Fair Trade Organisation, Traidcraft, and representatives from the African Union and from UNECA. This was a public meeting and attended by around 35 people, including parliamentarians.
- 4) The Fairtrade APPG hosted the annual **Fairtrade Fortnight reception** in February 2018 ahead of Fortnight itself which ran from 26th February – 11th March. The event took place in the Jubilee Room and records show that the event was attended by **88 parliamentarians** – a Fortnight record! We were delighted to have support at the event from Fairtrade supporter Nick Hower, from a number of commercial partners including from Greggs and the Co-op, Fairtrade-certified ice-cream courtesy of Ben & Jerry's, and a wonderful contribution from pupils at Gilbert School in Colchester, which has 'Fairtrade school' status. Four Fairtrade producers were also in attendance and guests heard from Fr John Joseph who heads up a coffee and spices co-operative in Kerala in Southern India. Marcial Quintero, from Coobana in Panama, the banana co-operative featured in this year's Fairtrade Fortnight, was also in attendance. The APPG also heard from DFID Minister Lord Bates who focused his remarks on the forthcoming Commonwealth Summit, drawing on a Fairtrade Foundation publication, available for guests, which focused on opportunities for promoting and growing fair and ethical trade across the Commonwealth.



- 5) During the course of Fairtrade Fortnight, we estimate that **38 MPs took some kind of additional action to support and promote Fairtrade**. This included a number of local newspaper articles, attendance at local constituency events, blogs and social media support, and participation in a **Westminster Hall debate** led by Geraint Davies MP. DFID Minister, Harriett Baldwin MP, spoke for the government at that debate and praised the role of the APPG in, *“keeping that value brand (Fairtrade) at the forefront of our minds during Fairtrade Fortnight”*. After a significant and supportive speech, the Minister concluded that, *“The Government will continue to champion trade that is free and fair and that helps to tackle the exploitation of workers; create a trade system that works for everyone, including the very poorest; and eliminate poverty through inclusive economic growth.”*

- 6) Before the summer recess, the **Fairtrade APPG held a meeting with Fairtrade International CEO, Dario Soto Abril**. This was a wide-ranging discussion with Dario speaking about key opportunities and challenges for Fairtrade producers including low prices and climate change. He also answered questions about the Latin American context and the particular role that Fairtrade can play in post-conflict peacebuilding.

APPG co-Chair Holly Lynch MP also spoke at the Fairtrade Supporters’ Conference in London last autumn.

APPG Plans for the Coming Year

Initial discussion and ideas for the coming year have included:

- A follow-up on Fairtrade and Brexit (scheduled to take place at the 2018 AGM);
- An opportunity to hear more about the ‘Fairtrade University & Colleges’ scheme;
- A focused event on Fairtrade and ‘Women’s Economic Empowerment’;
- An in-depth discussion on living incomes in cocoa supply chains.

Fairtrade APPG members may also be interested in attending the Fairtrade Foundation’s forthcoming ‘Commercial Conference’ on the 10th October where there will be a keynote speech from incoming Chair, Lord Mark Price, and discussion on a range of themes including gender, transparency and the achievement of living incomes. Please contact Helen Dennis for more information: helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk

Fairtrade Foundation Update

Latest global figures show that there are now 1.66m Fairtrade farmers and workers in 73 countries. The Fairtrade Foundation’s [annual report](#) has been published showing that Fairtrade retail sales have increased by 7% in the last year. This has resulted from key commitments including a commitment from Waitrose to certify 100% of its own-brand tea, a commitment from the Co-operative to sell 100% of its African roses as Fairtrade, a 30% growth in Fairtrade wine sales, and a commitment from Ben & Jerry’s to use Fairtrade cocoa from Cote D’Ivoire in its new dairy-free range of ice-cream.

In 2017, the Fairtrade Foundation also pioneered a new approach for working with small-scale gold miners and at a launch event in autumn 2017, unveiled the world’s first Fairtrade gold from Africa.

This was accompanied by a photography exhibition, “The Mine to Maker” which toured the country providing a visual insight into the reality faced by mining communities in Busia, Uganda.

Public awareness and trust in Fairtrade continues to climb and the Foundation’s latest figures show that 24% of consumers are making an active choice to buy Fairtrade products.

The Fairtrade Foundation’s current Chair Michael Jary is stepping down and that leadership role will be taken up by Lord Mark Price from September 2018.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 featured the Coobana Co-operative in Panama through the theme, ‘Come On In!’ and events were held up and down the country. In addition to the APPG-led events that are described in the section above, the Fairtrade Foundation also participated in an event with the Conservative Christian Fellowship (CCF). Ketra Kyosiimere, a coffee producer from Uganda, presented to those attending and met with DFID Minister for Africa, Harriett Baldwin.

The Fairtrade Foundation’s Policy & Advocacy team has had a busy year, providing input to a number of government consultations and Select Committee Inquiries. This includes submissions to DIT’s Trade White Paper and DEFRA’s ‘Health and Harmony’ consultations, and written input to inquiries among other things, on DFID’s Economic Development Strategy, Post-Brexit Sugar Policy and Trade and the Commonwealth: Developing Countries. Oral evidence was provided to the last of these inquiries, and to the Public Bill Committee scrutinising the Taxation (Cross-Border Trade) Bill. Fairtrade Foundation CEO Michael Gidney also gave oral evidence to the inquiry into trade with Commonwealth countries co-ordinated by the Trade out of Poverty APPG, and the Foundation published a report on Fairtrade and the Commonwealth ahead of CHOGM. The Fairtrade Foundation has also joined a DIT Expert Working Group on Trade for Development and participated in a number of DIT stakeholder events. Public campaigning has focused on ‘trade democracy’ and the need for transparency and scrutiny as the UK develops an independent trade policy.

Work on power in supply chains has focused on two areas – unfair trading practices (UTPs) and competition law. The Fairtrade Foundation contributed to the review of the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) and expressed disappointment at the decision not to extend the GCA’s remit to better protect farmers in developing countries. The Foundation is looking ahead to the forthcoming Agriculture Bill and the potential for measures here that might provide greater protection for suppliers. It will also be contributing to the CMA call for evidence on the proposed merger of JS and Asda. The Foundation will be shortly publishing a further report on competition law and the extent to which this can prevent companies from collaborating in order to meet the SDGs.

Fairtrade APPG Financial Report, Period Covered: 12th July 2017-12th September 2018

As per the guidance received, any group which received over £12,500 in a reporting year must publish a closing income and expenditure statement. The Fairtrade APPG *has not received/spent this amount* but for transparency's sake, a statement is provided below. Please note that we are not currently operating with a separate bank account and therefore expenditure is currently listed as a *contribution* from the Fairtrade Foundation.

Final Balance – September 2018:

N/A

Income received during the year:

N/A

Please note that the Fairtrade Foundation received support of £1,000 from the Co-operative Group to support the direct (food and photography) and indirect costs (i.e. staff time) of organising the parliamentary reception.

Expenditure during the year (covered by the Fairtrade Foundation)

Photography for the reception: £275

Food & drink for the reception: Jubilee Room catering, £111

Purchases from Co-op, £85 (approximate)

Benefits in Kind

Staff Time (secretariat) from the Fairtrade Foundation – around 20 days planning APPG events
@£150/day = £3,000

Ice-cream for the APPG reception from Ben & Jerry's – 75 small tubs = approximately £80 retail value

Estimated Value of Expenditure plus Benefits in Kind = £3,551

Secretariat for the APPG is provided by Helen Dennis at the Fairtrade Foundation:

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The APPG Twitter handle is: @FairtradeAPPG