



Fairtrade All-Party Parliamentary Group
Report for Inaugural Meeting, 12th July 2017

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 Conservative MP for Colne Valley) and Holly Lynch MP (Labour MP for Halifax). Mark Durkan (former SDLP MP for Foyle) and Lisa Cameron MP (SNP MP for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow) were the original Vice-Chairs and at the AGM in 2016, Mark Durkan MP, Cat Smith MP, Jeff Smith MP and Carolyn Harris MP were elected as the new Vice-Chairs.

Fairtrade Foundation – Reach and Impact

The reach and impact of Fairtrade continues to grow and there are now 1.66 million Fairtrade farmers and producers in 75 countries. In 2016, an estimated £32.3m in Fairtrade premium was generated from UK sales, up £2.8m on the previous year. Core products include bananas, tea, cocoa, coffee and flowers, but we are also working to license a wider range of innovative goods – including Fairtrade gold, and even Fairtrade gin! In 2016, the Fairtrade Foundation had 420 licensees. And retailers are increasing their commitment – this year, the Co-operative has become the first 100% cocoa UK retailer and in the last week, Waitrose has committed to making 100% of its own-label tea Fairtrade certified by October 2017.

The Foundation has been looking at impact across sectors and the Foundation's 2016 report, 'Fairer Fruit, Fairtrade's Impact in the Banana Industry' showed there were positive impacts on income for banana farmers and benefits for workers on plantations, as well as better living standards, food security and wellbeing for both. 96% of banana smallholders surveyed in Colombia said that their economic situation had improved since joining Fairtrade.

The Foundation has also been innovating with new models and partnerships. Cocoa volumes have doubled since we launched 'FSP' (Fairtrade Sourcing Programs) alongside our existing model. And work with Mondelez has enabled Fairtrade to reach many more farmers – five times the amount of chocolate is reached. This year, brand recognition and trust in the Fairtrade logo has been rising – 9 out of 10 people recognise the symbol and 78% say that they have trust in it.

Fairtrade is also backed by a broad movement rooted in communities and institutions across the UK. In the UK there are 625 Fairtrade communities (including towns, cities, counties and more), and over 7,000 churches and other faith groups have achieved Fairtrade status. More than 1,178 schools have also achieved Fairtrade awards.

Reconstituting the APPG

Following advice received from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, we have decided to reform the APPG before summer recess in order to meet the registration deadline of 15th September 2017, as well as taking the opportunity to brief Parliamentarians on some critical issues relating to Fairtrade.

Fairtrade APPG Highlights 2017

The **AGM in November 2016** was followed by a campaigner event which included a speech from Helen Robinson of Holme Valley Fairtrade, a photo-call, and informal conversations between MPs and Campaigners.

Fairtrade Fortnight took place from 27th February – 12th March and we celebrated this with an event in parliament on 28th February 2017. This saw the launch of our 'Don't Feed Exploitation' campaign, with the aim of educating campaigners and consumers about exploitation in supply chains, encouraging people to make more ethical choices when they shop. We were delighted that around 45 MPs attended the parliamentary reception, including the Minister of State for International Development, Rory Stewart MP. Those attending had the opportunity to hear from Tanzanian coffee producer, Leonard Kachebonaho, and to meet young people from Leys School.

The Fairtrade Foundation also launched a report, [*"Brexit: Let's Change Trade for Good"*](#), exploring the potential impacts of Brexit for farmers and producers in developing countries. The report considered the impact across different countries and commodities including coffee, bananas, sugar and flowers. On a similar theme, we also published a [parliamentary briefing](#) alongside Traidcraft, Christian Aid, Oxfam and the Trade Justice Movement. We are very grateful to members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group who tabled important Parliamentary Questions (PQs), to highlight the need for retaining and expanding duty-free and quota-free access.



Plans for the New Parliament

- The Fairtrade Foundation looks forward to working with MPs and Peers to build a programme of events and activities to promote fairer trading practices;
- Our agenda is fairly open but we would be keen to explore the further implications of Brexit for developing countries, and consider the contribution of Fairtrade to the achievement of living wages and living incomes, especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Fairtrade News

The Fairtrade Foundation campaign to ensure that developing countries retain access to the UK market and are not hit by additional import taxes, has gained a lot of momentum. More than 50,000 people signed a petition to the Prime Minister at the end of 2016, and a further 38,000 sent a message to Liam Fox MP at the Department for International Trade. We have recently heard that the UK government does intend to roll over existing preferences and plans to further improve the UK's trading relationship with developing countries.

Many MPs and Parliamentarians have been interested to hear about the current relationship with Sainsbury's and in particular, their decision to pilot their own 'fairly traded' tea. This change to Fairtrade's tea supply chain will affect 229,224 people and as a result there has been strong support from all quarters and a petition on change.org (supported by Fairtrade founding organisations and others) now has more than 89,000 signatories.

A number of organisations also showed up at the Sainsbury's AGM to demonstrate support for Fairtrade and parliamentarians have also shown how strongly they feel about the move, with cross-party support for EDM 142, tabled by Caroline Lucas MP.



Fairtrade APPG – Financial Report, Period covered: 1 January 2017 – 2 May 2017

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. There are no assets or liabilities to be passed on.

Final Balance – May 2017:

N/A

Income received during the year:

N/A

Expenditure during the year (covered by the Fairtrade Foundation)

Fairtrade Fortnight APPG reception:

£242.80 – lunch for Fairtrade campaigners

£644.68 – travel expenses for Fairtrade campaigners

£83.75 – refreshments for the reception

£275 – photographer

Benefits in Kind (from the Fairtrade Foundation)

£900 - Staff Time (secretariat) – around 6 days planning for the reception and supporting the APPG @£150/day

TOTAL: £2,146.23

Secretariat for the coming year will be provided by Helen Dennis, Policy & Advocacy Manager at the Fairtrade Foundation: helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk

The APPG Twitter handle is: @FairtradeAPPG