

### Fairtrade Fortnight – She Deserves

25<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019

This year for Fairtrade Fortnight we're shining a spotlight on the cocoa sector and calling all chocolate lovers to support our #SheDeserves campaign to make sure cocoa farmers, especially women, can gain a living income. This means enough money to afford essentials such as clothing, medicine and school – which for cocoa farmers in the Côte D'Ivoire is just £1.86 a day.

For two weeks we'll be telling the story of cocoa farmers in Côte D'Ivoire, through the eyes of women using #SheDeserves, so please do get involved on social media and join in with local events in your constituencies.

To find out more about Fairtrade Fortnight and our Living Income campaign click [here](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or contact [helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk) to arrange a verbal briefing.



### Fairtrade APPG parliamentary reception

16:00 - 18:00 Wednesday 27th February in the Churchill Room

To launch our #SheDeserves campaign we're inviting all MPs and Peers to attend our annual parliamentary reception. Join us to celebrate the Fairtrade Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and to show support for our campaign for living incomes in the cocoa sector, at this event hosted by Fairtrade APPG co-Chair Will Quince MP.

We'll be joined by Fairtrade producers from West Africa, also graduates of our 'Women's School of Leadership', as well as Fairtrade commercial partners and campaigners supporting this work.

To RSVP to the event or for any queries relating to the APPG, please e-mail [helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk).

### Fairtrade in Parliament

Two important parliamentary debates (aside from Brexit!) took place before Christmas. Thanks to Liz Twist MP and Stephen Timms MP who secured a debate on Traidcraft and the future of fair trade; a debate on ending exploitation in supermarket supply chains was also tabled by Kerry McCarthy MP in October. Both debates saw MPs speak passionately about the benefits of Fairtrade and the need for greater trade justice and we'd like to thank all parliamentarians who took part.

The International Trade Committee published its report on 'Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries' in November following an inquiry to which Fairtrade gave oral and written evidence. It was positive to see many of our recommendations taken up by the committee, including suggesting a more generous unilateral preference scheme and a review of existing Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and developing countries. We now await the government's response.

### Fairtrade and Brexit

In September we published '[Delivering a Fairtrade Brexit?](#)', a briefing paper which explored some of the unresolved Brexit issues through the lens of Fairtrade supply chains (e.g. coffee, bananas, flowers etc.) In particular, we outlined the risks to Fairtrade and to producers in the global South of a 'no-deal' Brexit.

We have also continued to advocate for amendments to the Trade Bill to ensure a more transparent and inclusive process going forward. Trade deals can have a huge impact on developing country producers and so it is important that any future process allows for discussion and debate of sustainable development priorities.

For the latest from on Brexit from Fairtrade, read our [Brexit Breakdown blog](#).



## Competition Law

Since 2014 we've been looking at competition law in the UK to assess whether it acts as a barrier for multi-stakeholder collaboration to tackle low incomes and wages in supply chains. In January we published our final report ['Competition Law and Sustainability'](#) which demonstrates there is a perception amongst many businesses that competition law is a barrier to companies working collectively to tackle low incomes and wages, and calls for government and the CMA to offer clearer guidance as to how companies could work together to tackle these issues in a competition law compliant way.

We also hosted a roundtable to discuss our findings with experts from academia, the legal profession, other NGOs and businesses. This provided some great insight and we hope to share our next steps on competition law later this year.

**COMPETITION LAW  
AND SUSTAINABILITY**  
A STUDY OF INDUSTRY ATTITUDES TOWARDS  
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION IN THE  
UK GROCERY SECTOR



## Fairtrade APPG AGM

In September we held the Fairtrade APPG's annual general meeting to discuss our 2018 annual report and elect officers for this year. Will Quince MP and Holly Lynch MP were elected co-Chairs of the group; and Tracy Brabin MP, Stephen Doughty MP, Gareth Snell MP and Kirstene Hair MP vice-Chairs.

For more information or to get involved with the Fairtrade APPG, contact [helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:helen.dennis@fairtrade.org.uk).

Follow [@FairtradeUK](#) on Twitter for all things Fairtrade and [@FairtradePolicy](#) [@FairtradeAPPG](#) for policy and parliamentary news!

## 'The Future of Trade'

In October, we hosted a commercial conference entitled 'The Future of Trade: Can it work for everyone?' bringing together Fairtrade supporters, producers and commercial partners to discuss and debate critical topics such as gender equality, transparency in supply chains, climate change and how to achieve living incomes for producers – and promote the Fairtrade Foundation's new sourcing, programmes and expertise services to tackle systemic issues in supply chains.

We were also lucky enough to have Minister of State for International Development Lord Bates and the Fairtrade Foundation's new chair Lord Mark Price speak at the conference.



## EU says NO to Unfair Trading Practices

Some great news from the EU as a major political agreement was reached to ensure fairer contractual relations in the agri-food chain and to eliminate unfair trading practices. This followed months of hard work from MEPs, governments and NGOs including Fair Trade organisations across Europe. The new legislation includes protections for non-EU farmers and will allow NGOs to introduce complaints when producers are unable to, thus going beyond the current remit of the UK Groceries Code Adjudicator. The UK's obligation to implement this Directive will be subject to the outcome of current Brexit negotiations but we hope that strengthened provisions for fair dealing in the Agriculture Bill could also move the UK in a similar direction.

