**National Campaigner Committee Meeting Summary, 19th July 2017**

**NCC**

Nina Tweddle was welcomed as the new NCC rep for London. There is a vacancy on the board of trustees, and as a member organisation, the NCC nominated a candidate. The Fairtrade Foundation (FF) AGM takes place on 26th Sept and the NCC will be represented. The 2018 NCC meetings will be in January, July (2 days) and October.

**Fairtrade Fortnight 2018, 26th February - 11th March**

Julia Nicoara, (Head of Marketing), led the session and gave an update on the planning timescale. Everything will be finalised within the next couple of months, so that the theme and the Fortnight Action Guide are available at the October national supporter conference. The theme will build on ‘Don’t feed exploitation’, re-inforce how Fairtrade is unique, and aim to increase support for Fairtrade in all areas of the movement. The NCC discussed ideas for activities and favoured something that will demonstrate how connected we are. Members would like producer tours to be better utilised, with more background information and coverage online - beyond the regions they are taking place in - as well as more visibility of campaigner events and activities. The NCC will make further contributions at the next planning stage of Fairtrade Fortnight.

**Sainsbury’s Fairly Traded tea pilot**

The NCC was given a comprehensive overview of developments since Sainsbury’s announced their Fairly Traded tea pilot in May, and new products launched in stores in late June. FF [decided it could not endorse Sainsbury’s Fair Traded tea pilot](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/News/May-2017/Statement-on-Fairtrade-withdrawal-from-Sainsbury-partnership) as it did not meet core Fairtrade principles, particularly around producer empowerment. Sainsbury’s remains a very important retailer of Fairtrade products and FF is seeking to convince Sainsbury’s to continue working with Fairtrade. FF is not leading any public campaigning. There has nevertheless been a huge reaction from grassroots supporters and civil society from many other organisations, individuals and campaign groups who have been writing independently to Sainsbury’s CEO, engaging local store managers, posting on social media and commenting in national and regional press. There has been a lot of press coverage, shareholders raised questions at the Sainsbury’s AGM and in writing, and Caroline Lucas MP also tabled an EDM in parliament which has received strong support from MPs. The NCC had also written to the Sainsbury’s CEO. They had received a reply to their letter, but it did not answer the questions asked. It was agreed that the NCC would send a follow-up letter.

A Change.org petition started by Barbara Gwinnett, Wolverhampton Fairtrade campaigner and NCC member, asking Sainsbury’s not to ditch Fairtrade, had attracted some 95,000 signatures to date. The petition is supported by Oxfam, Cafod, Christian Aid, Traidcraft Exchange, Tearfund, Trade Justice Movement and Commitment for Life.

FF explained that they have alerted supporters to some of the activities of member organisations and the wider movement, but have not sent proactive communications to the churches list. The NCC requested that they update churches with information as soon as possible.

**National Supporter Conference, Saturday 7th October, Kings College, London, 10am for 10.45am – 4.45 / 5.30pm**

The NCC discussed the outline conference agenda, and how attendees can best network with others from their regions and elsewhere. The NCC chair will speak during the opening plenary. There is a wide choice of workshops on offer and a panel of experts will discuss 'What is the future for the

Cont.

Fairtrade Mark?' chaired by BBC Newsreader and journalist George Alagiah. [Click here for more information and registration](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Events/Supporter-Conference-2017)

**Updates**

Brexit

There has been partial campaign success as some of the trade protections in place under EU law will be rolled over post Brexit. However, these do not apply to Ghana and Kenya, and some other important developing countries.

MP engagement

The Fairtrade All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) has been re-constituted after the general election and met last week. Will Quince MP, Conservative, was elected as the new co-chair with Holly Lynch MP, Labour, who was re-elected. After the summer recess, invitations will be sent to MPs to join the group, and communications sent to Fairtrade Towns.

New renewal form for Towns

Feedback about the renewal form requests and wording from the May NCC meeting, and also from Fair Trade Wales and the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, has been incorporated into an updated version. The new form has been created digitally on a temporary online tool, which the NCC will review and comment on before it is trialled with Fairtrade Groups.

Churches scheme

No further progress was reported, but the digital platform testing being carried out for the online town renewals process is applicable to the future online church renewal form.

Public fundraising

Work is on-going, and the NCC will be consulted when fund-raising ‘products’ have been created for testing.

Digital campaigns and visibility improvements

The actions from the May meeting are on-going due to other issues and constraints. Eg a new campaigners box on the website and a new online map of all Fairtrade Towns. Campaigners will also be reminded to send photos and reports of their events so that these can be show-cased online and help create a better sense of connectedness. The resources library has a ‘Fairtrade and workplaces’ presentation. Further presentations, producer images, digital assets etc relating to ‘Don’t Feed Exploitation’ and Fairtrade Fortnight will be posted in the resources area. The wording on the online map will be amended to ensure it is clear that the map currently only relates to events.

E Shop and literature

Several items, including ‘What is Fairtrade’ leaflets and banana suits, are currently out of stock and will not be available in the near future. Work is on-going for the new content of the ‘What is Fairtrade’ leaflets. It was suggested that, in the meantime, the current leaflet be made available as a download.