



Fairtrade All-Party Parliamentary Group

Report for AGM, 6th November 2019

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.

At the AGM in 2018, the following Officers were elected:

Holly Lynch MP (co-Chair)
Will Quince MP (co-Chair)
Tracy Brabin MP (Vice-Chair)
Stephen Doughty MP (Vice-Chair)
Kirstene Hair MP (Vice-Chair)
Gareth Snell MP (Vice-Chair)

Will Quince has subsequently stepped down from the Officer Group to take up a Ministerial role.

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 – Meetings & Events

- 1) The **Fairtrade APPG AGM** was held on the 12th September 2018, and following formal AGM business, there was a roundtable discussion with a number of invited guests on the topic of Fairtrade and Brexit. Helen Dennis from the Fairtrade Foundation presented key messages from a forthcoming briefing, and contributions were invited from a range of people including from Liz May (Traidcraft Exchange), Jelle Zwemstra (JZ Flowers) and Kofi Addo from the Ghanaian High Commission. Details of this discussion are captured in the AGM minutes.
- 2) The Fairtrade APPG hosted the annual **Fairtrade Fortnight reception** in February 2019 during the first week of Fairtrade Fortnight. The event took place in the Churchill Room and records show that the event was attended by **over 80 parliamentarians**, many of whom shared their support for the event and for Fairtrade on social media (see below). This year’s parliamentary reception coincided with the launch of *‘She Deserves!’* a new Fairtrade Foundation campaign calling for living incomes in cocoa, and particularly shining a spotlight

on the role that women play in the cocoa supply chain. Guests at the reception heard from a range of speakers including:

- Awa Traoré, CAYAT Co-operative, Côte D'Ivoire
- Lord Michael Bates, DFID Minister
- Dan Carden MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development
- Sarah Wakefield, Co-operative Group
- Michael Gidney, Fairtrade Foundation
- Pupils from Admiral Nelson Fairtrade School, Portsmouth

The event was hosted by then APPG co-Chair, Will Quince MP, and parliamentarians were invited to show their support for the *She Deserves* campaign and to tuck into some Fairtrade chocolate cake, baked to celebrate 25 years of the Fairtrade mark in the UK.



3) Before the summer recess, the APPG held a panel discussion, chaired by Holly Lynch MP to explore the issue of **achieving living incomes in cocoa** in some more depth. Panellists included:

- Sophi Tranchell, CEO, Divine Chocolate
- Sally Smith, International Development Researcher
- David Taylor, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Fairtrade Foundation

Details of the discussion are captured in the minutes but it included presentations on how to establish 'living income benchmarks', and an unpacking of the different actors involved in the cocoa supply chain. This was a well-attended event with 12 MPs and Peers represented in the room, as well as a number of external participants.

- 4) Two events had provisionally been planned for the autumn, with Fairtrade producers involved. These included our AGM (originally booked in at the start of September) and an event for the 25th Anniversary in October. Sadly, because of changes to the parliamentary timetable, both of these events had to be cancelled. However, an opportunity was offered to APPG Officers and active members to meet with **Esperanza, a Fairtrade coffee producer from Peru**, on the 8th October. Esperanza was in the UK for a range of activities relating to the 25th Anniversary, and spoke passionately about the difference Fairtrade has made to the lives of producers – especially through the minimum price and Premium, and the need for urgent action to address climate change.

Fairtrade APPG Activities

In addition to the three organised events noted above, Fairtrade APPG members have been active throughout the year in lots of different ways.

- **Parliamentary Debates**
Over the last year, there have been a number of opportunities for parliamentarians to raise awareness of Fairtrade through parliamentary debates. Towards the end of 2018, there were two important debates – one on *ending exploitation in supermarket supply chains*, which followed on from a key Oxfam report and was led by Kerry McCarthy MP, and one on *the future of Traidcraft*, which was led by Liz Twist MP. A number of Fairtrade APPG members spoke in these debates and raised the importance of Fairtrade as a tool in the fight against exploitation and modern slavery, and of Fair Trade companies.
- **Parliamentary Questions**
A good number of APPG members have also asked a range of parliamentary questions over the year to highlight Fairtrade issues including the campaign for living incomes in cocoa, and trade for development policy issues in the context of Brexit. There have been a number of relevant oral questions (posed by Holly Lynch MP, Kirstene Hair MP and Stuart McDonald MP) on *She Deserves*, Fairtrade Fortnight and the 25th Anniversary of the Fairtrade mark. It is worth noting that a number of MPs also made representations around visas for African visitors for Fairtrade Fortnight – this year, a high number of visa applications for Fairtrade producers were refused, despite support from the Fairtrade Foundation and others.
- **Early Day Motions**
Following the launch of the Fairtrade Foundation, *She Deserves* campaign, two Early Day Motions (EDMs) were tabled by Christine Jardine MP (EDM 2229) and John Grogan MP (EDM 2280). Taken together these EDMs have attracted support from 61 MPs.
- **Local Engagement and Social Media Activity**
During Fairtrade Fortnight, and more recently around the 25th Anniversary celebrations, a number of APPG members and Fairtrade friends (over 60 MPs) have attended local constituency events and meetings, and shared their support for Fairtrade on social media.

APPG Plans for the Coming Year

Current ideas for the forthcoming year include:

- **Further exploration of issues affecting cocoa producers**, perhaps hearing from some of the leading chocolate brands and retailers, and possibly also inviting DFID to speak about their work on cocoa to date;
- Rearranging the planned meeting to consider **25 years of Fairtrade in the UK** – what has been achieved and what more needs to be done. Possibly seeking a Westminster Hall debate on the back of this and providing a publication for parliamentarians as an update on Fairtrade.
- **A policy-focused meeting to explore issues relating to Business & Human Rights**, asking whether or not we have the right regulation in place and/or whether more could be done, drawing on the experience of Fairtrade and others in the sector;
- **A parliamentary reception/celebration event** for Fairtrade Fortnight 2020.
- **Exploring the possibility of a photograph exhibition** in the Upper Waiting Hall.

The APPG may also want to connect in with a range of policy processes and debates including:

- Any legislation arising from a Queen’s Speech. This may include a reintroduced Agriculture Bill (which includes a section on Fair Dealing) and Trade Bill;
- UK government plans for strengthening of the Modern Slavery Act;
- The UK government’s ‘trade for development’ priorities in the context of Brexit and future trade policy;
- The National Food Strategy.

Fairtrade Foundation Update

The last year has been a particularly busy one for the Fairtrade Foundation! Among other things to note and report:

- 2018/19 saw a range of **new commercial commitments** including from White Stuff and Waitrose (to 100% own brand Fairtrade confectionery);
- **Public awareness of, and support for, Fairtrade continues to be high!** 9 out of 10 people know the Fairtrade mark, 28% of people say that they care a lot about Fairtrade, and 26% of people regularly choose Fairtrade products;
- Autumn 2018 also saw the Fairtrade Foundation host a **conference for our commercial partners** with a keynote speech from DFID Minister, Lord Bates;
- **Fairtrade Fortnight 2019** was a great success with an estimated 4,000 (!) events up and down the country staged by campaigners, reaching 1 million people. The Fairtrade Foundation hosted a pop-up ‘secret chocolate salon’ in London which generated a lot of media coverage and interest including the in the Evening Standard.
- The ***She Deserves* petition** attracted over 50,000 signatures and was handed into 10 Downing Street in August 2019 by a group of Warrington campaigners.
- The Fairtrade Foundation’s Michael Gidney was invited to join the Department for International Trade’s (DIT) **Strategic Trade Advisory Group (STAG)**.
- The Fairtrade Foundation was invited to give **oral evidence to the International Development Committee (IDC)** inquiry into the Sustainable Development Goals.

- There was a significant policy win at the EU level as **MEPs voted in favour of the Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) Directive**;
- Fairtrade Africa hosted **political stakeholders on day visits** including Theo Clarke from the Coalition for Global Prosperity, and Shadow Secretary of State, Dan Carden MP;
- A range of **25th Anniversary events and activities** took place up and down the country over September/October 2019, and the Fairtrade Foundation took the opportunity to shine a spotlight on issues affecting coffee producers, especially the low price and impact of climate change. There was TV, radio and online coverage of this story. Events included a number of supporter conferences where we pleased to welcome both Ben Bradshaw MP and Alex Norris MP as contributors, and a celebratory 'Fair Feast' event in London attended by APPG co-Chair, Holly Lynch MP. A number of local authorities have also passed motions reaffirming their commitment to Fairtrade and images of campaigners 'making their mark' are below!



Fairtrade campaigners make their mark in Hull!



Celebrating 25 years of Fairtrade in London



Fairtrade celebrated on the beach in Pembrokeshire!



The Fairtrade mark lighting up Glasgow's George Square

Fairtrade APPG Financial Report, Period Covered: 13th September 2018 – 6th November 2019

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

Expenditure during the year (covered by the Fairtrade Foundation)

Reception costs covered through core funding from the Fairtrade Foundation: approx. £2,000

Reception costs covered through the European Commission DEAR grant: approx. £2,600

Benefits in Kind

Staff Time (secretariat) from the Fairtrade Foundation – around 30 days (0.5 days a week) planning APPG events and supporting APPG activity @£150/day = £4,500

Chocolate coins and bars contributed by Divine Chocolate

Estimated Value of Expenditure plus Benefits in Kind from the Fairtrade Foundation = £6,500

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

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The APPG Twitter handle is: @FairtradeAPPG