



Fairtrade All-Party Parliamentary Group

Annual Report 2020

A note on the Annual Report:

The following report details the Fairtrade APPG activities from its inaugural meeting in January 2020 until June 2021. The APPG fell off the register and was registered at the AGM on 21st June 2021. Details of officers elected during these meetings are below. Due to the impact of the pandemic, activities of the APPG have been limited and meetings after March 2020 have been held online.

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 (Con MP, Colne Valley) and Holly Lynch MP (Lab, Halifax).

At the inaugural meeting on 28th January 2020, Jason McCartney MP and Holly Lynch MP were once again voted in as co-Chairs. Huw Merriman MP (Con, Bexhill & Battle), Fleur Anderson MP (Lab, Putney) and Kim Johnson MP (Lab, Liverpool Riverside) were voted as vice-chairs.

The following Members joined the inaugural meeting and/or expressed interest in formally joining the APPG: Jeff Smith MP (Lab, Manchester Withington), Navendu Mishra MP (Lab, Stockport), Barry Sheerman MP (Lab, Huddersfield), Rupa Huq MP (Lab, Ealing Central and Acton), Caroline Lucas MP (Green, Brighton), Paula Barker MP (Lab, Liverpool Wavertree), Lisa Cameron MP (SNP, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow), Seema Malhotra MP (Lab, Feltham and Heston), Catherine McKinnell MP (Lab, Newcastle upon Tyne North).

At the second inaugural meeting which took place on 21st June 2021, Jason McCartney MP and Holly Lynch MP were once again voted in as co-Chairs. Huw Merriman MP and Anne McLaughlin MP (SNP, Glasgow North East) were voted as vice-chairs.

The following members returned and/or joined the APPG: Fleur Anderson MP, Rachael Maskell MP (Lab, York Central), Catherine McKinnell MP, Navendu Mishra MP, Stephen Timms MP (Lab, Eastham), Ruth Jones MP (lab, Newport West), Jonathan Ashworth MP (Lab, Leicester South), Stuart McDonald MP (SNP, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East), Caroline Lucas 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 – Meetings & Events

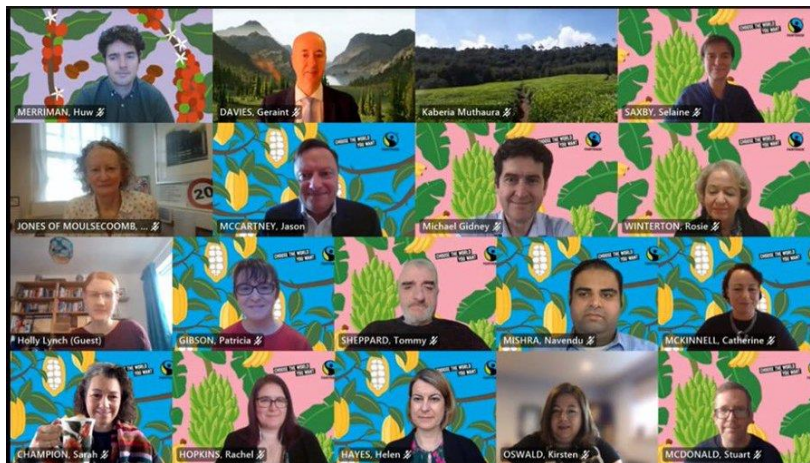
- 1) The **Fairtrade APPG AGM** was held on the 28th January 2020, and following formal AGM business, Fairtrade CEO Michael Gidney gave a presentation on Fairtrade’s current priorities, including its Living Income campaign during Fairtrade Fortnight and Brexit.
- 2) The Fairtrade APPG hosted the annual **Fairtrade Fortnight reception** in February 2020 during Fairtrade Fortnight. The event took place in the Churchill Room and records show that the event was attended by **over 90 parliamentarians**, many of whom shared their support for the event and for Fairtrade on social media. The parliamentary reception focused on the continuation of the *‘She Deserves!’* 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:
 - Rosine Bekoin, Fairtrade cocoa farmer at the CAYAT Co-operative, Côte D’Ivoire
 - Jemima Jewell, Interim Head of Corporate Responsibility, Waitrose & Partners
 - Lord Mark Price, Chair of the Fairtrade Foundation
 - Sarah Champion MP, Chair of the International Development Select Committee
 - Rachel Turner, Director of Economic Development at the Department for International Development
 - Students from Salendine Nook High School, Huddersfield

The event was hosted by APPG co-Chairs Holly Lynch and Jason McCartney.



- 3) The APPG held a formal meeting on March 10th to discuss future activities for the APPG, including the living income campaign and Brexit related issues.
- 4) The APPG met virtually in June 2020 to discuss the upcoming **Trade Bill**, as well as the **impact of the pandemic on farmers and workers in low-income countries**. Tim Aldred, Head of Policy, explained to Members how Fairtrade producers had to some extent been able to whether the initial storm of the pandemic due to increased investment as a result of the Fairtrade premium, making the case for a trade policy which supports economic development and investment in supply chains. The meeting also discussed what Fairtrade would like to see in the Trade Bill to support these objectives.

- 5) In July 2020, the APPG held an extraordinary meeting following the **decision by Nestle to stop sourcing on Fairtrade terms**, inviting Nestle representatives to further explain the decision. The APPG co-Chairs wrote a formal letter to Nestle to urge them to reverse their decision.
- 6) In February 2021, **the APPG hosted two virtual Fortnight events**. The first of these was a **virtual drop in event, where MPs had the opportunity to hear from Patrick Kaberia**, a Fairtrade tea farmer from Kenya. Patrick even treated MPs to a virtual tour round his farm! **20 MPs were in attendance**.
- 7) The APPG held a further event on 8th March with a presentation by the then **Secretary of State for Trade Liz Truss MP**. The SOS confirmed her support for Fairtrade in UK trade policy. Fairtrade producers and school children from Riddlesworth Hall Primary School (in the SOS' constituency!) had the opportunity to ask the SOS questions through pre-recorded questions, and there **were 82 attendees** in total!



MPs at the virtual 'drop in' event including a tour!



APPG co-chairs and vice-chair discussing UK trade policy with the Secretary of State!

Fairtrade APPG Activities

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

- **Parliamentary Debates**

There have been a number of opportunities for parliamentarians to raise awareness of Fairtrade through parliamentary debates. In March 2020, Geraint Davies MP sponsored a debate on 'Trade Deals and Fairtrade' which gave many members the opportunity to speak about the benefits of Fairtrade, and the importance of parliamentary oversight of future trade deals. Speakers included Holly Lynch MP, Preet Kaur Gill MP, and Nick Thomas-Symonds MP. Theo Clarke MP, Trade Envoy to Kenya, also praised Fairtrade in a debate on 'Women in the Commonwealth: Trade and Investment'. In September, co-Chairs Holly Lynch MP, Jason McCartney MP, Patrick Grady MP and Rachael Maskell MP, raised a petition expressing disappointment in Nestle's decision to withdraw from Fairtrade. The petition coincided with a public petition signed by over 300,000 people.

- **Parliamentary Questions**

A good number of APPG members have also asked a range of parliamentary questions over the year to highlight Fairtrade issues. In May, co-Chair Jason McCartney MP raised a question on the impact of the pandemic on Fairtrade producers. In July, Geraint Davis MP also raised a topical question on Nestle's decision to stop sourcing on Fairtrade terms.

- **Early Day Motions**

Jim Shannon MP launched an EDM ahead of Fairtrade Fortnight 2020, signed by 12 MPs.

- **Local Engagement and Social Media Activity**

As a result of the pandemic, in person local engagement has been limited. Social media engagement has continued to be high, particularly around the Nestle campaign in 2020.

Fairtrade Foundation Update

The year and a half has been very busy for Fairtrade, with the system responding to the catastrophic impacts of the **pandemic on producers in low-income countries**, as well as continuing to campaign on the **Brexit process**:

Response to the COVID-19 crisis:

- At the onset of the pandemic, **the Fairtrade system introduced new flexibility to the use of the Fairtrade premium**. This supported farmers and workers to invest in much needed PPE and to provide furlough to workers. Some producers also utilised the new flexibility to provide food packages to vulnerable members of the community.
- In November 2020, the Fairtrade system launched the **COVID-19 relief fund**, securing a total of 15 million Euros in grant funding to support farmers and workers through the pandemic.
- The Fairtrade Foundation was pleased to **receive funding from the UK Government as part of its Vulnerable Supply Chains Facility (VSCF) programme** which aimed to help nearly a million people by ensuring vulnerable workers and suppliers overseas – and their families – were prepared for the economic and social shocks of COVID-19. Using this funding, the Fairtrade Foundation worked closely with its business partners to support some of the most vulnerable flower and cocoa producers in Kenya and Ghana respectively,

partnering with MM Flowers, Mondelēz International, Co-op, M&S, Tesco, Coventry University, FNET, Women Working Worldwide and Partner Africa.

- In early 2020, the Fairtrade Foundation also produced weekly, then bi-weekly, impact reports for commercial partners and key decision makers on real-time impacts of the pandemic. These proved to be very useful and we received positive feedback from a large number of commercial partners and Government officials.

Other activities and updates:

- Despite the pandemic, Fairtrade saw a number of new commitments **from commercial partners including Amazon** who launched their new 'Climate Pledge'. Fairtrade partners were also among the first to support producers through the pandemic, including Waitrose and Co-Op.
- **Public awareness of, and support for, Fairtrade continued to be high!** Trust in the Fairtrade Mark remained at around 80% across the year. Fairtrade sales volumes showed remarkable resilience, thanks to the support of shoppers and businesses.
- There was a **significant political win in our trade policy campaigning** which saw the Government announce the continuation of its tariff preferences for low-income countries as part of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scheme rolled over from the EU. The Fairtrade Foundation has been campaigning on the Brexit process since 2016, calling for continued market access for producers.
- We campaigned strongly at the end of the year on behalf of Ghanaian banana producers, who faced increased tariffs when **Ghana was left without a trade deal following the UK leaving the EU at the end of the year.**
- The Fairtrade Foundation's Michael Gidney successfully re-joined the Department for International Trades' (DIT) **Strategic Trade Advisory Group (STAG).**
- The Fairtrade Foundation was invited to give **oral evidence to the International Development Committee (IDC)** inquiry into the impacts of the pandemic.
- Alongside Bond and other civil society partners, we spoke out strongly **against the cuts to UK aid** and the merger of DFID and the FCO during the crisis period.

Fairtrade APPG Financial Report, Period Covered: 28th January 2020 –21st June 2021

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 – June 2021:

N/A

Income received:

N/A

Expenditure during the period Jan 2020 – June 2021 (covered by the Fairtrade Foundation)

Reception costs covered through core funding from the Fairtrade Foundation: n/a

2020 Reception costs covered through the European Commission DEAR grant: approx. £3,795

Benefits in Kind

Staff Time (secretariat) from the Fairtrade Foundation for the period January 2020-June 2021 (17 months) – around 40 days (0.5 days a week) planning APPG events and supporting APPG activity
@£150/day = £6,000

Chocolate bars provided by Waitrose for 2020 Fortnight event.

Estimated Value of Expenditure plus Benefits in Kind from the Fairtrade Foundation = approx. £9,795

Secretariat for the APPG is provided by Alice Lucas at the Fairtrade Foundation:
alice.lucas@fairtrade.org.uk.

The APPG Twitter handle is: @FairtradeAPPG