

The Scottish Parliament

Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade

5:30pm, Wednesday 6 March 2013
Room TG20/21, The Scottish Parliament

Minutes of the meeting (draft)

Attendance:

MSPs:

George Adam MSP

James Kelly MSP

Claudia Beamish MSP

Sarah Boyack MSP

Patricia Ferguson MSP

John Mason MSP

External Organisations/Individuals:

Kate Blanshard

Karen Bowman (University of Edinburgh)

Gerard Hastings

Henry Kalomba (Guest speaker)

Gerard Keegan

Ian Miller (Scotmid)

Carol Morton (Hadeel)

Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Group)

Howard Msukwa (Guest speaker)

John Riches (Just Trading Scotland)

James Sloan (Camglen Fair Trade Group)

David Somerville (University of Edinburgh)

Sarah Aldred (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Martin Meteyard (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Robin Stewart (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Deirdre Muldowney (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Hisashi Kuboyama (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Apologies: Neil Bibby MSP
Drew Smith MSP
Alison McInnes MSP
Hugh Donnelly (Co-Operative Education Trust)
Senga Gall (Equal Exchange)

Business of the meeting:

1. The meeting started at 6:20pm after some delay and was chaired by George Adam MSP.
2. Martin Rhodes reported on Scotland's achievement of Fair Trade Nation status. He praised the nationwide effort towards the achievement and a high level of public awareness of Fair Trade in Scotland; went on to consider how to take this achievement forward nationally; and also mentioned a national celebration event planned in September 2013.
3. Guest speakers Henry Kalomba and Howard Msukwa each gave a speech. Both congratulated Scotland's achievement and praised the hard work of the Government and support of communities across the country. Henry Kalomba said it is encouraging to know the level of awareness, particularly among children, while Howard Msukwa said he was very impressed with the work people did.
4. Questions and discussions – a range of issues discussed, such as extraordinary support throughout Scottish communities; the connections between Scotland and Malawi; the problem of mainstreaming of Fair Trade; the necessity to take the movement forward; questions as to the next steps; procurement; IF campaign. It was agreed to lobby MSPs on the Procurement Reform Bill. Henry Kalomba and Howard Msukwa spoke about how climate change is real, actually happening and affecting farmers. They also explained how Fair Trade

premium rectifies problems in communities in Malawi, while mentioning the necessity of more support in terms of enhancing their capacity to farm.

5. George Adam MSP proposed to write a joint letter with James Kelly MSP to the Cabinet Secretary on behalf of the Cross Party Group about procurement, summarising the meeting's discussion and to put the issue forward. The proposal was unanimously agreed.
6. Meeting closed at 7:25pm.