

Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 1pm, online

Minute

Present

MSPs

Colin Smyth MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Claire Baker MSP
Foyso Choudhury MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Louise Davies, Scottish Fair Trade
Karena Jarvie, Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Steering Group
Martin Meteyard
Morag Rennie, North Lanarkshire Fair Trade Group
Pam Maxwell, North Ayrshire Fair Trade Group
Catherine Newman, Scottish Fair Trade
Anne Walsh, West Lothian Fairtrade Zone Steering Group
Russel Watson, Edinburgh City Fairtrade Steering Group

Apologies

John Mason MSP
Maggie Chapman MSP
Tim Eagle MSP
Arthur West
Charles Sim
Jeanette McIvor
Carol Morton

Agenda item 1

Colin Smyth MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those in attendance and apologies were noted.

Agenda item 2

The Convenor reported on activities since the last AGM. He reported that at the May 2025 meeting, we heard from the Fairtrade Foundation and Oxfam GB on the urgent challenges facing workers in global supply chains, particularly in the tea and garment sectors. Discussions focused on the upcoming Brew it Fair campaign, the need for UK legislation on corporate due diligence, and the importance of fairer tax systems and stronger protections for women in insecure work. The meeting led to a Parliamentary motion calling for action to improve the lives of tea-growing communities and support climate adaptation.

At the December 2024 meeting focused on the upcoming International Fair Trade Towns Conference, to be held in Edinburgh in August 2025. We received updates from Scottish Fair Trade and Edinburgh's Fair Trade Group, alongside reflections on the 2024 conference in South Africa. The session underlined the opportunity for Scotland to demonstrate global leadership on Fair Trade through inclusive dialogue and local action.

Agenda item 3

Election of Office Bearers:

Colin Smyth was proposed as Convenor by Sarah Boyack MSP, seconded by Foysol Choudhury MSP and elected unopposed.

Sue Webber has stepped down as Vice Convenor. Agreed to seek Vice Convenor by email.

Scottish Fair Trade was proposed as Secretariat by Colin Smyth MSP and seconded by Sarah Boyack MSP and elected unopposed.

Agenda item 4

AOB

Karena Jarvie asked about future meeting dates. Colin advised the next meeting would be in the Autumn and the date would be depending on speakers and circulated shortly.

The meeting was closed.