

## **Cross Party Group on Fair Trade – Wednesday 23 June 2021**

Minutes of the meeting to reconvene the Cross Party Group on Fair Trade held online by Zoom at 12.30pm on Wednesday 23 June 2021

1. Attendance: Colin Smyth MSP; Sarah Boyack MSP; Sue Webber MSP; Rona Mackay MSP; Foysol Choudhury MSP; Ian Fowell (Linlithgow Fair Trade Group); Sion Pickering (University of Edinburgh); Jon Cape (Stirling Fair Trade Group); Scott Erwin (Green City Wholefoods); Pam Bochel (BAFTS); Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group and JTS); Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group and Scottish Fair Trade Forum); Kirsty Connell (Scotmid and Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group); Ishaq Abu Arafah (Hadeel/Palcrafts); Carol Morton (Hadeel/Palcrafts); Morag Rennie (Motherwell Fair Trade Group); Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum); Ross Isdale (Scottish Fair Trade Forum); Sue Milne (Gavin's Mill); Jim Lister (Glasgow Fairtrade Co-operative); Rain Morgan (Turqle Trading); Lewis Ryder-Jones (Scotland's International Development Alliance); Jeanette McIvor (Queensferry Fair Trade Group); Sally Romilly (Dundee Fair Trade Forum); Pam Maxwell (North Ayrshire Fair Trade Group); Peter Kennedy; Arthur West; Ian Gasse (Dumfries Fair Trade Group); Ailsa Henderson; Sandra Burt; and Craig Sullivan  
Apologies: Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP; Claire Baker MSP; Katy Clark MSP; Gill Smee (Orkney Fair Trade Group); Barbara Holligan (Aberdeen for a Fairer World); Jane Forster; Shirley Brown; and Martin Meteyard
2. Election of office bearers:  
Convenor: Colin Smyth was proposed by Sarah Boyack MSP seconded by Sue Webber MSP and elected unopposed.  
Deputy Convenor: Sue Webber was proposed by Colin Smyth MSP seconded by Sarah Boyack MSP and elected unopposed. It was agreed to seek further interest for additional Deputy Convenors from MSP members of the CPG who were not able to attend this meeting.  
Secretary: Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum) was proposed by Colin Smyth MSP seconded by Sarah Boyack MSP and elected unopposed
3. Agreement on regularity of meetings – it was agreed to have 3 meetings annually and one event
4. Membership subscription – it was agreed that there would be no membership subscription
5. Panel discussion “Why Fair Trade is important”

Rain Morgan of Turqle Trading, a Fair Trade business based in South Africa, spoke about the importance of being a Fair Trade business; being involved with the World Fair Trade Organisation as a business wholly committed to Fair Trade principles. She outlined how Fair Trade businesses had collaborated to assist each other in response to Covid-19.

Lewis Ryder-Jones, the Deputy Chief Executive, Scotland's International Development Alliance, outlined a policy perspective on why Fair Trade was important for policy coherence. He drew attention to the Scottish Government commissioned report on Fair Trade and highlighted the importance of public procurement. He also highlighted the Scottish Government's Vision for Trade and the need to align broader trade policy with the commitment to Fair Trade and to think about how the economy is structured.

Sue Milne of Gavin's Mill in Milngavie, gave her thoughts from the point of view as a retailer. She outlined the history of Gavin's Mill and how Fair Trade has always been at its core. She also outlined how the commitment to Fair Trade was linked to commitments to sustainability and reducing plastics use in packaging etc and the wider commitment of Gavin's Mill as a centre for the local community.

Jim Lister of Glasgow Fairtrade Co-operative, outlined his interest in Fair Trade as a campaigner. He made reference to the history of the slave trade and forced migration and the legacy of industrialisation and deindustrialisation. He also highlighted that importance of Fair Trade in responding to the climate emergency with reference to COP26 taking place in Glasgow.

6. Suggestions for subjects for future meetings: there was a discussion picking up on points made in the panel discussion about possible subjects for future meetings of the CPG. Public procurement, the climate emergency and COP26, trade policy and input from producers were all suggested.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm