

Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade

2 March 2022 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Colin Smyth MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Clare Baker MSP
John Mason MSP
Foyso Choudhury MSP

Invited guests

Nduzani Zaya, Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association, Malawi
Aubrey Meki, Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association, Malawi
Taysir Arbasi, Zaytoun
Cathi Pawson, Zaytoun
Luise Schroter, Supply Chain Justice
Jeanette McIvor, Queensferry Fairtrade Group
Sandra Burt, Falkirk Fair Trade Group
Lesley Hinds

Non-MSP Group Members

Craig Sullivan
Pam Maxwell, North Ayrshire Fair Trade Group
Kiera Wilkins, Scottish Fair Trade Forum
Ian Gasse, Dumfries Fair Trade Group
Liz Manson, Scottish Fair Trade Forum
Russell Salton, Cirt of Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group
Arthur West
Kirsty Connell, Scotmid
Carol Morton, Hadeel Palcrafts
Ian Fowell, Linlithgow Fair Trade Group
Martin Meteyard
Eve Broadis, Fair Trade Scotland Ltd
Martin Rhodes, Scottish Fair Trade Froum

Apologies

Charles Sim, Scottish Fair Trade Forum

Agenda item 1

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting taking place during Fairtrade Fortnight 2022.

Agenda item 2

The minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2021 were approved.

Agenda item 3

The meeting heard from Nduzani Zaya and Aubrey Meki of the Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association in Malawi. They had visited Scotland during Fairtrade Fortnight 2020. They spoke about the impact of climate change on their co-operative and community including difficulties with flooding and droughts at times throughout the year. They also outlined the ways in which Fairtrade payments and premiums had allowed Kasinthula to take actions to adapt and mitigate. They also talked more generally about the benefits of the Fairtrade premium received by Kasinthula to support various social projects. They also discussed the impact of Covid on sales and production in the period from when they were in Scotland in early 2020.

Aimable Nshimye, Managing Director of the Sholi Coffee Co-operative in Rwanda, who visited Scotland as part of Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 had been planning to attend the meeting but was unable to because of heavy rains delaying his journey from the co-operative to home. A brief update from Aimable was reported by the Secretary. He outlined the impact of Covid on production due to social distancing measures put in place.

Taysir Arbasi and Cathi Pawson of Zaytoun discussed the continuing impact of climate change on olive growing in Palestine since Taysir's visit to Scotland during Fairtrade Fortnight in 2019. They also outlined the impact of social distancing measures because of Covid on production and the impact of Covid and international restrictions on their business. They also set out the ongoing problems experienced by Palestinian communities and businesses because of the ongoing situation in Palestine.

They then followed some questions to the panel covering the impact of flooding on communities, mitigation and adaptation measures supported by Fair Trade

Agenda item 4

No other business was taken. The meeting closed at 7.05pm