

The Scottish Parliament

Cross Party Group on Fair Trade

Convenor: Colin Smyth MSP

Vice Convenor: Gordon Lindhurst MSP

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2018

Committee Room, Scottish Parliament,

1. Minutes from the meetings held on 16 May 2018 were approved as accurate.
2. In attendance: Colin Smyth MSP, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, James Kelly MSP, Martin Rhodes (SFTF), Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Group), Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group), Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group), Anne Walsh (Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Fair Trade Group), Hazel Oakley (SFTF), Ross Isdale (SFTF) Mara Fehling (SFTF); Jane Forster (Balerno Fair Trade Group) and Dory McIntosh (Challenges Worldwide).
Apologies: Jackie Baillie MSP, Clare Adamson MSP, Annie Wells MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Linda Fabiani MSP, Graeme Clark (SFTF) Shirley Brown, Angela Oakley (East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Group), Carol Morton (Hadeel), Ian Miller (Scotmid), Liz Manson (Dumfries and Galloway Council), Josh Brown, Martin Meteyard, Gwenneth Williamson (Queensferry Fair Trade Group).
3. Discussion of Fairtrade Towns roadsigns: It was agreed after discussion of matters around Fairtrade Towns and Zones roadsigns that the Cross Party Group would carry out a survey of local Fair Trade Town Groups to establish the pattern nationally. The results of this survey would be reported to the next Cross Party Group meeting.
4. Guest Speaker: Dory McIntosh of Challenges Worldwide showed a short film and spoke about the Rwanda Coffee Project. She outlined the project which is funded through the Scottish Government's International Development Fund. The project enables [Challenges Worldwide](#) to deliver capacity growth to eight coffee cooperatives and 5500 farmers in the Western and Southern regions of Rwanda to increase market access for Fairtrade coffee from Rwanda. The capacity growth is through internal business capabilities, marketing for customer engagement, community engagement and climate justice. A team of business trainers have been brought on board to Challenges Worldwide who will be responsible for delivering the output of developing internal business capabilities across all eight partner cooperatives. Alongside the business trainers, Challenges Worldwide are working with Twin Trading, Enactus and the Scottish Fair Trade Forum on the project. There were questions and discussion about the importance of market access, the political and economic situation in Rwanda, gender equality programmes and Fairtrade certification, coffee quality and partnership working in delivering the project.
5. Any other business: Andy Mount indicated that he was stepping back from involvement with the CPG due to health issues. The Convenor thanked him for his years of commitment.
6. The meeting closed at 7.50pm