



Fair Trade Nation Annual Update Report 2017-18

Essential Criteria

After the initial award of Fair Trade Nation status for Scotland in 2013, a reassessment was carried out in early 2017 and Scotland's Fair Trade Nation status was reaffirmed. This update report highlights further progress in 2017/18 against the Fair Trade Nation essential and desirable criteria. It is a 'snapshot' of progress in the year and does not set out to be a comprehensive assessment.

Fair Trade groups across Scotland continued to be active this year. Dumfries and Galloway achieved Fairtrade Zone status in December 2017.

Involvement with higher education institutions continued in 2017-18 with the University of Strathclyde, City of Glasgow College and Clyde College achieving Fairtrade status. Additionally, events and lectures took place at a number of universities including Edinburgh Napier and Strathclyde. Professor Bob Doherty of the University of York delivered the annual Fair Trade Nation Lecture which took place this year at the City of Glasgow College on the subject of 'Food Security and Fair Trade.'

With regard to awareness of non-traditional Fair Trade goods, great strides were made this year. Scotland became the fastest growing market for Fairtrade cotton school uniforms in the UK. The Dundee Ethical Christmas Fair (4-23 December 2017), organised by Hand Up Events, hosted a number of Fair Trade retailers.

Despite all these successes, the announcement by Sainsbury's to launch their own 'fairly traded' product line - initially for tea - instead of retailing products with the FAIRTRADE Mark, was a setback. The Scottish Fair Trade Forum voiced concerns over the lack of empowerment for producers in the Sainsbury's 'fairly traded' model.

There were ten motions directly relating to Fair Trade lodged in the Scottish Parliament during the 2017-18 period. In particular, these motions drew attention to Fair Trade businesses, zones and groups and their impact on their respective communities. The Forum continued to act as secretariat to the Cross Party Group on Fair Trade in the Scottish Parliament.

Desirable Criteria

The Forum was present at the third sector conference, the Gathering, at the SECC in Glasgow, where First Minister Nicola Sturgeon visited the stall. The Forum and Scottish campaigners attended the 11th Fair Trade Towns Conference in Saarbrücken, Germany. The conference, organised by campaigners from Luxembourg, France and Germany, offered opportunities to liaise with campaigners from Europe, Southeast Asia, South America and the Middle East.

The Forum and Scottish businesses were also represented at the World Fair Trade Organization's (WFTO) Conference in Delhi, India in November 2017. This conference is an important gathering of members of the Fair Trade movement worldwide, bringing together delegates from producer



organisations, buyers and suppliers, support organisations and friends of WFTO. This year, 250 delegates from 50 countries attended the conference.

Interest in the Fair Trade Nation concept has also grown and Northern Ireland achieved Fairtrade Devolved Region status in June 2017. This was celebrated at the Great Hall in the Parliament Building in Belfast at which Scotland as a Fair Trade Nation was represented.

The fifth annual Scottish Fair Trade Awards ceremony was held in St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley in November 2017, where campaigners and volunteers were recognised for their commitment to the Fair Trade movement and their work within their communities.

Bernard Kaunda and Christopher Gondwe from Mzuzu Coffee in Malawi visited Scotland during Fairtrade Fortnight 2018. Their visit included events at Matthew Algie, the Scottish Parliament and the Malawian food and music festival, Lake of Stars.

The range of Fair Trade activity in Scotland remains wide and diverse. This update report only highlights a few of those activities to give just a flavour of progress. There continues to be engagement with Fair Trade across Scottish society, and awareness and purchasing of Fair Trade remains strong.