

What's Fairtrade got to do with Fighting the Climate Crisis?

Wednesday 24 February

12 noon (UK Time)

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A [Fairtrade Fortnight event](#) organised by [the Scottish Fair Trade Forum](#)

Questions we will be exploring:

- What climate challenges are farmers and workers facing right now?
- What is Fairtrade's role in helping to address these challenges?
- How can we ensure farmers' and workers' views and needs on the climate crisis are captured and addressed by Fair Trade organisations?
- Given the mounting financial and work pressures caused by climate change, how can we ensure farmers'/cooperatives' continuous commitment to environmental and labour standards?
- How important is Fair Trade to the wider debates about climate change and food policy?
- How, and to what extent, should Fair Trade campaigns prioritise/highlight Fair Trade's role in addressing climate change to consumers?
- In light of our conversations, what next steps and practical actions can we take?

Speakers



Keesje Avis, Senior Policy Officer, [Nourish Scotland](#)
@NourishScotland @farming1point5

Keesje (pronounced Kaysha) joined [Nourish](#) in 2019. She works on Scottish agricultural and climate change policy, is the clerk for the Farming for 1.5°C Inquiry and the clerk for the Scottish Organic Stakeholders Group. Internationally, her work focuses on reducing nitrogen waste as part of the GCRF South Asian Nitrogen Hub. Keesje has worked in Johannesburg, Brussels, London and Aberdeen on agriculture, climate change and food waste, and has degrees in agriculture and international relations. She and her husband also run Burmieston (@Burmieston), a climate-friendly business in rural Perthshire.



Fatima Ismael, General Manager, [SOPPEXCCA Coffee Co-operative](#), Nicaragua

Fatima is a General Manager of coffee co-operative, SOPPEXCCA, where she has been working since 1999. The Literacy Campaign in Nicaragua in the 1980s gave Fatima the opportunity to build her career through studies to enter a profession that, at the time, was 97% male. Fatima chose agronomy as a way of serving the needs of poor farmers in Nicaragua. Fatima's career has included working on production techniques, environmental protection, gender issues and education. In the last seven years, Fatima has also worked in market promotion and supported commercial activities to secure gender equality and improved social and environmental impact of coffee farming, as well as developing participation processes that enable the farmers to have control over their businesses and livelihoods.



Dr Michael Mikulewicz, Research Fellow, [Centre for Climate Justice](#), [Glasgow Caledonian University](#)
@MMikulewicz @GCUclimatejust

Michael is a human geographer with research expertise in climate justice, adaptation to climate change, resilience, and vulnerability, with his research firmly embedded within critical social theory. Michael obtained his PhD in Human Geography from the University of Manchester. His doctoral thesis investigated the post-politics of adaptation to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. Michael has published in a number of academic journals including the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Geoforum*, *New Political Economy*, *Area*, *The Lancet Planetary Health* and *Climate and Development*. Michael is also assistant editor of *The Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice* and co-editor of the upcoming *Political Geography* journal special issue on the geographies of climate justice.



Martin Rhodes, Chief Executive, [Scottish Fair Trade Forum](#)
@FairTradeNation

Martin became involved with Fair Trade through campaigning on a number of international development and trade justice issues. He was a founding member of the Glasgow North Fair Trade Group which joined with Fair Trade campaigners from across Glasgow to form the Glasgow Fair Trade Steering Group. He was elected as the Chair of the Glasgow Fair Trade Steering Group and later the Glasgow Fair Trade Co-operative. In September 2010, Martin was appointed as the Director of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.



Mohammed Ruzi, [Palestine Fair Trade Association](#)

Mohammed works with the Palestine Fair Trade Association as Administrative Manager, leading the organic and fair trade certification program in the association since 2011, and doing training for farmers in organic, fair trade, regenerative farming, environmental awareness and biodiversity. He is also a beekeeper and manages his own apiary. He holds a Master's degree in agricultural science.



Colleen Tait, Engagement and Communications Officer, [Scottish Fair Trade Forum](#)
@FairTradeNation

Colleen works with campaigners across Scotland and on the Forum's communications to develop support for Fair Trade. Prior to the Forum, she volunteered and worked for not-for-profits in Scotland and abroad, using her language skills and pursuing her interests in community development, sustainability and sport. In her spare time, she enjoys running.



David Taylor, Policy Manager, [the Fairtrade Foundation](#)
@FairtradeUK

David Taylor leads the Fairtrade Foundation's policy and advocacy on climate change, living incomes and living wages. He previously worked for Oxfam GB and as an aide to former Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

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Joining instructions will be sent **by email** a few days before the event to everyone signed up.
