

# Cross Party Group on Fair Trade

Convenor Colin Smyth MSP

Vice Convenor: Gordon Lindhurst MSP

## Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2020

Committee Room, Scottish Parliament

1. Minutes from the meetings held on 12 November 2019 were approved as accurate.
2. In attendance: Colin Smyth MSP, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, John Mason MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, James Kelly MSP, Martin Rhodes (SFTF), Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group), Russell Salton (Edinburgh Fair Trade Group), Anne Walsh (Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Fair Trade Group), Claire Arnott (Fairtrade Foundation), Eve Broadis (Fair Trade Scotland), Phil Broadis (Fair Trade Scotland), Alex McIntosh (Trade in Space), Katharine Wang (Edinburgh Napier University), Ed Gordon (SFTF), Meg Whitelaw (Office of Colin Smyth MSP), and Ross Isdale (SFTF).  
Apologies: Jackie Baillie MSP, Rona McKay MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Angela Oakley (East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Group), Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group), Martin Meteyard, Judith Mylne (Dumfries Fair Trade Group), Rosie Rutherford (Dumfries Fair Trade Group), Shirley Brown, Heather Wang (SFTF), Liz Manson (Dumfries and Galloway Fair Trade Group), and Wendy Wu (Edinburgh Napier University).
3. Guest speakers and discussion: Aubrey Meki Chilenje and Nduzani Zaya from Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association in Malawi were guest speakers. They spoke about the history of the Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association, sugar cane cultivation, agriculture in Malawi, climate change and the benefits received through Fairtrade.  
  
After the presentation, Colin Smyth MSP vacated the chair to attend business in the chamber and Gordon Lindhurst MSP took the chair. A number of questions and points of discussion were raised. Crop and income diversification, supply chains, the benefits gained through the Fairtrade premium, the effects of climate change and also climate change mitigation measures were all discussed.
4. Any other business: Russell Salton asked about Fair Trade products being used at COP26 in Glasgow. It was agreed that the CPG would write to the event organisers asking for the use of Fair Trade products at the conference.

The meeting closed at 2.10pm