



Passed by Executive: 7 January 2009
Passed by Union Council and became Policy: 26 January 2009
Lapses: January 2012

Fairtrade Union

This Union Notes:

1. 'Fairtrade Foundation' is the independent non-profit organisation that licenses use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products in the UK in accordance with internationally agreed Fairtrade standards
2. Consumers worldwide spent £1.6bn on Fairtrade certified products in 2007, which is a 47% increase on the previous year
3. The Fairtrade Foundation award institutions Fairtrade status once they meet minimum goals
4. Fairtrade advocates the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of [goods](#). It focuses in particular on exports from developing countries to developed countries, most notably [handicrafts](#), [coffee](#), [cocoa](#), [sugar](#), [tea](#), [bananas](#), [honey](#), [cotton](#), [wine](#), fresh fruit and flowers

This Union believes:

1. Justice and sustainable development are at the heart of trade structures and practices so that everyone, through their work, can maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full potential
2. CUSU does exceptionally well for an organisation that is not already recognised, by providing a large selection of Fairtrade produce
3. More needs to be done in order for the union to reach Fairtrade status for the whole union and on campus
4. Achieving Fairtrade status will encourage students and staff to buy Fairtrade items and subsequently help those in the developing countries earn a decent wage for their produce

This Union Resolves:

1. To nominate the President as the Union executive member nominated for implementing this policy and working with the University to achieve this
2. To mandate the environmental and ethical officer to communicate to other members and relevant societies, the issues and promotion of Fairtrade issues and Fairtrade fortnight
3. Work with the organisation 'Youth for Fairtrade' in order to encourage students to become ambassadors for Fairtrade initiatives

4. To instruct President and the Environmental and Ethical officer to work together with students and external organisations in order to promote Fairtrade
5. To serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at union events, provide Fairtrade alternatives as an option to students where possible or buy Fairtrade products when affordable
6. To encourage the university to remain committed to increasing Fairtrade consumption on campus and working with the Fairtrade Foundation
7. To be actively involved in a Fairtrade Steering Group with the University and local community organisations

Proposed by: Bonolo Woracker, VP Welfare

Seconded by: Executive Committee