

Fair trade policy

Proposer: Lewis Macleod (Communities officer)

Seconders:

- Joseph Hüttich (Fossil Free Coordinator Environment and Ethics committee)
- Nicoline Kure, women & non-binary forum convener
- Lina Naß (international student convener)
- Ruben Onckels (Vice chair Environment and Ethics committee)
- Louise Henrard (Environment and Ethics committee)
- Andrea Hernandez (Welfare committee)
- Lughaidh Scully (communities committee)
- Laura Smith (Welfare committee)
- Toni Grimaldi Alcina (Foresterhill Convenor)
- Lina Bramnetz (Waste officer, Environment and Ethics committee)
- Julie Fojtu (Environment and Ethics committee)
- Isabel del Pilar Arce Zelada (Communities Committee)
- Noémie Pirus-Hassid, (Welfare committee)

Council Notes:

1. The University has had Fairtrade status for 9 years.
2. AUSA and the University made a Fairtrade Pledge with Aberdeen City Council.
3. AUSA has a Fairtrade Policy from 2010.
4. AUSA in liaison with the University have committed to maintaining a Fairtrade policy.
5. Since January 2006, all tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sugar available to AUSA staff members is Fairtrade.
6. AUSA, through its membership of National Union of Students (NUS), is a member of the Trade Justice Movement.
7. Aberdeen city has been a Fairtrade city since 2004.
8. The switch to all Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and hot chocolate as mandated by policy on Provision and Consumption of Fair Trade Products from 2005/6 was successful and financially viable.
9. The Fairtrade mark appears on all menus, display boards and counters where a Fairtrade product is sold or provided and on promotional materials.
10. The university has been holding Annual events to promote fair trade during fairtrade fortnight.
11. The university is signed up to electronics watch to ensure all its it equipment is not produced in sweatshops.

Council Believes:

1. The Fairtrade mark is a registered certification for products sourced from developing countries that have been produced in an ethical and environmentally conscious manner.
2. AUSA should work closely with the University of Aberdeen to maintain the Fairtrade status as defined by the Fairtrade Foundation. This would help signify AUSAs commitment to responsible practice.
3. We should support Fairtrade to the greatest possible extent, while ensuring that the Union's operations are financially viable

4. A strong implementation plan is necessary to ensure that compliance is possible and every effort is made to ensure that AUSA increases its Fairtrade and ethical provision in line with policy.
5. It is worth paying a premium if necessary to purchase fairly traded goods, this needs to be reflected when budgets are allocated.
6. The use of sweatshop labour is abhorrent, and that all workers, no matter where they are, should be paid a living wage; work in safe conditions; and have the right to join or form an independent trade union.
7. That the core principles of Fairtrade and ethical practices should be part of the Union's strategic planning.

Council Resolves:

1. All coffees, tea, speciality tea, hot chocolate and sugar provided by AUSA, including meetings, conferences and other events, will continue to be Fairtrade, accredited with the Fairtrade mark, where they are produced in developing countries.
2. All clothing for AUSA Executive committee members and Staff uniforms will continue to be sourced from Fairtrade cotton, accredited with the Fairtrade mark.
3. All AUSA event t-shirts will be Fairtrade, accredited with the Fairtrade mark.
4. Where Fairtrade is not financially viable or unavailable (for a product produced in a developing country) , an ethically sourced alternative must be agreed with the Environment & Ethics committee after a report has been submitted by the relevant member of staff.
5. If sourcing clothing for its members, AUSA will always provide a Fairtrade alternative to AUSA Societies, and other AUSA groups where members will be paying individually for the goods. Where Fairtrade is not financially viable, an ethically sourced alternative must be agreed with the Environment & Ethics committee.
6. All fruit and pure fruit juices provided by AUSA should be at least one of: locally sourced, fair trade certificated or Organic produce.
7. Information on AUSA's Fairtrade provisions will appear on the AUSA website.
8. AUSA should refrain from promoting non- fair trade produce where financially viable alternatives are available (from developing countries) (for example AUSA should not promote Coca cola drinks while fair trade Ubuntu cola drinks are sold at the Student run food coop)
9. Environment & Ethics committee to update a list of Fairtrade suppliers by the end of the 2nd term of 2017/2018.
10. Environment & Ethics committee to update guidelines to aid staff in the implementation of this policy.
11. Communities officer or otherwise selected member of environment and ethics committee, to sit on the University of Aberdeen Fairtrade Steering Group
12. President for Sport, Communities officer, to make available and promote the option of Fairtrade and ethical clothing to sports clubs, societies and volunteers.
13. President for Communities to lobby the University to increase their Fairtrade provisions.