

## Fairtrade Celebrated Across Northern Ireland

14 March 2018

Northern Ireland is a Fairtrade devolved region ([www.northernirelandfairtrade.org](http://www.northernirelandfairtrade.org)).

This is an international commitment from Northern Ireland society to tackle poverty and all forms of exploitation of developing world farmers and producers. Fairtrade is the global gold standard of ethical labelling, ensuring farmers receive a minimum set price and a social premium.

Invited guest speakers this year were Father John Joseph – founder, WSSS Organic Farmers Fairtrade Association, India and Roberto Arturo - Coagriscal Coop, Honduras. They explained the difference Fairtrade delivers in their communities, by committing to purchase Fairtrade certified products.

Belfast marked the annual Fairtrade Fortnight by celebrating confirmation that its status as a Fairtrade City/Borough has been renewed for another two years to 2020.

Lord Mayor Cllr. Nuala McAllister was presented with the certification by Dr Christopher Stange, Chair of the Fairtrade Belfast Committee and Hon. Consul for St Vincent and the Grenadines with Committee members. Belfast has been a Fairtrade City since 2005.



Mid Ulster District Council celebrated with school children across the District at Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon with Chair of the Council, Cllr. Kim Ashton and Kevin McCullough from the Fairtrade Foundation.



Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's event took place at Wallace High School with The Mayor, Cllr Tim Morrow; Alderman Allan Ewart MBE, Chairman of the Council's Development Committee and Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group with Local Radio and TV Presenter, John Daly.



Our only local Fairtrade tea business in Northern Ireland – Suki Tea, Director Annie Irwin provided a tea sampling and tour of the facilities.



Ards and North Down Borough Council held a school's event at the Space, SERC with The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Gavin Walker; Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group, Cllr. Noelle Robinson and the Committee.



Queen's University Belfast held a Fairtrade coffee and tea luncheon discussion with internal staff at the McClay library with Philip Smith and Siobhan Gunn.



Derry and Strabane District Council hosted local schoolchildren to pose their questions to Roberto Arturo Coagriscal Coop, Honduras as part of a special Fairtrade Fortnight event at the Eden Place Arts Centre in Pilot's Row, Derry.

Various other schools and churches held similar events and fundraising as part of their commitments to Fairtrade, having already attained or working towards Fairtrade status.

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editor:**

- Northern Ireland became a Fairtrade devolved region on June 19, 2017. For more information: [www.northernirelandfairtrade.org/projects](http://www.northernirelandfairtrade.org/projects)
- Over 5000 products have been licensed to carry the FAIRTRADE Mark including coffee, tea, herbal teas, chocolate, cocoa, sugar, bananas, lychees, coconuts, dried fruit, juices, smoothies, biscuits, cakes & snacks, honey, jams & preserves, chutney & sauces, rice, quinoa, herbs & spices, seeds, nuts & nut oil, wines, beers, rum, confectionary, muesli, cereal bars, yoghurt, ice-cream, flowers, sports balls, sugar body scrub and cotton products including clothing, homeware, cloth toys, cotton wool, olive oil, gold, silver and platinum.
- Awareness of the FAIRTRADE Mark continues to be high at 93%.
- Fairtrade helps small-scale farmers ensure they earn stable incomes and have long-term contracts with companies. In addition, they earn the Fairtrade Premium, which they invest as the farmer-owned co-operative democratically chooses, in projects that will benefit their business or community.
- The FAIRTRADE Mark independently certifies that products meet economic, social and environmental standards. As such, it is the most widely recognised ethical mark worldwide.

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