

# Trade justice update for Scottish activists

September 2018



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## September action checklist

- [Share our chicken stunt outside Holyrood on 5 September on facebook](#)
- [Join us on 5 September for the tug of war – and let us know you're coming on facebook](#)
- [Sign the petition to the House of Lords on trade democracy](#)
- Look out for the Scottish petition to the House of Lords
- [Contact us about lobbying a local Lord to ensure Scotland has a say in future trade deals](#)
- Look out for an e-action about Liam Fox's plans for the UK to join the TPP

## Westminster update

### Trade bill moves on to the House of Lords

To Trade Minister Liam Fox's relief, the trade bill was passed in the House of Commons early in July by a small majority. Green MP Caroline Lucas's amendment, NC3, that would have ensured adequate parliamentary scrutiny of future trade deals was supported by the SNP, Labour, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru, but ultimately fell by 30 votes. After some gentle nudging by Global Justice Now and Trade Justice Scotland coalition activists, the SNP also put a number of amendments down about scrutiny by the devolved nations. While these amendments didn't get passed either, they did send a clear message about the importance of giving the devolved nations of the UK a voice on post-Brexit trade deals which could have such an impact on many areas of devolved policy.

So we are left with a trade bill that allows for virtually no democratic scrutiny of post-Brexit trade deals, and no voice for Scotland. However, all is not yet lost! The bill now goes to the House of Lords for its next reading on September 11. Strange and contradictory though it seems to use the

undemocratic institution that is the House of Lords to insert some semblance of democracy into the trade bill - needs must! Over the next month or so, much of our campaigning efforts must be spent winning the ears of the peers.

### Winning the ears of the peers

The second reading of the trade bill by the House of Lords will take place on 11 September. This will be followed by scrutiny of the bill by the Constitution Committee of the House of Lords on 12 September. About two weeks after that, there will be a full debate of the bill, and it will be possible for Lords to put down amendments to the bill prior to this debate.

We are optimistic that the House of Lords will 'ping pong' some version of Caroline Lucas's NC3 amendment on trade democracy back to the House of Commons. We are also hoping to find some sympathetic Lords willing to put down amendments in support of scrutiny of future trade deals by the devolved nations. Global Justice Now and other members of the Trade Justice Movement have organised a roundtable in the House of Lords on 5 September to discuss trade democracy. Global Justice Now also has a petition to the House of Lords. [Please sign it here](#)

We are also planning a petition to the House of Lords specifically about the devolved nations having a say in future trade negotiations. Keep an eye on our facebook page, and look out for future emails on this.

### Adopt a Lord

Over the next month we will be contacting Lords with a specific interest in Scotland as a devolved nation and trade issues, asking them to argue for more powers of scrutiny for Scotland in trade deals. If you know of a Lord who might be sympathetic, or [if you are keen to have a go at lobbying a Scottish Lord on your own or with others, please contact the office.](#)

## TPP and more: The UK as a Pacific nation?

With the trade bill off his plate for a while, Liam Fox lost no time in looking up some nice trade deals for us to sign up to after Brexit – including the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP, you may remember, was one of the big four toxic trade deals we were campaigning against before the Brexit vote. Together with TTIP, CETA and TISA, TPP was billed as a trade deal that would set a new gold standard for trade deals, pushing privatisation of public services, and a pro-corporate agenda across the world.

The TPP began as a trade deal between the US and so-called 'Pacific nations' including Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru and Vietnam. Then Trump pulled out, but the deal continues with the even more catchy acronym 'CPTPP'. Even with the US leaving, the deal remains a toxic one. However, Fox looks keen to sign up. He has announced a consultation on the trade deal, together with three others – Australia, New Zealand and the US. [Read Dottie's blog post on the TPP here.](#)

So we need to start campaigning against these potentially awful deals. All four consultations are now up on the government website. We will be setting up an e-action on these consultations soon.

## Scottish parliament update

### No chlorinated chickens here please Mr Hollingbery!

While the trade bill has almost been finalised at Westminster, it is also being scrutinised by the finance and constitution committee in the Scottish parliament. That committee will decide whether to recommend MSPs should consent to the bill. You might remember that the Scottish government has already recommended that consent to the trade bill is refused by the Scottish parliament, however the Scottish government has not included trade democracy, and proper scrutiny for the Scottish parliament as a reason for refusing consent. We want it to be added to their reasons.

On 5 September, UK government trade minister George Hollingbery is coming to the Scottish parliament to give evidence to the finance and constitution committee about the bill. We are

marking the occasion of his visit with a fun stunt outside Holyrood. At lunchtime on that Wednesday, we will have a tug of war: Scottish chickens, doctors and farmers versus Fox, Trump, Hollingbery and Fat Cat businessmen. We need lots of people to make it an effective stunt. Why not come along and hear Hollingbery give evidence at the parliament in the morning, and then don one of our costumes and join the tug of war at lunchtime? [If you are able to come along, or would like more details before making up your mind, then please email Jane or phone the office: 0131 2432730.](#)

And if you're on facebook, please help us spread the word by sharing the event. [Click here for the link](#) and either ticking that you're 'coming' or that you are 'interested' (even if you're not able to be there in person) as that means more people will view the event.

## Useful materials

'What's at risk here in Scotland from post-Brexit trade deals?' Information booklet by Global Justice Now Scotland. Order your copies from the office. [Email us](#) or phone 0131 2432730

[View the booklet online.](#)

### Trade Justice Scotland Coalition materials

[Principles for Just Trade Deals](#)

[Principle for Just Trade Deals briefing](#)

[Draft Just Trade Principles motion for local councils](#)

### Global Justice Now materials

[E-pocalypse Now: how the e-commerce trade agenda promotes corporate power and threatens the global south](#)

## Local trade justice groups across Scotland

[Global Justice Glasgow](#)

[Global Justice Ayrshire](#)

[Stop TTIP Aberdeen](#)

[Trade Justice Dundee \(formerly Stop TTIP Dundee\)](#)

[St. Andrews TTIP Action Group](#)

[Trade Justice Scotland Coalition](#)

## Take action

To find out how you can help tackle corporate power and become part of a movement for real change visit [www.globaljustice.org.uk](http://www.globaljustice.org.uk) or call 0131 2432730.



Global Justice Now campaigns for a world where resources are controlled by the many, not the few, and works in solidarity with social movements to fight injustice. We used to be the World Development Movement.

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