

Trade justice update for Scottish activists

December 2017



Contact: Jane Herbstritt on jane.herbstritt@globaljustice.org.uk or tel: 0131 243 2730

December action checklist

Lobbying politicians:

- If your MP hasn't signed the Early Day Motion on trade democracy [please email them](#)
- Meet your local MP to talk about the UK trade bill and the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's Just Trade Principles (if you have a Conservative MP [contact the GJN office for a lobbying briefing](#))
- [Email your MSP to sign the Scottish parliament motion in support of the Just Trade Principles](#)
- [Lobby your local councillor to put forward a local council motion in support of the Just Trade Principles](#)

Activist events:

- [Consider taking part in the mass lobby of MPs at Westminster in February](#)
- [Come along to the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition event at the Scottish parliament](#)
- Invite your local MSPs to the event at the Scottish parliament.

Westminster update

UK trade bill

The UK trade bill has now been introduced at Westminster. This is a critical moment for us. We have just a few months in which to amend this bill and ensure parliament, devolved administrations and the public can hold the UK government to account for trade policy. After this, we don't know if there will be another opportunity to change the process by which post-Brexit trade deals are signed off.

We don't yet know when the big UK parliamentary moment will be. We expect to have a better idea within the next few weeks – but we are working towards Jan-Feb. This is when MPs will be able to

put amendments down, and we can rally support for them.

As things stand, MPs have virtually no power over trade deals, and nor has the Scottish government or parliament. Unless we can give them this power, Liam Fox will keep negotiating deals with countries like the US, Turkey and Saudi Arabia with no accountability. So we'll be looking at another TTIP. Or we'll be looking at trade deals which increase privatisation and the opening of markets in the global South, or which simply legitimise human rights abusing regimes.

[Read the Global Justice Now blog post on the trade bill](#)

There are plenty of things you can do in order to make your MPs, MSPs and the wider public aware of the opportunities and challenges we face just now in order to ensure we have proper scrutiny of future UK trade deals. Whether you have five minutes to do an e-action, or you have longer to meet your local MP/MSP, come along to our event at the Scottish parliament or [come down to Westminster with us](#) – it's really important you take action now.

Early Day Motion on trade democracy

Since the general election, we have been asking MPs in Scotland [to sign EDM 128 on parliamentary scrutiny of trade deals](#). We are using this EDM to increase awareness amongst MPs of the importance of democratic scrutiny of trade policy, and finding who our allies are. Thanks to the sterling work of Trade Justice Scotland Coalition members around the country, all the SNP and Scottish LibDem MPs in Scotland have signed, and some of the Scottish Labour MPs have too. So far, no Tories have signed but it would be really useful to get some on board! Global Justice Now has put together a guide to lobbying Conservative MPs on trade democracy. If your constituency has a Tory party MP and you would like a copy, [please get in touch](#)

with us.

Please get in touch with your local MP by email, letter or by face-to-face meeting. Talk to them about the EDM if they haven't signed it, make them aware of the need to amend the trade bill, and talk about [the Principles for Just Trade that the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition have drawn up as an alternative vision for a framework for trade policy that is ethical, fair and transparent.](#)

Trade justice event at Westminster

Organisations including the Trade Justice Movement, Global Justice Now and War on Want, held an event in the Houses of Parliament in November aiming to rally support amongst MPs for the UK trade bill to be amended. Invited speakers included Green party MP Caroline Lucas; Labour Shadow Secretary for International Trade Barry Gardiner; and Hannah Bardell, SNP spokesperson on trade. [Read Global Justice Now's press release about the event.](#)

Unfortunately, Hannah Bardell MP was ill on the day so could not attend the event. However, she did write an article for the National ahead of the event, in which she once again called for a 'trade policy for Scotland'. [Read the article here.](#)

National Action for Trade Democracy, 5-6 February

Global Justice Now and War on Want [are planning a two-day mobilisation for trade democracy in London at the beginning of February](#), including public meetings, a demonstration, a 'trade tour' and a mass lobby of MPs. We know already that there will be people coming from Scotland to this event. If you are interested in going with them, please let us know. [Contact our Scotland organiser, Kirsty.](#) Please feel free to book your travel now in order to get it as cheaply as possible if you know you want to come. However, in January we will be trying to co-ordinate some group bookings for anyone who wants to travel together. There will be travel subsidies of up to £40 for those who find the trip difficult to afford. Again, email Kirsty about this.

US-UK trade relations inquiry

The International Trade Committee has re-launched this inquiry, as it was not completed before the general election earlier this year. Trade Justice Scotland Coalition has submitted evidence to this inquiry, as well as to the trade bill White Paper consultation. The committee is currently taking oral evidence. [Find out more from the House of Commons website.](#)

Scottish parliament update

Scottish e-action to MSPs : demand a voice for Scotland on trade deals

Scottish Green MSP Mark Ruskell has put down a motion in the Scottish parliament, welcoming the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's Just Trade Principles, and calling for a voice for Scotland in future trade deals after Brexit. Please ask your constituency MSPs to sign his motion (S5M-08521). The motion has been signed by 24 MSPs so far, with some Green, SNP, Labour and Lib Dem MSPs already represented. As with the EDM, it would be great if we could persuade some Conservative MSPs that scrutiny of trade deals and a voice for Scotland is really important. You can use Global Justice Now's guide on lobbying Conservative MPs on trade democracy to speak to your local Tory MSP. [Contact the office for a copy.](#)

[Take our e-action and ask your MSPs to sign up here](#)

Launch of Just Trade Principles at the Scottish parliament

When: Tuesday 16 January 2018 from 6pm – 8pm

Where: Scottish parliament

Earlier this year, the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition put together a set of ten principles on which we believe an ethical UK trade policy after Brexit should be based. The principles are about ensuring UK trade policy puts the rights of people and planet ahead of the profits of multinational companies, ensures future trade deals are developed democratically, and that there is a proper voice for Scotland during negotiations.

Now we are launching this document at the Scottish parliament at an event hosted by Mark Ruskell MSP. Speakers will be Liz Murray from Global Justice Now, Simon McFarlane from UNISON Scotland, and Jean Blaylock from the UK-wide Trade Justice Movement. As well as talking about the coalition's trade principles, they will also be talking about the UK trade bill – what's in it, what's not in it, and why it needs amending!

Please come along to this free event at the parliament. However, please note that booking your place is essential as the parliament staff need the names of all who are attending in advance. Please also invite your local MSPs to our event – as the main purpose of the event is to brief MSPs on the importance of demanding trade democracy at this critical time. [Find out more about the event here.](#)

Local councils in Scotland

Local Council motions on trade democracy

Trade Justice Scotland coalition has written to the leaders of all local councils asking if they will put forward a motion supporting our Just Trade Principles. You might remember we did something similar in our campaign against TTIP, when one third of local councils in Scotland supported motions against the EU-US trade deal.

So far only one council – Inverclyde – has agreed to put forward a motion in support of our trade principles. However, this campaign will be much more effective if you as trade campaigners contact your local councillors and talk to them about tabling a motion. We have drafted some wording for a motion that you can share with your local councillor, [and there is also a briefing about our principles on the Scotland Against TTIP website](#)

Useful materials

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

[Trade bill parliamentary briefing](#)

[Twenty ways to fight for trade democracy](#)

[Giving away control? How Brexit will make trade deals less democratic and what we can do about it](#)

[Ten alternatives to a corporate trade agenda](#)

[Trading with Trump: what we can expect from a US-UK trade deal](#)

Local trade justice groups across Scotland

There are local trade justice groups across Scotland fighting against predatory trade deals like TTIP and CETA. Here are links to the ones we know of. Please let us know if we've missed any!

[Just Trade Edinburgh \(formerly Stop TTIP Edinburgh\)](#)

[Global Justice Glasgow](#)

[Global Justice Ayrshire](#)

[Stop TTIP Aberdeen](#)

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

[St. Andrews TTIP Action Group](#)

[Stop TTIP Highlands](#)

[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 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.

Global Justice Now, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street Edinburgh EH2 2PR
t: 0131 243 2730 e: thornhouse@globaljustice.org.uk w: www.globaljustice.org.uk