

# THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with  
Global Justice Now



 **Global  
Justice  
Now**

January 2018

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### General

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- Activist reader

2 January 2018

## Trade democracy: a battle about the kind of world we want



Nick Dearden Director

On 29 November I presented oral evidence to parliament's international trade committee. Later that day I had my accreditation to the following week's WTO summit withdrawn.

I had been invited to tell the trade committee what we think about the government's Trade Bill. As Liam Fox flies around the world talking to governments from Saudi Arabia to the US, neither parliament nor the public has a right to know what he's talking about or to whom. When he's completed his talks, and signed a trade deal, MPs can't amend it or stop it.

That matters, because we know that trade policy increasingly affects more and more aspects of our lives. We know a trade deal with the US would change UK food standards - think GM food and chlorinated chicken - because the US commerce secretary told us so. We also know the British government wants tighter intellectual property (read: more expensive medicines around the world) and a strong e-commerce agenda (read: more power to Google and Facebook).

I was really heartened that we weren't alone in our concerns. Business representatives and lawyers agreed that the Trade Bill's scrutiny mechanisms were laughable. Two hours later the World Trade Organisation (WTO) told us our accreditation to its Buenos Aires summit was being rescinded by Argentina's new government. We were not alone. Trade activists from Europe, Latin America and Africa also had theirs rescinded.

This is important because the WTO sets world trade rules. Those rules have a fundamental, often negative, impact on poverty, inequality and the environment. Developing countries are still attacked for very modest protections of food and small scale farming, while rich country protection takes place on a massive scale. Thankfully, the negotiations in Buenos Aires largely collapsed as the US and its allies failed to bully countries like India into accepting an unfair deal on issues like food security. But these are battles that will rage on and it is deeply worrying that civil society was excluded.

Fundamentally, Argentina excluded us because it prizes being 'open for (big) business' over democracy. The same goes for our government's attempts to shut out parliament and the public from trade policy. Today, trade deals go to the heart of how our society is run, which is why the fight for trade democracy is so important for us all.

# News from Global Justice Now



## Activist Reader

We've enclosed copies of our new 'activist reader'. The idea is to provide some curated reading for activists around our campaign issues, and also a little more broadly where we've come across something

particularly interesting, based on articles that have been published elsewhere.

You can order more copies if you would like to distribute them to more members of your group; or how about using one or more articles as the basis of a reading group-type discussion? The Fearless Cities and Culture of the Commons articles together could make a good basis for this, but in theory any of them could.

We're also happy to send copies to those not in local groups. To order copies, email [activism@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:activism@globaljustice.org.uk) or call 020 7820 4900.

## Media Highlights

Being banned from the WTO has raised our profile in Argentina – there have been dozens of articles about it there. But the ban (and our views on the WTO) were also covered in the Financial Times, by Reuters, and several times in the Guardian.

We had letters in the i, the National and the Herald in response to Priti Patel's resignation, and a joint letter on carbon trading during the COP in Bonn. Dorothy Guerrero was also quoted in the Guardian.

Comment articles included Aisha Dodwell in the New Internationalist about migration and Nick Dearden on Al Jazeera about what the west owes Zimbabwe, plus on Open Democracy about the Trade Bill, and Jonathan Stevenson on tax in the Church Times.

The pharma speaker tour picked up some local media coverage – including in Brighton and Dundee.

## Group affiliation form

Included with this Think Global is a group affiliation form for 2018. The process is unchanged from last year. But if you have any questions about the process (especially if you are a new group) please email [activism@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:activism@globaljustice.org.uk). Please return your forms to us by the end of January.

## Action checklist

### Trade

- If you've not done so already, lobby your MP
- Come to the Trade Bill Takedown on 5-6 February - national mobilisation

### Other

- Organise a screening of The Spider's Web (with speaker)

### Pharmaceuticals

- Arrange a screening of the

film Fire In The Blood

### Migration

- Organise a group discussion about global free movement, using the enclosed article
- Join the One Day Without Us day of action on 17 February

### Stop Trump

- Join the protests on February 26-27 (TBC)

# Pharmaceuticals



Ilbongile Tshabalala speaks as part of the pharmaceuticals campaign speaker tour

## World AIDS Day

Several groups took to the streets on World AIDS day on 1 December, braving the cold to spread the message about how corporate greed is effectively preventing access to essential medicines for millions of people. Global Justice Reading organised a particularly innovative stall, running with the 'sick health lottery' theme as a way of engaging dozens of people on the high street (see the image on the front cover and report on P10).

We are still in the awareness raising stage of the campaign, and stalls are a great way to help spread the word. All the materials we sent out in Think Global September - the scratch card, poster and leaflets - are still live and will be relevant well into the new year. If you want to order materials, email the office.

## Plans for 2018

Following the successful launch of the campaign this autumn and winter, including a BBC Radio 5 Live feature about the campaign, we are developing plans for 2018.

We will build on Pills and Profit, our joint report with StopAIDS, which provides the evidence to demonstrate that public money has gone

into the research and development (R&D) of drugs that subsequently have been bought up by pharmaceutical companies. The drugs have then been marketed at extortionate prices that have led to patients not having access to vital medicines.

This will involve more work around lobbying and advocacy to ensure we can push this up the political agenda. We will continue to call for conditions to be attached to public funding for health R&D to ensure that drugs produced are accessible and affordable. We will be using key hooks such as the NHS 70th anniversary in July to raise public awareness about the campaign and work with different groups to spread our messages. This will be a good opportunity for more local activity.

We will also start exploring the idea of democratic control of public investment for public health in more depth. We will develop ideas about alternatives to the current profit-driven patent monopoly system, with a view to influencing Labour party policy in particular

We will be developing new actions for groups to take on the campaign and will be keeping you posted on this.

## Fire In The Blood film screenings

We are still encouraging groups to organise events to raise awareness about the campaign. You can arrange a screening of the internationally acclaimed film, Fire in the Blood, which covers the global fight for access to HIV medicines. To find out more, please get in touch with [Tamara.Hopewell@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:Tamara.Hopewell@globaljustice.org.uk)

# Migration

With the focus on trade campaigning and the launch of the pharma campaign, and with reductions in staff capacity, our migration work has been moving at a slower pace. However, following further discussions with Global Justice Now groups and external partners, we are gearing up to a renewal of our campaigning next year, with new campaign materials and plans to come in Think Global March. Here's an overview of what's in store

## Arguing for global freedom of movement

Growing evidence suggests that borders have a hugely harmful impact on the world's poorest people, but are also extremely ineffective at controlling migration. For these and other reasons, it's time to put forward the case for global free movement. This is of course a contentious and a long-term aspiration, but Global Justice Now has a long history of promoting systemic alternatives to the status quo and spreading ideas that are beyond the limits of mainstream debate.

Groups who are interested in this may wish to host public discussions on this in 2018, and the office will be producing in-depth materials and will provide speakers to address these issues. To start with now, you could read the enclosed article by Aisha Dodwell, campaigns and policy manager, setting out seven arguments for global free movement, and discuss it at your next monthly meeting.

## Challenging the 'hostile environment'

The 'hostile environment' refers to a set of repressive government policies that extends border controls through our public services - such as education and the NHS - and the private economy, including banks. This risks turning many doctors, teachers, bank managers and landlords

into immigration officers and creating an underclass of people too afraid to access basic services like healthcare. A number of groups already working on this area have told us they would welcome the support of Global Justice Now. Doctors of the World, for example, is hoping to get more members of the public to help make GP surgeries safe spaces for migrants, which could be a valuable role that Global Justice Now activists could play.

We will be producing a briefing and an action guide on the hostile environment to support groups who are keen to campaign on this area.

## Migration and the battle for global justice

Feedback from groups during the survey of our campaigns showed that there was a desire to see how migration links with wider global inequality and injustice. We will commissioning research into this and producing education materials next year.

## One Day Without Us

in the short term, One Day Without Us will be a day of action on 17 February celebrating the contribution of migrants to society. The organisers encourage people to do whatever they think will work in their local area, from cultural events to protest activity. See more at [www.1daywithoutus.org](http://www.1daywithoutus.org).

## Corporate Monopoly

We still have some of the small Corporate Monopoly board games left. So if you are interested in playing the game at home or giving them as a gift please let Sam know on [sam.lund-harket@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:sam.lund-harket@globaljustice.org.uk).

The pack includes a board, cards and rules. You'll need to borrow money and pieces from another Monopoly game.



# Trade justice

## A crucial period for trade democracy

The Trade Bill is expected to receive a second reading very early in January (we think 9 January) and will probably go to committee stage (where amendments can be submitted) a couple of weeks later. So this is a critical time for all of us concerned with trade democracy.

Recent events show how important this issue is. In the last few weeks, the government has confirmed that it wants to deepen trade with the human rights abusing regime in Kazakhstan, and that Liam Fox fully supports tighter intellectual property rules (a massive problem for affordable medicine) and new e-commerce rules (good for Amazon and Google but terrible for tax justice, privacy and government's ability to regulate).

The government might try to argue that the Trade Bill is mostly just a 'technical' bill that deals with replicating trade agreements the UK is already signed up to as a member

of the EU. But that is misleading. Firstly, this is likely to be the only chance we get to secure trade democracy and ensure that parliament gets a say in any future trade deals. But these deals are also not, as Liam Fox admits, genuinely just 'cut and paste' jobs. They will be NEW deals and deserve scrutiny and accountability. That is why we need to take action now.

## The parliamentary situation

We have strong support from the Green, Labour, SNP, Plaid and SDLP leaderships. But we are still to shore up support among backbench MPs of all parties, especially Conservative MPs. We can give help from the office to help approach MPs of different parties and persuasions.

We are working with a coalition including Trade Justice Movement, Unison, War on Want, Friends of the Earth, Unlock Democracy, Fairtrade Foundation, SumOfUs and 38Degrees.



Petition hand in at the Department for International Trade



Trading with Trump stunt outside the Department for International Trade

So far 265,000 people have petitioned Liam Fox on this issue, while 60,000 people wrote to the white paper consultation. In addition, EDM 128, which supports the campaign, is the second most popular in parliament.

For a more detailed update, listen to the recording of our recent Trade Bill 101 webinar in the trade folder of the Global Justice Now shared drive for activists: [globaljustice.org.uk/drive](https://globaljustice.org.uk/drive).

## Political lobbying - it's urgent!

Please keep talking to your MPs. Here is a list of things to ask them to do:

- Sign EDM 128 (if they haven't yet) calling for trade democracy
- Attend the second reading in parliament and raise concerns
- We would also like them to write articles for local or party-related media, or simply supportive statements on their website.
- If you live in Scotland, please ask your MSP to sign parliamentary motion S5M-08521 on trade democracy and the importance of a role for Scotland in future UK trade deal negotiations. This motion complements EDM 128 on parliamentary

scrutiny of trade deals. The Scottish parliament motion has been signed by 24 MSPs so far, with some Green, SNP, Labour and Lib Dem MSPs already represented. Please make sure your local MSPs have signed by taking our e-action.

## Trade Bill Takedown, London, 5-6 February

The following text is based on December's Think Global Extra, but new details have been added - including Barry Gardiner and Caroline Lucas confirmed as speakers!

To help build the pressure for trade democracy, Global Justice Now and War on Want are hosting a two-day mobilisation in London on 5-6 February - a crucial time in the passage of the Trade Bill. It will culminate in a mass lobby of MPs on the afternoon of Tuesday 6 February. We are encouraging as many local campaigners and concerned citizens as possible to come to London for this mobilisation.

Register now to come for one or both days at [globaljustice.org.uk/events](https://globaljustice.org.uk/events). We will update the page as more details are announced.

## What will the mobilisation involve?

### Monday 5 February

On Monday, starting at around 2pm in the financial square mile of the City of London, a walking tour will bring participants up close to the corporate seats of power: the multinational businesses that wield so much influence over trade policy and law. We will learn about the lobbyists who are so central to the process of corporate influence. To put recent developments in context, we'll explore some of the history of the City of London, and how financial power came to be so dominant.

In the evening we will gather in Rivington Place for a public meeting with Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the Green Party, and Barry Gardiner, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, as well as activists and campaigners.

### Tuesday 6 February

We'll start with a protest at the Department for International Trade, to tell Liam Fox and his team in no uncertain terms what we think of his Trade Bill and its implications for workers' and human rights, environmental concerns, food safety and democracy itself.

In the afternoon, we will go to the Palace of Westminster for a meeting, addressed by MPs, trade experts and activists. We will take this opportunity to lobby our MPs over the Trade Bill, which is likely to be in committee stage at that time.

### Travel and accommodation

We will be able to offer a limited number of travel subsidies of up to £40 to potential participants travelling from outside London for travel and accommodation.

To claim a subsidy, email [guy.taylor@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:guy.taylor@globaljustice.org.uk). For accommodation, see a list of possible places to stay on the events page [globaljustice.org.uk/events](http://globaljustice.org.uk/events).

## Spider's Web film showing plus speaker events

Global Justice Now groups have been offered the opportunity to organise community screenings of the new film *The Spider's Web* without charge. *The Spider's Web* is a feature documentary about how Britain transformed from a colonial power to a global financial power, and the crucial role played by the City of London and Britain's overseas dependencies as tax havens and arenas of secrecy. *The Spider's Web* has been shortlisted for a number of awards and won best self-funded film at the XV Cine Probre Film festival.

The director of Tax Justice Network, John Christensen, who spent years working within this system in accountancy firms and for the government of Jersey, helped to produce the film. He is willing to visit groups to talk after the film.

The film is available in formats suitable for screenings in small rooms or cinemas, and there is no limit on the number of screenings that can be organised.

To book a screening and to arrange a speaker visit with John Christensen, email Michael Oswald at [info@queuepolitely.com](mailto:info@queuepolitely.com), informing him that you are a Global Justice Now group.

See more about the film at [www.spiderswebfilm.com](http://www.spiderswebfilm.com)

## Scottish activists travel to Trade Bill Takedown

A group from Scotland will be going down to London for the 'Trade Bill Takedown' on 5-6 February. If you live in Scotland and want to go, then let us know and we can meet up with you in London, or you could choose to travel down with us too - in January we will be trying to coordinate some group bookings. Contact Kirsty and we can share our plans: [kirsty.haigh@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.haigh@globaljustice.org.uk).



# Aid

This month we launched a new report into the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF). Our report showed how this controversial cross-government fund has been diverting aid money away from poverty alleviation and instead using it to fund police forces and armies around the world. And in some cases, the CSSF has been funding security forces who have been involved in human rights violations.

We launched a petition calling on Theresa May, as chair of the National Security Council that oversees the fund, to shut it down. We successfully briefed the Labour international development team about our report into the CSSF which resulted in Jeremy Corbyn asking urgent questions about the fund in a letter to the Prime Minister. Kate Osamor also asked Parliamentary questions about the fund, and wrote an opinion for the Guardian based largely on our report.

We also appeared on BBC's Panorama to talk about our ongoing work related to the private development consultancy company, Adam Smith International (ASI). The company have been involved in the CSSF and we once again helped to expose their mis-use of aid money.

As well as highlighting the bad use of aid money, we have also continued to push our vision (set out in the July report Reimagining UK Aid) for what aid should be spent on. We successfully lobbied the Shadow Secretary of State for International Development to adopt our key policy recommendation to expand the remit of aid beyond just alleviating poverty, to also include reducing inequality. This has since been announced as a core part of Labour's development strategy. In recognition of our work in this area, we have now been invited to sit on the taskforce to help Labour develop their aid & development strategy.



Disgraced Conservative MP Priti Patel meets Royal Engineers. Our new report examines misuse of aid money.

# Stop Trump

Despite ongoing uncertainty about Donald's Trump much-discussed visit to the UK, the latest information suggests that he is likely to come for a working visit on 26-27 February, which would coincide with the opening of the new US embassy in London. The Stop Trump coalition has provisionally called demonstrations on both days at the US embassy and 10 Downing Street.

It is very hard to predict what will happen, which obviously inhibits the planning of

anti-Trump actions. However, if Trump does indeed attend, then we need to present the biggest display of dissent possible - to tell both our government and the world that we reject the misogyny, racism and corporate greed that Trump stands for.

We should all continue to monitor developments. But if there is no further news by your group's next meeting, you may wish to make provisional plans, either to go to London and/or to host a protest or action of your own in your area.

# Groups and activism news



Global Justice Bristol meet with Bristol West MP Thangam Debbonaire

## Trade democracy

Activists from Global Justice Nottingham are arranging a meeting with Anna Soubry, a leading Tory rebel over Brexit, to lobby her over the trade campaign. Given Soubry's recent willingness to stand up for parliamentary sovereignty, this is a potentially very significant opportunity.

Global Justice Manchester did a successful talk with Save the NHS's Greater Manchester group on trade. Hopefully, this will lead to the Save the NHS group supporting their MP lobbying work. They also had a meeting with the Withington MP about trade, and to introduce him to the pharma campaign, which he was interested in. He said he would support any amendments put forward by Labour's front bench.

Global Justice Bristol met with MP Thangam Debonaire for a full hour and 20 minutes, discussing in-depth about trade democracy, Brexit, Labour's position and messaging to use with less supportive MPs.

Global Justice Macclesfield met with their MP to discuss the issue of the democratic deficit in the Trade Bill and will be following it up by writing to him. The group has been using recent materials and information, such as the webinar on trade democracy, to inform their lobbying, and will be organising a screening of *Fire in the Blood* in January.

Global Justice Cambridge participated in the webinar on trade democracy in November and used the learning from the experience to spread the word and get petition signatures at the Mill Road Winter Fair. This followed a previous action outside a local Sainsbury's, calling on them to rethink their decision to withdraw their own brand products from the Fair Trade scheme, which received local press coverage.

## World AIDS Day actions

Global Justice Reading has continued to be active on the trade campaign, and organised a stall for the pharma campaign



Global Justice Reading's 'sick health lottery' stall

for World AIDS Day. Here's a report on the day from Jackie Oversby, group coordinator:

"Global Justice Reading set up a free 'Sick-Health Lottery' stall in the town centre on World AIDS Day, 1 December. John dressed up in hospital scrubs (purchased cheaply online) and the rest of us tried to find a white overall or something medical looking to wear. We planned to invite passers-by to scratch the card and see if they had 'won' the medicine they needed! In the event, it was a bitterly cold day, so we had to have quick conversations with anyone who would pause their shopping. We talked to people about the high costs of medicines

charged by pharmaceutical companies and asked them to sign the action cards to their MPs calling for all publicly funded bio-medical research and development to be transparent, with resulting medicines being accessible and affordable."

Global Justice Bexhill and Hastings braved the cold to run a stall on World AIDS Day, using the posters from the action to engage people on the street in Bexhill. Global Justice Leeds University Union also ran a stall on World AIDS Day on campus, engaging students with the issues and getting signatures for the action cards.



Global Justice Bexhill and Hastings join the World AIDS day protests against big pharma

## Climate and migration

Global Justice Now's new climate justice activist network has organised its first activities. Anoushka Carter, also from the youth network, travelled to Bonn to join the mobilisations around the latest round of UN talks, and to join the direct action campaign against open cast coal mining, Ende Gelände. Anoushka has written a selection of blogs about her experiences, which you can read at [globaljustice.org.uk/blog](http://globaljustice.org.uk/blog).

Meanwhile, activists from the network also joined an action at City Hall in London. Bringing mayor's question time to a standstill because Sadiq Khan has not kept the climate pledges he got elected on

## Launch of Just Trade Principles at the Scottish parliament

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

**Where: Scottish parliament**

Come to the Scottish houses of parliament for the launch of the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's Just Trade Principles declaration.

Learn about how we can demand more from the UK trade bill currently being debated in the House of Commons, by ensuring democratic scrutiny of future deals, and a proper voice for Scotland. Hear about our vision for a trade policy that puts the rights of people and planet ahead of the profits of multinational companies. Booking your place is essential. Find out more here:

[www.globaljustice.org.uk/trade-launch](http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/trade-launch)



Global Justice Glasgow take action against M&S

Global Justice Glasgow brought out their home-made Paddington for an action at Marks and Spencer, to highlight the irony of M&S using Paddington in their Xmas adverts, whilst they're still advertising in the Daily Mail.

Global Justice York, part of our youth network, have been continuing to challenge racism in the media as well, putting in a Freedom of Information request about the University of York's advertising practices and promoting ethical reporting at their student newspaper.

# Current materials

## Food sovereignty

- BOOKLET: Farmers under fire
- BRIEFING: Post-Brexit alternatives to the Common Agricultural Policy
- BOOKLET: On Solid Ground (agroecology)
- REPORT: From The Roots Up (agroecology)
- BRIEFING: Problems with corporate - controlled seeds
- BRIEFING: From handouts to the super-rich to a hand-up for small-scale farmers

## Energy justice

- LEAFLET: Repowering the future: Municipal energy in practice
- BRIEFING: Towards a just energy system

## Trade

- \*NEW\* MP BRIEFING: Trade Bill
- BRIEFING: Twenty ways to fight for trade democracy
- BRIEFING: Giving away control
- ACTION CARD: Dangerous deals done in the dark
- DISCUSSION PAPER: Ten alternatives to a corporate trade agenda
- BRIEFING: Trading with Trump
- LEAFLET/POSTER: If you liked TTIP you'll love CETA
- BRIEFING: CETA: TTIP's little brother
- BRIEFING: Five reasons TTIP and CETA are a disaster for the climate
- REPORT: TTIP and tax justice
- BRIEFING: Regulatory co-operation

## Migration

- POSTER: Bin the Daily Mail - Migrants welcome here
- ACTION SLIP: M&S stop funding hate
- POSTER: M&S stop funding hate
- BRIEFING: Migrant crisis or poverty crisis?

## Exploring alternatives booklets

- BOOKLET: Another Economy is Possible - economic democracy
- BOOKLET: Seeds of Change - food sovereignty
- BOOKLET: Rays of Hope - energy justice

## Pharmaceuticals

- REPORT: Pills and profits
- LEAFLET: Sick of corporate greed
- ACTION CARD: Sick?
- PACK OF BRIEFINGS
- POSTER: imagine if the NHS couldn't afford the medicine to save your life

## General materials

- \*NEW\* AID REPORT: The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
- \*NEW\* ACTIVIST READER: Making Another World Possible
- REPORT: Re-imagining UK aid
- BRIEFING: Re-imagining UK aid executive summary
- BRIEFING: Decimating rights (Great Repeal Bill)
- REPORT: Honest Accounts 2017 - How the world profits from Africa's wealth
- BRIEFING: The Dangers of Trump
- LEAFLET: Stop Trump coalition
- 'HOW TO' GUIDES: Guides to various aspects of activism
- SIGN-UP SHEET: Double-sided, Global Justice Now branded
- STICKERS and BADGES
- LEAFLET: 'There is No Alternative' membership leaflet
- POSTER: Trumped-up world
- MAGAZINE: Latest issue of Ninety-Nine

## Scotland specific materials

- \*NEW\* ACTIVIST NEWSLETTER: Trade campaign update
- BRIEFING: Scottish migration briefing
- BRIEFING: Update for trade campaigners
- BRIEFING: Principle for a just trade system

**You can now find this list online**, with links to electronic versions of the materials so you can see what they're like. Just go to [globaljustice.org.uk/current-materials](https://globaljustice.org.uk/current-materials)