

# Trade justice update for Scottish activists

July 2018



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## July action checklist

- Lobby your MP to sign up to Caroline Lucas's amendment on trade democracy. Going to visit your MP is very effective, [but if you have less time email them.](#)
- [Ask your MSP to call for a debate at Holyrood on parliamentary scrutiny of trade deals](#)
- Demonstrate against Trump across Scotland on July 13/14. [Find out what's happening \(and add your own events\) on the Stop Trump website](#)
- Prepare for the Trump protest [with banner making workshops in Edinburgh on 30 June or 5 July](#)
- Ask your local councillor to put forward a motion on the Trade Justice Scotland coalition's Principles for Just Trade. Draft motion and briefing here at [www.scotlandagainstttip.org.uk/take-action](http://www.scotlandagainstttip.org.uk/take-action)
- Borrow Global Justice Now's chicken costumes for a cheeky trade action (a.k.a 'no to chlorinated chickens in Scotland!'). [Contact Guy in our London office](#)

## Westminster update

### CETA

After asking for a debate on CETA by the whole House of Commons for at least a year, the International Trade Secretary finally granted one on Tuesday. SNP MP Stewart Hosie spoke up during the debate for proper parliamentary scrutiny of future trade deals and a role for Scotland. The SNP voted against the deal in the final vote but disappointingly, Labour mainly abstained. The motion was passed 315 votes to 36.

Of course this debate and vote were a token gesture from Liam Fox, given the size and scope of CETA. And if the UK trade bill passes unamended, he will not need to have any further debates on trade deals ever! We believe this is a cynical

move by him to pretend that we already have trade democracy. Fox believed he could win the vote this time so he could risk a bit of democracy! This makes it all the more important to get the Trade Bill amended to ensure a transparent and accountable process in future.

### UK trade bill

The UK trade bill has been in the deep freeze for a few months now, waiting for the Conservative party tussle over whether to stay in the EU customs union to be resolved. It is now being defrosted, and will be debated at the Westminster parliament in July, most likely during the first two weeks and definitely before the summer recess.

As it stands, the bill gives neither MPs at Westminster, nor MSPs, nor the Scottish government any kind of role in agreeing future trade deals. Instead, the UK government will be free to negotiate trade deals that might privatise our NHS, allow GM food and chlorinated chickens onto our supermarket shelves and threaten the ban on fracking. As things stand, neither MPs nor MSPs would have any powers to stop them.

However, there is still time to amend the trade bill to allow proper scrutiny of future trade deals by both the UK and Scottish parliaments to become law.

### Trade Bill amendment on parliamentary scrutiny

Green MP Caroline Lucas's amendment (NC3) to the trade bill includes all we have been asking for in terms of democratic scrutiny by the UK parliament. We are also hoping that the SNP will table an amendment about a role for the Scottish parliament.

Local constituents across the UK have been calling for their MPs to put their name to Caroline Lucas's amendment. Thanks to lobbying from Scottish activists, all the SNP MPs have signed up to Caroline Lucas's amendment en masse. All the Scottish

Liberal Democrat MPs with the exception of Alistair Carmichael have also put their names to the amendment, and one Scottish Labour MP has put his name to it – Ian Murray. None of the 11 Scottish Conservative MPs have added their names yet.

If your MP has not signed the amendment, please contact them and ask them to sign up. Lobbying of MPs can go beyond July when the trade bill is debated again, as the bill will return after it has been to the House of Lords, and this is likely to be after the summer recess. [Global Justice Now has an e-action on our website for MPs who have not signed NC3](#) or it is even more effective to lobby your MP in person. It would be great if we could persuade all the Labour and Conservative MPs in Scotland to sign up.

St Andrews TTIP action group have started a 'talk to a Tory' project and aim to visit Conservative MPs in Scotland to persuade them to sign up to NC3. If you live in a Tory constituency (or know someone who does) and would like to take part in this, then do let us know.

Right now, we're waiting to see whether amendment NC3 gets debated in the House of Commons once the trade bill returns there, but if it doesn't then it'll go to the House of Lords. This may actually be a better outcome since, rather ironically, we anticipate that the issue of parliamentary scrutiny of trade deals may well get a more sympathetic audience in the Lords. If it makes it through the Lords, then it'll come back to the House of Commons later.

### **International Trade Committee inquiry**

'UK trade policy transparency and scrutiny' is the topic for the International Trade Committee's current inquiry. The Trade Justice Scotland Coalition, Global Justice Now and the Trade Justice Movement have given written submissions to the inquiry. [They are now taking oral evidence, with the first evidence session recorded on the inquiry webpage.](#)

### **Webinar on the trade bill**

Liz Murray from Global Justice Now and Jean Blaylock now from War on Want ran a 40 minute webinar on the trade bill, particularly looking at what democratic scrutiny of future trade deals by Westminster and the Scottish parliament might look like. [You can now view the webinar as a video on our YouTube channel.](#)

## **Scottish parliament update**

### **UK trade bill at Holyrood**

The trade bill is still sitting with the finance and constitution committee at Holyrood while they decide whether or not to recommend that the Scottish parliament withhold its consent. The Scottish government has already recommended that Holyrood withhold consent. However, their reasons for this do not yet include the lack of parliamentary scrutiny. We are calling for Holyrood to add this to their reasons for withholding consent.

It's not clear at the moment when the finance committee will finish their inquiry, or when and if there will be a debate of the whole parliament – though we are hopeful that this will happen. There are rumours that a UK minister will be coming to give evidence on the bill at Holyrood. Inspired by Global Justice Bristol's chicken action in Liam Fox's constituency, we will have our chicken costumes at the ready! [\(See a short film about the Bristol chicken action here\)](#)

We are also running an e-action asking MSPs to call for a debate at Holyrood on scrutiny of trade deals. The Scottish government has promised to publish a report on this soon, so we are hoping this will lead to some proper debate in the Scottish parliament. [You can email your MSPs here](#)

## **Local councils in Scotland**

### **Local Council motions on trade democracy**

Local campaigners are doing a great job pushing for local councils to agree motions in support of the Trade Justice Scotland Coalition's Just Trade Principles. These are a set of ten principles that the Coalition believes should be the basis for a future UK or Scottish trade strategy.

Two councils have passed motions on this: Inverclyde and North Ayrshire. East and South Ayrshire are also considering putting down motions.

If you'd like to lobby your local councillors to do the same, there is a draft motion and a briefing about it online here: [www.scotlandagainsttip.org.uk/take-action](http://www.scotlandagainsttip.org.uk/take-action)

We are happy to give you support in lobbying your local councillors. [Just email us](#)

## Activism

### No trade deal with Trump: demonstrate against the US president 14 July

Scotland's national demonstration against Trump will take place on Saturday 14 July, beginning at the Scottish parliament at 12 noon. Global Justice Now will be there marching with our 'no trade deal with Trump' and 'migrants welcome here' banners. If you'd like to join us there, we'll be meeting up in Holyrood park, by the car park at the end nearest to the parliament, from 11.45am. Look out for the Global Justice Now t-shirts and banners.

There are also events in Glasgow (on the 13 July) and Dundee. [Find an event near you, or add an event you know about that's not mentioned on the Stop Trump calendar](#)

### Banner-making for the Trump demonstration

On Saturday 30 June we are having a banner-making afternoon in Edinburgh at the Peace and Justice Centre, in preparation for the march on the 14 July. We're going to make a big 'No Trade Deal with Trump' banner. You can also make your own placards, or even a Trump wig! The banner making starts at 3pm. From 6pm, we'll be watching 'You've Been Trumped' – popcorn and pizza provided!

[Let us know you're coming on our Facebook event](#)

Just turn up for as long or as short as you like!

...and if you miss our event, Scotland Against Trump are planning a banner-making workshop the following Thursday. [More information on the facebook event page.](#)

### Could you use a chicken costume for a trade protest?

Global Justice Now has ten chicken costumes for use in any trade protest you can think up. If you'd like to borrow them, [email Guy in our London office.](#)

## Useful materials

**New** '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

**New** E-pocalypse Now: how the e-commerce trade agenda promotes corporate power and threatens the global south

[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](#)

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## 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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