

School's Fairtrade Action At Folly Farm Africa Day

On 11th May the Fairtrade Foundation presented a petition, including local signatures, to the Prime Minister as the first step of their Make food Fair Campaign. Make food Fair is running alongside Enough Food For Everyone IF, where over 150 organisations, including The Fairtrade Foundation, Fair Trade Wales, and Tearfund Wales, asking for urgent action to readdress injustice in the food system. They hope to ensure a fair system for the world's 2 billion smallholder farmers.

Children from St Helens school, Swansea; Ysgol y Felin - Llanelli; Monkton Primary and Tenby Juniors have been learning more about all of this at Folly Farm's second Africa day, last week. Simon Moffet and Sharron Hardwick held Fair Trade Wales workshops during Africa Day, sharing how Fairtrade helps people to achieve five basic human rights that they believe everyone deserves:

Shelter: somewhere warm and dry to live.

Drink and food: from safe sources because 30% of the world's population do not have access to water supplies to an acceptable standard and someone dies of starvation every 3 seconds somewhere in the world.

Safety and security: for the long term; thinking particularly of Syria, Afganistan, Somalia and dangerous working conditions like the disaster in the Bangladeshi garment factory taking over 700 lives.

A sense of belonging to family and community: Slaves don't have this privilege. Child slaves as young as 8-10 years old work in the Ivory Coast (last count 300,000) making cocoa have their feet cut to prevent them escaping.

Being treated with respect, fairness and dignity: Being free to make proper decisions and choices with their lives. Receiving fair pay for work that they do; having access to justice and basic needs like healthcare, and education.

“The Fairtrade Foundation are encouraging people to combine support for Enough Food For Everyone IF, and Make Food Fair. We asked children to register their

support for food fairness, and Take A Step for Fairtrade, by putting a smiley face on our giant footprints.”.” Shared Sharron.

Simon has written to MP Steven Crabb, who has already shown support for Enough Food For Everyone IF whilst meeting Tearfund Wales and Christian Aid supporters last month. Simon hopes Mr Crabb will carry their voices forward, taking another step for Fairtrade in order to help improve the current food system.

“The world’s poor farmers, need us to speak up on their behalf. They are the backbone to feeding the world’s population yet millions live in extreme poverty.” concludes Simon.

The Prime Minister will be hosting the G8 summit in Northern Ireland in June, hence now being the time for us and Mr Crabb to help influence global decision makers at that conference, to recognise the importance of the smallholder farmers to the world food supply and address the adverse and unfair conditions under which they farm.

If you would like to find out more
visit:www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved/campaigns/make_food_fair/make_food_fair_and_the_enoughif_campaign.aspx

