



Trade generates incredible wealth and links the lives of everyone on the planet. Yet millions of people in poor countries are losing out. Why? Because the rules controlling trade heavily favour rich nations that set the rules. Organisations around the world are working to shift global trade rules so they work to help raise poor people in the developing world out of poverty.

They campaign:

- To stop rich countries dumping subsidised farm products in the developing world that ruin the livelihoods of local farmers
- To stop rich countries from forcing developing countries to prematurely open their economies to agricultural imports
- To improve the price paid to small farmers for their coffee
- To improve fairness and employment opportunities in poor countries through opening up of markets in the developed world (for example the textile market)
- To ensure that bilateral trade agreements between rich countries such as Australia and poorer countries do not undermine development and livelihoods in the latter
- For companies and governments to respect women's workplace rights in the developing world

Make Trade Fair

What is fair trade?

It is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers - especially in the developing world."

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Fair Trade Fortnight begins on May 2 and is being celebrated in different ways all around Australia. The purpose of this initiative is to think about the role we can play in our society, and the way we can trigger a visible change in people' lives in developing countries. It is an opportunity for all to *taste and switch to Fair Trade products*.

What can you do?

Hold a "Coffee Break" for Fair Trade Fortnight. It is simple – organise a Fair trade morning or afternoon tea in your workplace, community, school or home. Invite your colleagues and friends to enjoy Fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate, biscuits and other treats. Products are available at health food stores, Oxfam shops and other retailers.

Other ideas for the fortnight include:

- Have a soccer, rugby or touch match using Fair trade sports balls or substitute your teams balls for Fair trade balls.
- Swap the coffee, tea and sugar in your workplace to fair trade.

We pray for the millions of small farmers and workers struggling to make ends meet and for those supporting the Fair trade movement.

We pray for those who do not have food, who suffer because our world has lost sight of our common humanity, where the rich consume the world's resources leaving little for those who have been made homeless by greed.

Lord teach us to act justly, sharing with those in need.

We pray for those who are pushed to the corners of the earth, forced to work in dangerous conditions for long hours, children who are enslaved and cannot go to school, older people who struggle to contribute, and young people who feel compelled to leave their home and families to work overseas. We pray for those who grow the food we eat, make the clothes we wear and provide the services that we need. These are the chains that link us to every person on the planet in the circle of creation. **Lord teach us to act justly, sharing with those in need.**

Sources: <http://www.cws.org.nz/>
<http://www.oxfam.org.au/>
<http://www.fta.org.au/>