



Fair Trade and Trade Justice

Conference Believes;

Our Labour Government has formally put UK education on the table for trade negotiations within the European commission. This is a prime example of the commodification of both HE and FE education.

These negotiations happen within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by the European Commission on our behalf. Their systems of negotiation are neither democratic nor transparent therefore creating unfair rules.

Unfair trade rules affect people and students all over the world.

NUS is proud to be a member of the Trade Justice Movement.

NUS is engaged with People and Planet, Oxfam and Christian Aid in their Fair Trade campaigns.

This year NUS hosted the first all African Students' Unions speaker tour on the dangers of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and its impact on students in both Africa and UK as well the impact of the HIV epidemic.

Further Believes;

NUS has grave concerns over the way that the WTO is conducting these negotiations and their potential affect on the worlds economy.

We recognise that safeguarding local economies is as important as engaging in the fight to protect national and global economies, because the WTO seeks to bring them all into one trading block.

Fair Trade initiatives have already demonstrated their ability give people back their own local autonomy and ensure a safe and sustainable economic future.

Many Students' Union already engage in Fair Trade initiatives for example supplying fair trade coffee.

Conference resolves;

NUS through the environmental committee must take a more active role in the Trade Justice Movement and associated campaigns.

NUS must take every opportunity to submit responses to any GATS consultation be that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or European Commission.

NUS must support Students' Unions in setting a strong example on ethical and environmental purchasing, through 'Planet Pledge' and other briefings on Fair Trade products.

The Changing trade rules must be researched and NUS must campaign to protect students rights both locally, nationally and international.