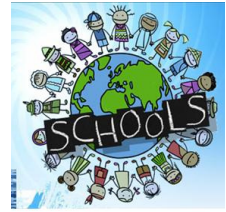


Fairtrade Schools: Focus on Cotton

SFTF Campaign Day 2010

Angela Oakley and Sarah Aldred



Presentation

The workshop began with a presentation on cotton, Fairtrade cotton and resources for schools. We then talked about the SFTF Fairtrade Cotton School Uniform and Sportswear Campaign. You can download this PowerPoint presentation for use in schools.

Slides 2 – 3: Cotton supply chain

Slide 4: The problems with cotton. There is also a PDF handout detailing the issues surrounding cotton which you can download. David Armstrong has also written a story especially for the SFTF from the point of view of an Uzbekistani school pupil who works in the cotton fields. It's an excellent story to use as an introduction to cotton and the issues surrounding it. David has very kindly given permission for it to be used in schools.

Slides 5 – 15: Fairtrade cotton. You can also download a PDF handout on Fairtrade cotton.

Slide 16: Fairtrade cotton in schools

Slides 17 – 19: Resources for schools on the Fairtrade Foundation's Website and the Wear Fair toolkit from People & Planet. There are also links on our website to cotton resources that you can download. Visit <http://www.sftf.org.uk/schools/latest-news-events/uniform-campaign/##resources>. The resource 'Labour behind the Label' can be downloaded from the above address. Although it is aimed at secondary school pupils, there is a useful picture of a trainer that could be used for younger pupils. The trainer is separated into how much the retailer gets for selling a trainer, how much the worker gets etc. It could be adapted to be used as a game like the Banana Split game.

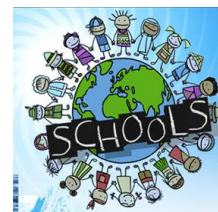
It was pointed out that focussing on cotton not only helps to achieve or maintain Fairtrade School status, but also Eco-School status. Furthermore, 'cotton' will be the theme for Fairtrade Fortnight (FT14) 2011. The Fairtrade Foundation is attempting to break the world record for the longest string of bunting so will be asking everyone to decorate a Fairtrade cotton triangle during FT14 and return it to them so that they can string them altogether. They will send you the cotton triangles for free. Free resources for FT14 will be available from the beginning of December. For more info, go to: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/show_off_your_label/.

Slides 20 – 22: The Blame Game. We played this game which is more suitable to older secondary school pupils, although it could be adapted and made easier so that younger pupils could play it. Participants in the workshop decided it would make an excellent resource for consolidating work done on cotton. You can download the instructions on how to play the game. Below are the responses from the workshop participants who, you'll notice if you read the instructions document, covered all the possible responses and some!

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<u>CEO group</u>	<u>Factory Owner group</u>	<u>Cotton Farmers group</u>
Defend why you demand lowest prices from your supply chain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm giving what the customer wants i.e. cheap clothing • Obligation to shareholders • I'm employing people • Environmental restrictions in own country • Competition from other businesses • I have to cover transport and distribution costs 	Defend why you're paying terrible wages, violating workers' rights, employing children etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have targets to meet • Prices set by big biz • High production pressure and costs • We need reliable cheap suppliers as technology is expensive • Government legislation e.g. health and safety don't get in the way here. • We employ the poor + women 	Defend why you don't demand more for your cotton or grow it faster. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to accept the price offered due to lack of education • We're exhausted • We have to look after large families • No health care • The kids need to work • Powerless to the weather • Don't know if middleman is telling the truth • We have no control over price

Slides 23 – 25: SFTF Fairtrade Cotton School Uniform and Sportswear Campaign. The pilot for this has already begun in East Dunbartonshire and will be rolled out across Scotland in 2011. Already pupils in two schools are wearing Fairtrade cotton uniforms! We will be looking for volunteers in each area to help roll it out nationally next year. For more information on the Campaign please visit <http://www.sftf.org.uk/schools/latest-news-events/uniform-campaign/> or contact us at schools@sftf.org.uk.

Other information

There was also a stall with examples of all the cotton resources that can be downloaded from our website for use in schools (see first link above under slides 17-19). Quite a few people asked about organising a **fashion show**. Some helpful guides can be downloaded from the Fairtrade Foundation http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/f/ft_fashion_action_guide2010final.pdf, from People & Planet <http://peopleandplanet.org/dl/wear-fair-show-in-4weeks.pdf>, and from Environmental Justice Foundation <http://peopleandplanet.org/dl/efifashionshowguide.pdf>.

The **SFTF toolkits for schools** have been very popular but we still have more to give out if your school hasn't got theirs yet. Information on the toolkit can be accessed from <http://www.sftf.org.uk/news/fair-trade-schools-resource-now-available/>. Contact admin@sftf.org.uk if you would like one for your school. To download some of the material from our web pages, please visit (<http://www.sftf.org.uk/schools/resources-for-schools/toolkit/>).