

Today's Motion is:

**'We should only  
buy Fairtrade  
products'**



**Irish Aid**

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



CONCERN  
Primary  
Debates



FAIRTRADE

# Classroom Activity



## School Bag Detectives

Pupils take out their school bags to critically examine the contents



- *What country was your bag made in?*
- *Are any of your books or copies printed locally?*
- *Which countries did the food in your lunch box come from?*

With your class, identify any places of origin and mark them on a world map!



# Let's breakdown today's motion..



**Only:** used to show that there is a single one or very few of something, or that there are no others

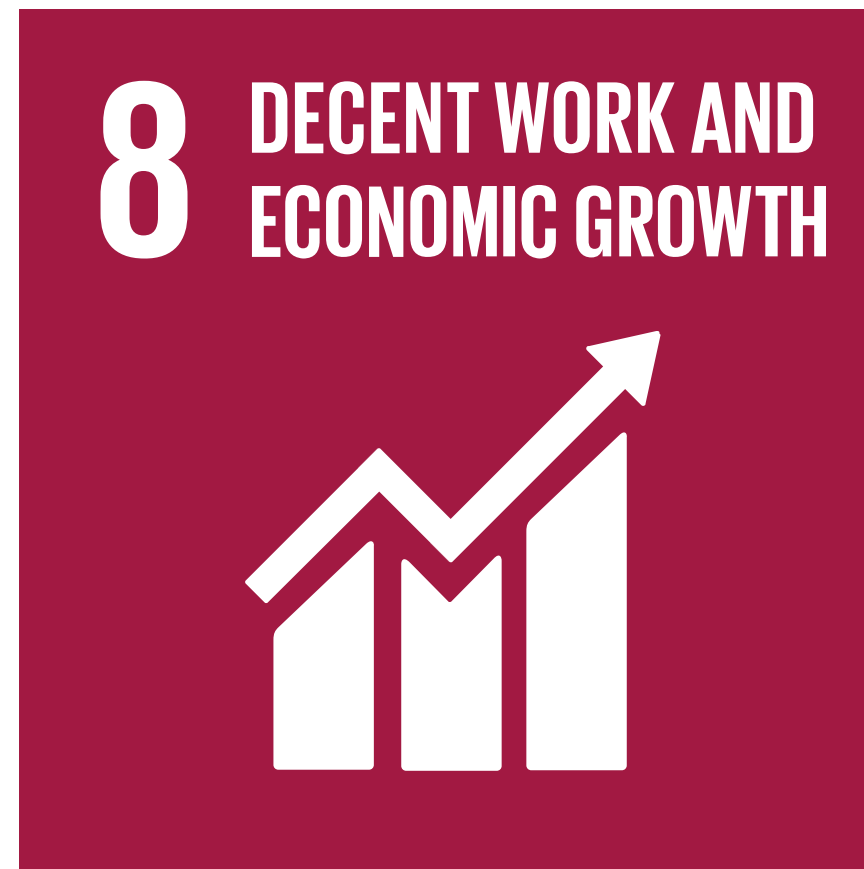
**Buy:** to get something by paying money for it

**Fairtrade:** a way of buying and selling products that makes certain the people who produce the goods receive a fair price

Source: Cambridge Dictionary



# This motion links to the following SDGs;





Fairtrade is an international movement which works with 2 million farmers and workers, across 70 countries, so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect the environment.



Fairtrade changes the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fairer deal for farmers and workers in lower income countries.



You can spot items that are produced and sold by Fairtrade by looking out for the Fairtrade logo.

# How does this link to Concern? \*

People living in extreme poverty struggle to earn enough money to ensure that their families have enough to eat, get adequate health care and an education. Our programmes aim to give them the tools to ensure they are able to earn a sustainable living, helping them to learn new skills, improve their crops and set up small businesses to generate more income.





Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

Jean de Dieu Nsanzumuhire (29) is married with two children, Gift (3) and three-month-old Keza. Jean has started a successful small grocery shop in his community with support from Concern.

He has planted forests on two plots of land that he bought, and also owns three plots of rice in Muganza, Rwanda.



Concern Worldwide in collaboration with the State Ministry of Agriculture Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and with financial support from USAID implement the farm input seed trade. This increases the number of households with access to quality seeds.

Photo: Rocky Roselle Emma/Concern Worldwide





Back in the 1970s, Concern founded the Heart Handicraft Women's Project to help provide an income to women in Saidpur, Bangladesh by using their skills in sewing, crochet, as well as a wide variety of other arts and crafts. In the 1990s, it became an independent organisation that continues to provide an income to local women by selling their work in local markets as well as to countries worldwide.

Hand embroidered calendars and printed by Heart Handicraft Women's Project, Bangladesh which are bought by Concern to send to adjudicators at Christmas.

# Classroom Activity

## Who Am I? Fairtrade edition!

Read the statement below:

*'I am grown in countries such as India and Thailand. I need a lot of water. When I am growing I look like tall grass but once I have been harvested and processed I end up as small grains, white or brown. I can be boiled or steamed and I am eaten all over the world. Which Fairtrade product am I?'*



# Classroom Activity

## Who Am I? Fairtrade edition!

The answer is **Fairtrade Rice**

Low returns on their products can prevent rice farmers from making necessary investments, such as equipment to simplify the hard manual labour involved in harvesting, or storage facilities to limit waste. The changing climate is threatening to flood rice farms near major rivers, while elsewhere heavy rains or droughts are already causing crop failures. Fairtrade recognizes these challenges, and supports small-scale rice farmers in a variety of ways to respond to them.



# Classroom Activity

## Who Am I? Fairtrade edition!

Read the statement below:

*'I am from countries like Mali and Burkina Faso in Africa. I am planted and picked by hand which is really hard work. I am made into clothes, toys, pillows – you might even be wearing something made with me right now! Which Fairtrade product am I?'*

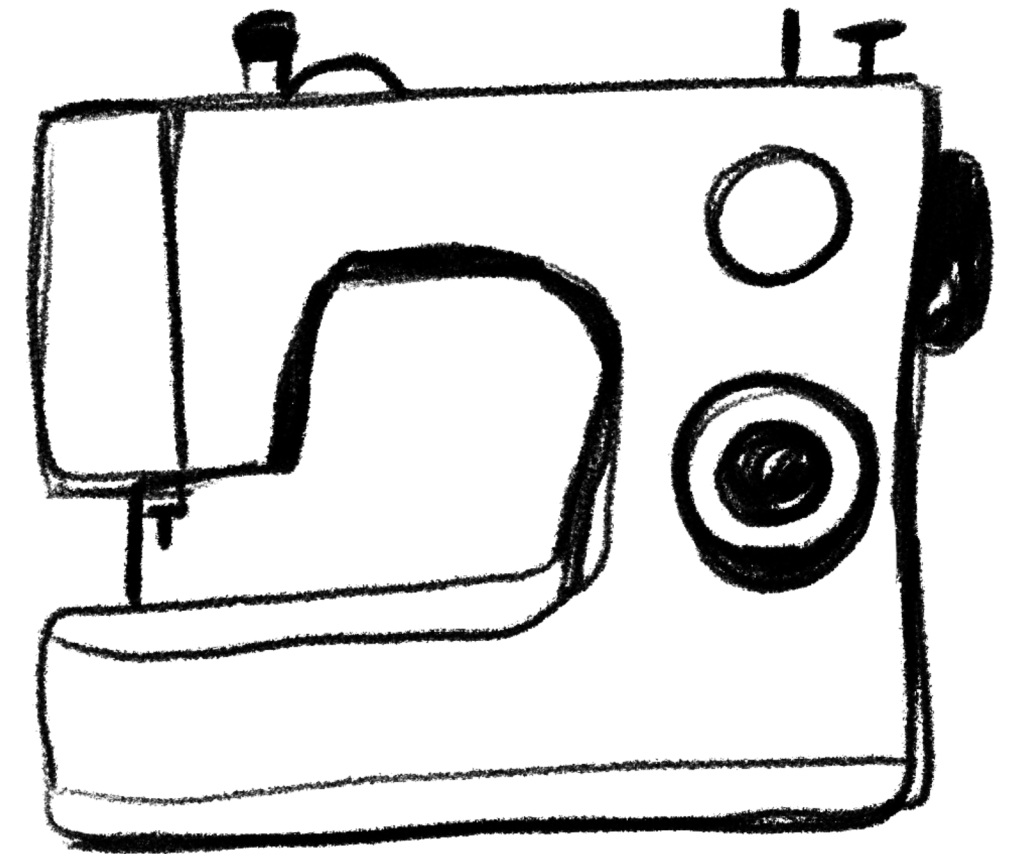


# Classroom Activity

## Who Am I? Fairtrade edition!

The answer is **Fairtrade Cotton**

Around 100 million rural households are engaged in cotton production in more than 75 countries around the globe. Since the introduction of Fairtrade cotton, Fairtrade's goal has been to also address the unsafe and unfair labour conditions in cotton processing and textile factories. In 2016, Fairtrade introduced the new Fairtrade Textile Standard and Programme to reach people at all stages of the textile production chain – from seed cotton to finished garments.



# Classroom Activity

## Who Am I? Fairtrade edition!

Read the statement below:

*'I come from countries like Pakistan. I am handmade by sewing 650 stitches, which takes over 3 hours for the average grown-up to do. During PE or your lunch break, I may become the centre of attention! Which Fairtrade product am I?'*



# Classroom Activity

## Who Am I? Fairtrade edition!

The answer is **Fairtrade Sports Balls**

Sports like football, volleyball and rugby bring billions of people together. But the people making these sports balls are usually hidden from view, working in precarious conditions with very low incomes. They are primarily hand-stitched by women who work 12 hours a day, 6-7 days a week and are paid per ball. Fairtrade seeks to improve their working conditions and increase wages.



**The Motion is:**

**‘We should only buy Fairtrade products’**

This means the proposition team agree with this motion and want to support it!





## THE PROPOSITION MAY MAKE AN ARGUMENT SUCH AS THIS ONE:

***“When you choose Fairtrade, you help ensure farmers receive a fairer price for what they grow”***

Fairtrade guarantees a minimum price that acts as a safety net for farmers, especially when market prices fall. This makes sure farmers never sell their crops for less than it costs to produce them. According to the Fairtrade Foundation, this helps protect small-scale farmers and allows them to cover their basic costs of living.

In 2023, Fairtrade raised its Minimum Price for coffee to help protect farmers from the rising costs of production and the impacts of climate change. The new rates, increased by 19% for Robusta coffee and 29% for Arabica. This system guarantees farmers a stable income even when global market prices fluctuate, offering security in uncertain times.

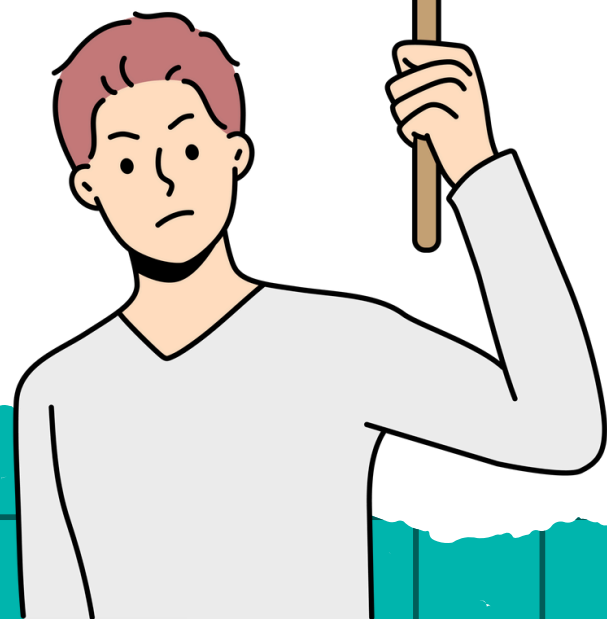


**The Motion is:**

**‘We should only buy Fairtrade products’**

**NO!**

This means the opposition team disagree with this motion and want to disprove it!



## THE OPPOSITION MAY MAKE AN ARGUMENT SUCH AS THIS ONE:

***“Fair trade benefits certified farmers but may not benefit the workers they hire”***

While Fairtrade certification brings benefits like minimum price guarantees and premiums for certified farmers, it may not always extend these advantages to the hired workers on these farms. Several studies have noted that the benefits of Fairtrade certification often focus more on farm owners and cooperative members than on laborers. For instance, a 2019 study published by Nature Sustainability found that while Fairtrade-certified farmers receive higher wages and better working conditions, the farmworkers they hire frequently face low wages and poor labour conditions.



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# Classroom Activity



## Create a poster with tips on sustainable shopping

Before you take out your arts & crafts supplies, take a moment to reflect on some of topics we should consider when buying goods;

Workers'  
Rights

Eco-friendly

Homemade

Reusable &  
Recyclable

Carbon  
Footprint

Made Locally

Fairtrade  
Products

Sustainably  
Sourced

High Quality



# Learn More:



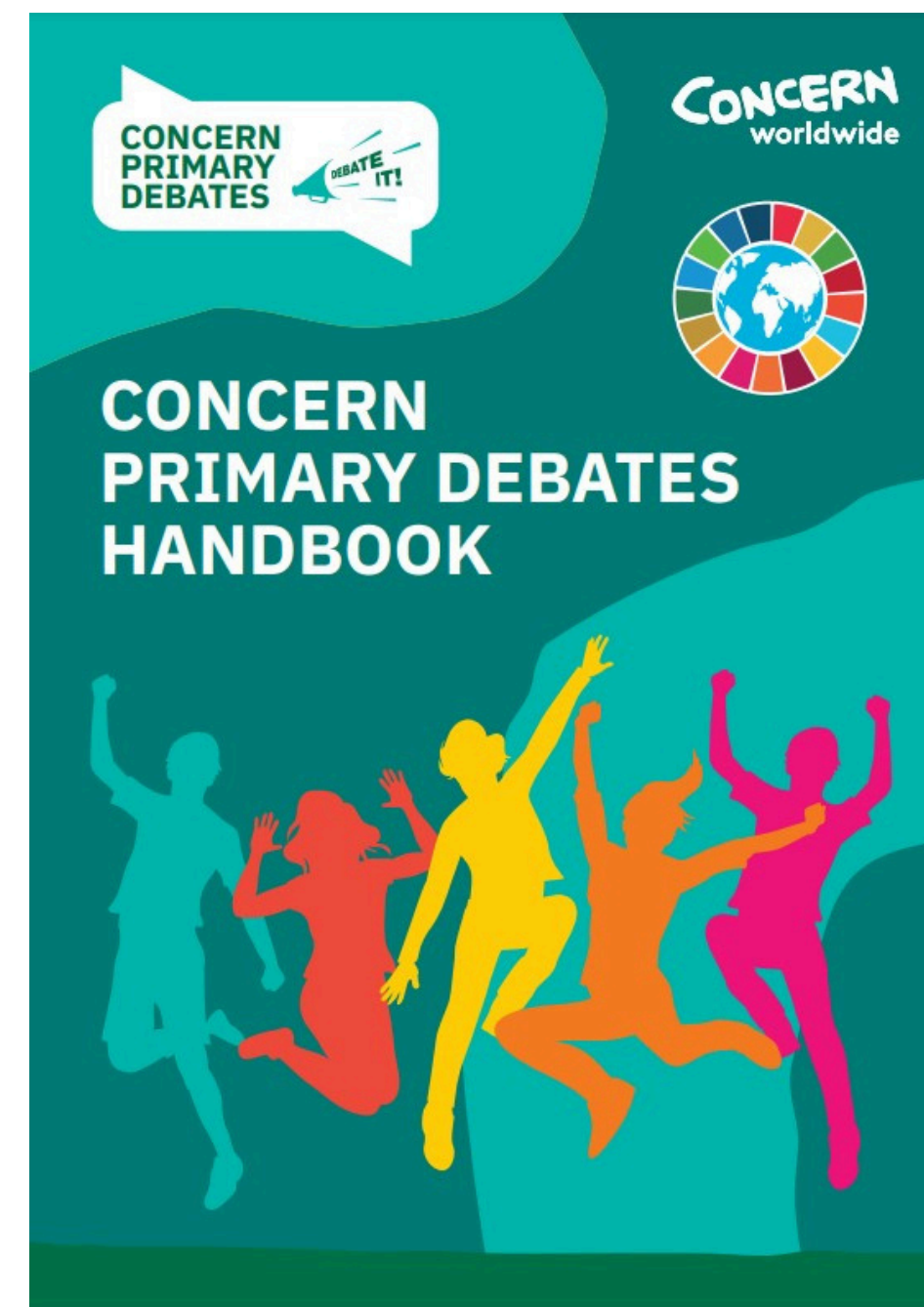
Handbooks, marking sheets and training videos all available on the **Concern Primary Debates materials webpage**



**Primary Debates Playlist on YouTube**



**Contact Concern  
primarydebates@concern.net**



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