Fair-Handels-Conference 2018: concept

Transforming society through Fair Trade?
Fair Trade Conference, march 1st & 2nd 2018, Erbacher Hof, Mainz, Germany

The Fair Trade movement formed in the 70s to support disadvantaged producer groups, transform the behaviour of consumers towards socially just consumption and improve the global economic framework for producers from the “third world”.

In the course of this Fair Trade conference, we would like to discuss open questions and new perspectives. Has the Fair Trade movement reached its goals? Is there a need to broaden or refine these goals? What kind of adjustments need to be made to reach our goals globally?

A socio-ecological transformation is necessary to contain climate change and improve living conditions around the globe. What kind of contribution can the Fair Trade movement make to a systemic change?

The conference provides an opportunity to discuss these questions with various actors from civil society organisations. Four key topics will be discussed in intensive working group sessions. The conference wants to give food for thought and new impulses to the Fair Trade movement.

Program

Day 1

11:00 am  Welcome
11:30 am  What has the Fair Trade movement accomplished? – An inventory
          Gerd Nickoleit, Forum Fairer Handel
12:15 pm  Keynote: The need of a socio-ecological transformation
          Reinhard Loske, Uni Witten/Herdecke; tbc
          afternoon:  working group sessions
5:30 pm  discussion of relevant question from the group session (“world café”)
6:45 pm  dinner
8:00 pm  Planetary limits: calls to the Fair Trade movement
          Vandana Shiva and Niko Paech (tbc)

Day 2  morning:  working group sessions
2:00 pm  presentation and discussion of the outcomes from the group sessions
          Concluding discussion:
          How does the Fair Trade movement move on?
          • Sergi Corbalán, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, Brussels
          • Peter Schaumberger, GEPA, Wuppertal
          • Politician
          Until 5:00 pm

Key questions will be discussed in four working groups:

Working group 1: target groups: marginalized producers or change agents?

Many of the partners in the global south have grown immensely over the years and have become competitive on a global scale. The term “marginalizes producer” no longer applies to them. However
other producer organisations are still confronted with structures which barely allow them to develop on their own. Nowadays this increasingly applies to producers from the global north as well.

Faced with these developments, should we consider alternative business models the focus around people instead of profit? Should producer organisations from the global north be included in the Fair Trade system? Is our sole focus on “marginalizes” still contemporary? How do producer organisations themselves answer this question? How can all trading partners participate in a more meaningful way?

The purpose of this workshop is to controversially discuss the above mentioned question and if possible answer them.

With: Vandana Shiva, as well as other speakers

**Working group 2: How can business contribute to a systemic change?**

**Working group 3: What can individuals do for a systemic change – and what does the Fair Trade movement offers them?**

**Working group 4: How does the Fair Trade movement reaches its political goals**