

Exploit workers now!

Exploit workers now , Kiss my bottom line and Profits not people were among the slogans being chanted by a group of businessmen as they lobbied the House of Commons on Tuesday 6 June.

6 June 2006

The stunt was organised by two coalitions supported by Traidcraft, the Trade Justice Movement and Corporate Responsibility (CORE) coalition.

Traidcraft has been an active player in the campaign to amend the Company Law Reform Bill as it passes through Parliament.

Together with a host of other charities, campaign and faith groups we believe the law should be changed so that companies are held accountable not just for their profits but also for their impact on communities overseas and the environment.

Traidcraft is a pioneering social business, which demonstrates it is possible to be both profitable and ethical.

Traidcraft campaigners are among the thousands of people who have sent postcards and letters and lobbied their MPs in support of the campaign.

The debate around the second reading of the Bill in the Commons was dominated by the issues raised by the campaign - a fantastic sign that our message is getting through.

Opening the debate, Conservative MP Philip Hollobone said to Secretary for Trade and Industry Alistair Darling, "I, along with many other hon. Members, have received lots of postcards from Christian Aid, Traidcraft, War on Want and the World Development Movement, who are clearly not satisfied that the Bill addresses the concerns that constituents have.

"What discussions has the Secretary of State had with the Secretary of State for International Development about the impact of the Bill on international development issues?"

The draft Bill has already been influenced by our campaigning and includes some requirements on monitoring and reporting. But these do not go far enough. We need to step up the pressure on government and MPs to strengthen these requirements as the Bill continues to be discussed and debated in Parliament.