

## Write to your MP

Send our ready-made letter and ask your MP to speak out so that the role and power of supermarkets is publicly debated.

Supermarkets are one of the most powerful and important business lobbies in the UK today. Together, the four largest supermarkets sell over 75% of the groceries we buy every day. Not surprisingly, their profits have shot through the roof.

In the quest for cheaper and more abundant goods, supermarkets often put increasing pressure on their suppliers to deliver more, cheaper, faster. If suppliers want to sell into the UK market, they frequently have little choice other than to work through the supermarkets.

Increasing competition can mean that suppliers feel compelled to cut corners and too often it is the producers and workers often in poor countries who have to pay through working longer hours for less pay, in harsh conditions.

We have a great opportunity to turn the situation around

At the moment, an independent UK body called the Competition Commission is looking at the power of supermarkets and whether it can lead to a worse deal for consumers.

Traidcraft believes the Commission should also consider the effects of supermarkets' relationships with their suppliers overseas, and get the government to act.

Our first step is to raise the issue among MPs, so that there is a strong public debate on what the role of supermarkets should be.

## How to send your message

You can send your message by post or, if you can access your MP's email address, by email.

Sending your letter by post has more impact, so please do that if possible.

## What to do

- [Click here to find out your MP's name and email address](#) if you don't know it - just enter your postcode.
- Fill in your MP's name, email and your own details in the boxes
- Choose how you want to send your message - either by email or post
- Add your own personal message in the box at the bottom if you wish
- Click "Send"
- If you have chosen to send a letter, use the link to print it. Then sign it and pop it in the post.
- If you have chosen to email, your email will be sent automatically.

## Your details

? Your Name

Your Email address

Address (line 1) \*

Address (line 2)

Address (line 3)

Town/City \*

County

Postcode \*

Sending your message

How would you like to send your message? \*

By email (you will also receive a copy)

By post (we will create a PDF version for you to print and send)

? Your MP's name \*

? Your MP's email address

What your email will say

As a supporter of fair trade, I am concerned that the power of supermarkets in the UK can have a detrimental effect on poor farmers and workers around the world.

There is a significant opportunity to change this with the current Competition Commission enquiry into supermarket power. I believe that the Commission needs to look at supermarkets' relationships with their suppliers, especially overseas.

Squeezing suppliers can have negative impacts not only on poor producers and workers as corners are cut, but also on UK consumers as our choice is reduced. Consumer choice does not only mean price and variety, but the ability to select goods that have been produced without exploitation.

Furthermore, I believe the Commission must call for measures that ensure protection for suppliers and small retailers, enabling poor producers to benefit from trade and encouraging all supermarkets to improve their practices without fear of being undercut by competitors.

I therefore urge you to sign Early Day Motion 961 (the text of which is below) and to continue to raise these matters in Parliament, particularly when the Commission reports its provisional findings in the Autumn.

EDM 961: Competition Commission Supermarket Enquiry

'That this house recognises the vital and unique role that independent locally run shops play in communities and is concerned at the continuing decline in their number; supports a sustainable UK farming sector and food supply chain whilst seeking to ensure that overseas suppliers are treated fairly; believes that the major supermarkets are now abusing the power that they have in the food supply chain to the detriment of their smaller and dependent suppliers, and small shops, and welcomes the acknowledgment of these issues in the Competition Commission's Emerging Thinking report published in January 2007; and urges the Commission to recommend the introduction of effective solutions to the competition and planning problems in the grocery market which will provide redress and reasonable protection for suppliers and small retailers thereby preserving sustainable competition in the grocery market and genuine choice for consumers.'

Type any additional text you'd like to add

Send