

## Q&A: How to meet your MP and talk about the Brexit trade campaign



One of the most effective ways to influence your MP is through a personal meeting. It shows that you feel strongly about an issue and it gives you a unique chance to discuss it with them.

Britain's exit from the European Union is likely to cause big changes in international trade, and MPs will be in a key position to influence the government. Yet, few know about the impact it may have on people in the poorest countries.

That's why we need you to meet your MP and tell them that we need a Brexit that works for everyone. We have produced a Q&A with the key things to think about when meeting your MP and talking about the Brexit trade campaign. The campaign is a joint initiative between Traidcraft, Fairtrade Foundation and a number of other development agencies.

If you have any questions about the campaign or need help to prepare your meeting don't hesitate to get in touch with Traidcraft's Campaigns Team.

### First things first, how do I find my MP?

You can find your MP's name and contact details on the following website:

[www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com). If you don't have access to the internet, you can call the Commons Information Office on 020 7219 4272 (Monday to Friday 10am-4pm).

### What's the best way of contacting them?

You can contact your MP by phone, email or letter. Explain that you would like to meet them about the Brexit trade campaign.

If you are having difficulty getting your MP to agree to a meeting, or you just want a bit of support, contact Traidcraft's Campaigns team and we will do our best to help.

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**Take a picture and send it to us!**

Ask your MP if you can have a picture taken together. Send it to the address below or tweet it to @traidcraft

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### How do I prepare for the meeting?

Start by reading about the campaign. You can find a lot of information on [www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaigns](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaigns), and if you want more in-depth knowledge read through our '[Brexit trade briefing for MPs](#)'. Practice explaining the campaign to someone else and don't forget to add why this issue matters to you.

Then read up a bit about your MP. There is lots of useful information about your MP at [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com). Some MPs may be ministers or shadow ministers (which means they have a role in deciding policy for their party) or be a member of a relevant Select Committee (which gives them particular influence in that area). Think about how you can make the Brexit trade campaign relevant to their interests.

Lastly, plan the meeting. What are the key messages you want to get across? How will you present the campaign ask? And if you are a group, who is going to say what?

Print a copy of the MP briefing to give to your MP.

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### Tricky questions?

Your MP might ask you questions you don't know the answer to.

Don't worry, tell them you'll get back to them. After the meeting contact Traidcraft. We'll help you answer the questions.

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### What should I say to my MP?

Here are some of the key talking points:

**The issue:** The UK's exit of the EU is likely to bring big changes for millions of people who trade with us from the poorest countries. They could face £1 billion in extra taxes and find themselves squeezed even harder by powerful international competition. Or this could be the moment when the UK starts trading in a way that really benefits them – enabling them to trade their way out of poverty.

**What we are calling for:** Traidcraft, Fairtrade Foundation and other agencies are calling on the government to put in place measures to safeguard people who trade with us from the poorest countries –

details can be found in the MP briefing.

**The moment is now:** This spring, the government will trigger Article 50 and start the process of taking the UK out of the EU. From the beginning, there needs to be an awareness of the effect on people in the poorest countries and an intent to make sure Brexit works for them.

**What you want your MP to do:** Please ask your MP to write to Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox about the campaign. If your MP already has done this, please refer to other options which are listed on the first page of the MP briefing.

**Talk from your own experience:** Have you ever lived in a developing country, or have family links? Do you run your own business? Do you sell fair trade products? Making these connections will help your MP understand why you are involved in the campaign.

Before you leave, don't forget to **give your MP a copy of the MP briefing** (we have already sent one but they are more likely to read it if it comes from you). Ask if you can have a picture taken together.

### What do I do after the meeting?

Firstly, let others know about it. Tell your friends, share your story on social media, or send a short press release to your local or church press.

Around a week after your meeting, you should write to your MP to thank them for meeting with you. If your MP said they would look into something or you said you would get back to them on an issue, you can use this letter to remind them or pass on the information you promised.

**And lastly... Please get in touch with Traidcraft and let us know how the meeting went.** Fill in the form below, and if you'd like, send us your picture or tweet it to @traidcraft.

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### 3 top social media tips

- Before: use social media to tell people you are going to the meeting
  - During: take a photo to use on social media
  - After: talk about how the meeting went using the photo
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### I still have questions! How do I get in touch with Traidcraft's Campaigns team?

If you need any help at all, please contact us on: 020 3752 5718, or [campaign@traidcraft.co.uk](mailto:campaign@traidcraft.co.uk), or Traidcraft 2:12 The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR.

## Tell us about your meeting!

We would love to hear how your meeting went. Please take a few minutes to fill in the form and send it to: [campaign@traidcraft.co.uk](mailto:campaign@traidcraft.co.uk), or Traidcraft 2:12 The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR.

Your name .....

Email address .....

Postal address .....

..... Postcode .....

Name of your MP .....

Tell us a bit about the meeting. How did you find it? What went well? What didn't go so well?

Did you give the briefing to your MP and did they already have it?

Did your MP commit to write to Liam Fox? Did they say they would do anything else?

### Thank you!

I'd like to keep in touch with Traidcraft's work and campaigns by post

I'd like to keep in touch with Traidcraft's work and campaigns by email

*If you already receive information from Traidcraft we will continue to send it, unless you notify us that you would like to unsubscribe.*