

## **Summary of Campaigns in Think Global Mailing**

### **Mobilise Against Trump**

There is a coalition of organisations campaigning against Trump's planned state visit to the UK. GJN suggest arranging a public meeting to drum up support for this.

### **M&S campaign on migration**

This campaign is rather convoluted. It targets M&S for placing ads in the Daily Mail which has had a number of anti-migrant headlines. A number of campaigning materials have been produced with the intention of placing the small cards in amongst M&S food items. There has been some criticism of the design as the cards feature the Daily Mail logo and actually appear at first glance to be promoting the paper rather than criticising it.

### **CETA Campaign**

The up to date news on this is that, despite our lobbying, the EU parliament ratified the CETA bill on 15 February. This is a major setback for our campaign. However it appears that our lobbying was effective as a majority of Labour MEP's voted against it. Eight UKIP MEP's pledged to vote against it but failed to turn up on the day.

This means that all parts of CETA that apply to European law will come into force but other parts, such as investor protection and the corporate courts will be on hold until all EU member states have separately ratified the deal. This could take some time as while CETA is likely to be approved in the UK, some other EU members may find it more difficult to get it through their parliaments. We are not being asked to do any more campaigning on this issue.

### **US/US Trade Deal**

A possible deal has been discussed by May and Trump and it is thought that this will be worse than anything we have campaigned on to date. Officially there is a rule preventing the UK from negotiating a deal while we are still in the EU bloc, but it seems likely that our government will not be deterred by this. It seems unlikely that a trade deal can be quickly achieved without the UK granting huge concessions to US corporations.

### **Food Sovereignty**

UN Declaration on the rights of small-scale producers. Small farmers feed about 70% of the world but they are experiencing escalating levels of oppression and violence. In order to challenge this trend a declaration is underway at the UN Human Rights Council and GJN has been asked to lend its support. If international recognition for the rights of small-scale producers could be achieved it would be a major advancement for the global food sovereignty movement. In the last round of negotiations last year the UK government voted with the EU bloc and abstained on the declaration.

GJN has produced an action card targeting the Foreign Office and a booklet with more information in.

## **Events Locally and Possible Actions**

**Mayoral Question Time** A QT event will take place on 20 April. We have been asked to send a representative to this meeting. Barbara will go and will ask a question about global warming.

**Indian Play.** A play is coming to the Borough on 26-28 April. It might be an opportunity for some of us to attend and hopefully display leaflets about our group.

**Farmer's Market** We have arranged to once again share the Allotment Society's stall at the Saltburn Market. This would be a good place to campaign on the Rights of small-scale producers. We agreed that we do not have time to arrange this for April so we will aim for 13 May.

### ***Actions***

Order 150 cards and 50 booklets. Barbara

Make a large poster 'Small-scale farmers need our help.' Andy Watson

Make some cards for a game. Barbara and Jacky.

6 of us are available to that day to help man the stall.

### **Monsanto Exhibition**

We have tried without success to find somewhere to display the 12 photos we have.

Mima have offered to show a couple of them at their Community Day. This takes place every Thursday lunch time from 12 - 2pm. Barbara has been in to meet the organiser, Helen. She would be happy for us to be involved whenever we wish on whatever campaigns we have.

This might be a good partnership in the future and we could aim to do a day a year. The school holidays might be particularly productive as the gallery is well used by parents and children in the holidays. The Community Day includes a meal of soup which is served free of charge.

We will keep this action for later in the year and concentrate instead on the small-scale farmers campaign.

It might be worth doing a reece and Maggie offered to help with this.

Meanwhile we will identify local schools which might like one of the dozen easels we have inherited.

**Next Meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May.**