

War on Want Conference – Fight Supermarket Power

Saturday 27 February 2010

11.00-17.00

Faraday House

48-51 Old Gloucester Street

London WC1N 3AE

Opening Plenary – The impact of supermarket power

11.15 – 12.45

Chair: Sally Hunt, General Secretary, University and College Union

Speakers:

Anton Marcus, Joint Secretary, Free Trade Zone & General Services Employees Union [FTZ-GSEU] (Sri Lanka)

Prof Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy, City University

Taysir Arabasi, Zaytoun (Palestine)

Lunch

12.45 – 14.00

Lunch provided and showing of the film *MST: Landless Farmers and the Biggest March in Brazilian History* in the main auditorium

Workshops

14.00 – 15:30

Workshop 1 – Fighting back – UK campaigns and local alternatives

Seb Klier, War on Want

Gay Brown, Tesco

Simon Woolf, Brixton Pound

Supermarkets are taking over our high streets, destroying our countryside, driving farmers off their land and exploiting workers. Find out how local communities across the UK are using innovative techniques to fight back against the supermarket takeover of their towns.

Workshop 2 – From sweatshops to the shop floor – Supermarkets and their global supply chains

Simon McRae, War on Want

Andy Gilchrist, Unite the Union

Millions of workers in the developing world are exploited in sweatshops and plantations to produce cheap clothes and food for UK supermarkets. From Bangladesh to South Africa, supermarkets dictate the terms at which overseas producers are forced to sell their goods. Hear the latest from the front line in the fight for a living wage and decent work, and learn how people in the UK can challenge UK companies.

Workshop 3 – Profiting from Occupation: UK supermarkets making a killing in Palestine

Yasmin Khan, War on Want
Michael Warschawski, Alternative Information Center (Israel)
Joanne Crouch, anti-Agrexco activist

UK supermarkets are profiting from Israel's occupation of Palestine. The UK is one of the world's largest importers of Israeli agricultural produce, much of which is grown on illegal Israeli settlements. Join us to find out more about the situation on the ground in Palestine and be inspired by stories from people in the UK, Israel and Palestine who are challenging corporate complicity in Israel's crimes.

Workshop 4 – Food Justice – Who controls our food?

Anu Kuusisto, War on Want
Patrick Mulvany, The UK Food Group
Kirtana Chandrasekaran, Friends of the Earth

Supermarkets are seemingly able to work miracles in selling foods from all over the world, all year round. But how sustainable is this model of food provision and who benefits? Unfair trade rules help to consolidate the power of corporations over our food supply. Find out how people are fighting back for control of their resources.

Coffee break
15.30 – 15.45

Closing Plenary – Fighting back

15.45– 17.15

Speaker:

Chair: Sue Branford, Chair, War on Want

Speakers:
Alex Y. Kawakami, MST (Brazil)
Jack Dromey, Deputy General Secretary, Unite
Jamal Juma', Stop the Wall (Palestine)
John Hilary, War on Want