



A LETTER FROM OVER 250 PEOPLE IN KENYA, WHO GROW THE TEA YOU DRINK.

As the people behind the tea you drink, we write to you today to urge you to use your power for good. We know that tea is drunk by millions in the UK, that it can bring people together and provide comfort or a moment to rest and revive.

Tea also has the power to change lives in our communities.

As growers and pickers, we work hard to nurture and care for the tea we grow, so we can earn a decent living for our families. When we earn enough money, we can educate our children, keep them safe with school transport, adapt our farming methods to protect the environment around us, and look after the health of our communities with access to clean water and medicine. We want to see the people in our local communities thrive.

But today, we come together to tell you the scales of the global tea trade are not tipped in favour of those of us growing and picking the leaves behind your cup of tea.

The price we earn today for the hard work behind your favourite drink is just too low. As this continues to drop, our outgoings are rising, and this simply cannot continue. Many of the people picking tea on estates around the world earn significantly below what is considered a 'living wage' and are struggling to support their families.

This unbalanced global tea trade drives other challenges for those working in tea around the world, including poor living conditions, a lack of health and safety protections, and unequal power for women.

On top of this, the rapidly changing climate is making it harder and harder to grow our delicate tea leaves, with risks of flooding, drought and increasing plant diseases all increasing costs and pressure for us. By 2050, climate change is expected to reduce the conditions for growing our tea here in Kenya by a quarter. Established farmers and young people hoping to see a future in tea are increasingly worried about the future for themselves and their families.

As tea drinkers, and MPs in the UK, you have the power to change lives alongside the people behind your favourite brew. Will you use your power for good?

The reality is that what is happening here impacts us all. We all rely on the same global food system. When tea growers are struggling, tea drinkers will feel the impacts too.

We know that people in the UK care about protecting each other, upholding human rights and tackling climate change. We have written this letter, as a united group of farmers and growers within the Fairtrade network to urgently call on the UK to support us in changing our collective future.

We are asking policy makers to work together, and with businesses, in the UK to use your power to protect human rights, support us in responding to the impacts of climate change and work with us for a better future for tea growers and workers everywhere.

When we work together, we are stronger.

Signed,

Kenyan tea farmers and workers from; Nduti Tea Factory Company Ltd , Gacharage Tea Factory Company Ltd, Momul Tea Factory Company Ltd, Browns Tea Estates

There is a critical need for the UK Government to introduce robust human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) legislation for businesses. This legislation will unify and address issues for the people in our global supply chains that are often viewed in isolation. We would be grateful if you would contact the Department for Business and Trade to raise this issue on behalf of your constituency.

If you would like further information on HREDD, you can contact the policy team at Fairtrade Foundation: appg@fairtrade.org.uk