

# Reading University Students' Union welcomes a Fairtrade Tea Producer for Fairtrade Fortnight.

Reading University Students' Union and the University of Reading are staging events during Fairtrade Fortnight to increase the awareness and importance of buying Fairtrade.

**Press Release: RUSU Welcomes a Fairtrade Producer for Fairtrade Fortnight**

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The University of Reading and Reading University Students' Union (RUSU) continue to promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight which runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> February - 7<sup>th</sup> March. This reflects the University and Unions' continued commitment to supply Fairtrade goods while raising the awareness of Fairtrade amongst the University community.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, RUSU, the Chaplaincy, the University of Reading Fairtrade Steering Group and the Reading Town Fairtrade group have been working together to organise a Berkshire Fairtrade Producer Tour.

The main event on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm in the Palmer Building, welcomes Vinay Devaiah, a Fairtrade tea producer from South India to share his experience with the community discussing; 'How Fair is Fairtrade? A producer's perspective'. The talk will be accompanied by Fairtrade tea sampling and offers people the opportunity to ask Vinay questions about life as a Fairtrade tea producer.

The Union's Campaigns Forum (part of People and Planet) will be promoting their trade justice campaign with the aim of defending human rights throughout university supply chains.

The Students' Union supermarket R U Being Served is continually extending its range of Fairtrade products and will be offering special price promotions on Fairtrade products during the Fairtrade Fortnight.

Emily Bell, RUSU's Vice-President Democracy & Campaigns said "These activities show our continuing commitment to supporting farmers in the majority world to get a fair deal. We are passionate about raising awareness on campus about the importance of buying Fairtrade goods."

To acknowledge the continued commitment to Fairtrade, the University of Reading's Fairtrade status was renewed in December 2009. This is awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation on an annual basis once various goals are achieved.

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*For further information, and full line up of events visit [www.rusu.co.uk/fairtrade](http://www.rusu.co.uk/fairtrade)*

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**Notes to editors:**

1) There are five goals to become a Fairtrade University or College

- The Student Union (or equivalent) and the university or college authorities both create a Fairtrade policy incorporating these five goals.
- Fairtrade foods are made available for sale in all campus shops. Fairtrade foods are used in all cafés/restaurants/bars on campus. Where this is not possible, there is a commitment to begin to use Fairtrade foods in these establishments as soon as it becomes possible to do so.
- Fairtrade foods (for example, coffee and tea) are served at all meetings hosted by the university or college and the Student Union (or equivalent), and are served in all university or college and Student Union management offices.
- There is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.
- A Fairtrade Steering Group is established.