

## Principles of a Fair Trade Product

As Fair Trade Campaigns considers products and certification systems for inclusion in the criteria of becoming a Fair Trade Town, College, or University, it is important to have a set of principles against which new products and certifications can be measured. To this end, what follows is a list of principles that the National Steering Committees will use when deciding if a new certification should be included in the campaign's definition of Fair Trade. These principles address empowerment; income; workplace safety; treatment of children and women; the environment; and third party assurance.

- **Producer empowerment:** Workers, farmers, artisans and other producers must be empowered to direct their own communities' development. There should be a requirement of democratic organization and decision making.
- **Fair pay and wages:** Producers are paid fair wages in the local context and have the power to improve income over time.
- **Safe and empowering working conditions:** A system must ensure safe and healthy working conditions for producers as well as safeguards against forced labor and discrimination in the workplace.
- **The rights of children:** Children may not be subjected to forced child labor and have the right to security, education and play.
- **Equal opportunity to disadvantaged groups:** Women and other marginalized workers (based on race, disability, cast, etc) are guaranteed health care, rights and freedom from harassment as well as equal representation in decision making bodies.
- **Protection of natural resources:** Producers must adhere to environmental stewardship standards that ensure the sustainability of the land, water and other resources.
- **Third party auditing, certification or organizational screening:** A certification or "Fair Trade claim" cannot be monitored by the company itself, but rather through a third party certification system, or by membership in a body that conducts audits and/or organizational screening.
- **Transparency of Standards:** The certifier or auditor must be transparent with regards to the benefits to producers and the standards, structures and way in which those benefits are disseminated.



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