

## February saw the return of Fairtrade fortnight with Europe Direct Leeds joining in the celebrations



**A great afternoon was had by all with lots of enthusiasm for the fairtrade cause**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, children from schools across Leeds gathered at the Civic Hall for an afternoon of shared activities raising awareness of fairtrade issues.

The theme for this year's fairtrade celebration was 'Be an Agent of Change'. This was fully embraced by schools across Leeds who put together some brilliant films presenting their take on the Agents of Change fair trade theme.

Stockgate Mill Junior School were worthy winners of the Agents of Change film reward, with the following schools being highly commended: Westgate Primary School, Ireland Wood Cluster and Beeston Primary.

Once the presentations had been made the children were free to take a break and to discover the delights at the various stalls which included chocolate tasting, fairtrade goodies from Beehive [the only 100% Fairtrade shop in Leeds - [www.thebeehiveshop.org.uk](http://www.thebeehiveshop.org.uk)] and the **Europe Direct Leeds** fairtrade tombola. At the tombola the children were able to win a variety of fair trade and Europe direct goodies. Teachers were very pleased with their free bunting and **Europe Direct** information packs.

The afternoon continued with peer education workshops and the presentation of Commitment to Global Learning certificates.



# EYD2015 – this month's theme is: Women and Girls

In many parts of the world, the simple fact of being born a girl will already put you at a disadvantage.

Many women experience discrimination throughout their lives, for example by being kept out of school as girls, by not being able to find decently paid jobs when they grow up, not being able to access basic health services for themselves and their children, and by being denied their right to social protection and inheritance in old age.

Yet give girls the same access to education as boys, and women the same resources and opportunities as men, and the whole community will benefit.

This is especially important in poorer countries and communities, where women are often the backbone of economic life.

Battling gender discrimination isn't just morally right – it's economically smart as well.



For stories and reports on this month's theme visit  
[www.tinyurl.com/q4c9h6c](http://www.tinyurl.com/q4c9h6c)  
[www.tinyurl.com/q272p9f](http://www.tinyurl.com/q272p9f)

The European Parliament (EP) has always been a strong proponent of making gender a focus of the EU's development cooperation. In view of adopting a new international development framework in 2015 to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, the EP has called for a stand-alone goal on gender equality while simultaneously ensuring the integration of gender across all goals. In particular, the EP has stressed the importance of:

- eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and sending a clear message about women's participation in decision-making processes
- ensuring equal access to employment for both women and men, and equal pay for work of equal value everywhere
- enhancing girls' access to all levels of education and removing gender barriers to learning
- ensuring universal access to health services
- establishing effective protections for migrant women

The EP has also established internal structures to ensure that gender equality is 'mainstreamed': a standing Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality [[www.tinyurl.com/7epkmcz](http://www.tinyurl.com/7epkmcz)] contributes to reports and resolutions on development cooperation, and the committee responsible for development cooperation [[www.tinyurl.com/m3anozz](http://www.tinyurl.com/m3anozz)] has specified that one of its Members is responsible for mainstreaming gender equality throughout the committee's work.