

Towards a Manifesto for Food Justice for Wales

Draft manifesto drawn up by 'Abergavenny Just Food'

Our food system is broken:

- ◆ in Wales an estimated 1 in 7 households are struggling to avoid going hungry and Food Bank use is on the rise.
- ◆ growing numbers of households are undernourished and at the same time obesity rates are rising – more than half the adults in Wales are overweight or obese leading to rising rates of type II diabetes as well as more heart disease and cancer.
- ◆ only half our children eat fruit and vegetables every day and less than a third of all adults, 32%, reported eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables a day.
- ◆ yet, an estimated 400,000 tonnes of food is wasted every year by households in Wales – food that could be recycled or used to provide nutritious meals.
- ◆ our food production system is unfair – workers in the system are often migrant labourers receiving low wages in poor quality jobs; farmers receive only 8% of the added value in the system.
- ◆ the productivity of our land is threatened by environmental damage such as carbon emissions, soil erosion & loss of biodiversity
- ◆ Brexit exposes how broken our food system is. It poses threats such as increased prices due to the fall in value of sterling & possibility of tariffs on imports, loss of migrant labour, possible reduction in environmental protection. BUT Brexit also opens up opportunities to create a fairer and better food system; good food for people, good for places, good for the planet

We believe that:

- ◆ food is a public good; everyone should have access to food by right rather than relying on the charity of others
- ◆ food justice means tackling not just how people get enough nutritious food necessary for their health and well being, but also asking **why** so many can't
- ◆ confronting the root causes of our broken food system matters if we are to have a fair and sustainable food system in Wales
- ◆ food justice is key to reducing poverty, improving health & well-being, and tackling climate change & environmental degradation – all commitments that we in Wales have made under the Well-being of Future Generations Act

We want a Wales where:

1. everyone is entitled to affordable, high-quality, nutritious and safe food
2. those involved in producing & distributing our food have a right to a fair income
3. food production is sustainable – policies and practice boost bio-diversity, cut carbon emissions, and increase soil quality
4. everyone is supported and encouraged to cook from scratch, grow their own and eat more fresh, seasonal, local, organically grown food
5. sustainable diets are at the heart of food policy – low in animal protein & processed & refined food; high in fruit & vegetables
6. we prioritise awareness raising and education in our schools, workplaces and homes about the part that food, nutrition and lifestyle can play in meeting the needs of disadvantaged individuals, families and groups in the community and encourage social inclusion and social cohesion
7. animal welfare standards are improved and fish stocks are protected
8. the redistribution, recycling and composting of food waste is encouraged and promoted
9. food subsidies encourage production of affordable, high-quality & less carbon intensive food for the benefit of public health and the environment – more horticulture and more organic food
10. our food policy supports and advances local food production & distribution; championing the right to fresh good quality food and helping to cut 'food miles'
11. community-led food trade and production such as co-operatives, buying groups, Community Supported Agriculture and pop-up shops are valued and nurtured
12. new tax powers are used to discourage unhealthy food high in fats & sugar

Abergavenny Just Food

This draft manifesto has been drawn up by 'Abergavenny Just Food'. We are a community group committed to raising awareness around Food Justice and campaigning for a fair affordable and sustainable food system for Wales. We want to grow a broad network of groups and individuals in and beyond Abergavenny to make the right to food a reality.

Help us take this forward - We welcome your ideas & suggestions for developing our draft manifesto which we plan to launch in December 2017.

Please contact: justfoodplanning@gmail.com

*We are indebted to **Nourish Scotland** – an NGO campaigning on food justice issues and Bristol Food Network for their ideas which have informed the manifesto.*