IFAN/A Menu for Change Meeting with Participants of the Independent Food Parcel Data Collation in Scotland, Glasgow 18.6.19.

Independent Food Bank Data Collation in Scotland

In mid-June Sabine travelled to Scotland to meet with over 25 participants in our joint project with A Menu for Change to collate data from independent food
banks operating in Scotland. You can read more about the project [here](#). We discussed the significant impact that the release of our first figures in March of this year has had and plans going forward to release further data in the Autumn of the year. We also heard from participants about the ever-increasing demand for emergency food provision as poverty levels grow and about the direct action being taken by food bank teams to stem the tide of the normalisation of charitable food aid within individual communities.

Dr Mary-Anne MacLeod of [A Menu for Change](#) then discussed the work that the ground-breaking project has been doing across Scotland and Chelsea Marshall spoke of [Nourish Scotland](#)'s Dignity in Practice project.

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**Rural Food Poverty Workshops**

Food Power, IFAN and the Bristol Poverty Institute worked together to run a series of workshops focussed on rural food poverty at Bristol University. We are very grateful for the contributions of Beverley Parker of Rural Action Derbyshire, Dr Megan Blake of Sheffield University, Emily Fay of the Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, Professor Jon May, Dr Andrew Williams, Dr
Dave Beck, Andrew Howell of End Hunger Cornwall and Simon Shaw of Sustain’s Food Power programme. You can find a briefing published by Food Power with input from the our discussions in Bristol here.

**Ministers challenged to guarantee food for vulnerable people in the event of a no deal Brexit**

A letter co-signed by the Independent Food Aid Network, FareShare, the Trussell Trust, FoodCycle, the Felix Project and City Harvest, and supported by several other national food, health and poverty groups has been sent to Ministers warning of the possible effects that a no deal Brexit could have on food donations, risking hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people going hungry.

Sabine Goodwin, Coordinator of the Independent Food Aid Network, said: "Thousands of independent food aid providers are already struggling to cope with increasing levels of food insecurity. Frontline organisations do not have the capacity to cope with a reduced food supply, increased costs or a further increase in numbers of people in need. An adequate central hardship fund that would provide cash grants to those unable to afford to feed themselves and their families is a critical first step in any no-deal Brexit strategy."

Read the letter here.

We have been working alongside Sustain, the Trussell Trust and FareShare to raise our significant concerns over the impact of a no deal Brexit on those already living with food insecurity and on food aid providers likely to see a reduction in food supply and increased demand. In particular, we have been advocating for the establishment of a central hardship fund specifically to financially support anyone who is vulnerable and needing to access emergency food aid.

**If you would like to raise any questions or concerns in relation to the impact of a no deal Brexit please write to Sabine at ifan.uk@gmail.com**
Deirdre Woods represents IFAN at the APPG on food banks launch of "Nothing Left in the Cupboards"

Photo by Clara Widdison

The Right to Food discussed at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Food Banks

The parliamentary launch of the Human Rights Watch report "Nothing Left in the Cupboards: Austerity, Welfare Cuts, and the Right to Food in the UK" allowed panelists and participants to explore what food aid might look like if our right to food was incorporated into UK law. IFAN was represented by trustee and co-founder of Granville community kitchen, Dee Woods, along with other panelists including Imogen Richmond-Bishop, Right to Food project coordinator for Sustain, Kartik Raj, author of the HRW report, Mike Scott, manager of the Goodwin Pantry in Hull, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, sponsor of the Food Insecurity Bill 2017-19 as well as Abby Jitendra, Policy and Research Manager of the Trussell Trust. The event was hosted by Neil Coyle MP, the Chair of the APPG on food banks.
Closing the Hunger Gap conference Raleigh, North Carolina, 3-5 September 2019 Roots. Justice Resilience

Trustees Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite and Deirdre Woods represented the Independent Food Aid Network at the Closing the Hunger Gap conference in North Carolina last week. They will be updating us soon. The conference brought together frontline food aid organisers, campaigners and experts by experience who are campaigning to address the root causes of poverty driving food insecurity. You can find out more here.

The 3-day conference was followed by a meeting bringing together advocates from the USA, Canada and the UK, including the Independent Food Aid Network, who are developing a global alliance to address the root causes of food insecurity on both sides of the Atlantic. More on this soon.

Coming Up

IFAN's Annual General Meeting BOOK VERY SOON!

Our next AGM meeting will be held between 11am and 4pm on Saturday the 21st September 2019 at the Brixton Peoples Kitchen in Vauxhall, London.

Apart from sharing news on our recent work and discussing our priorities and plans going forward, participants will be able to take part in workshops including sessions on the Right to Food thanks to Imogen Richmond-Bishop of Sustain's Right to Food programme, Dee Woods, IFAN's Co-Chair of trustees and Kartik Raj of Human Rights Watch; Exit Strategies from Charitable Food Aid led by IFAN trustee Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite and including a contribution
Call for Evidence to the National Food Strategy Inquiry

Submit your ideas and evidence to the National Food Strategy inquiry to help shape our future food system! This is the first major review of our food system in 75 years.

You can read the Call for Evidence and submit your responses here.

Call for Evidence House of Lords Select Committee

We are hoping to submit evidence as the Independent Food Aid Network to the House of Lords Food, Poverty, Health and Environment Committee. The committee was appointed in June 2019 to consider the links between "inequality, public health and food sustainability." Details can be found at this link. The deadline is the 12th of September. Apologies for the delay in letting you know about this.

Collaborating with The Equality Trust

As you all know in-work poverty is growing rapidly and many of those driven to use food banks have jobs that don't pay enough for them to pay bills and feed themselves and their families. IFAN trustee Maddy Power and coordinator Sabine Goodwin have been talking with the Local Groups Organiser of The Equality Trust about ways we can work together to promote a real living wage within individual communities.

Would you like to connect with The Equality Trust volunteers campaigning within your local community to promote a real living wage? Less than 100 of
408 UK local authorities are paying a Living Wage while only some local employers do so and are accredited through the Living Wage Foundation.

We know that many of you would like to find the time to campaign to address inequality but are too overwhelmed by the day-to-day demands of supporting rapidly increasing numbers of people in need. By potentially working together with The Equality Trust local groups, IFAN members could play a key role in demonstrating the devastating effect of inequality first-hand and raising much needed awareness of the impact of low wages.

If you’d like to find out more and would be interested in connecting with your local The Equality Trust group please write to Sabine directly at sabinegoodwin@gmail.com.

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**Dignity in Practice Workshops**

In collaboration with IFAN, Nourish Scotland is running two workshops, principally for IFAN members based in the North of England, in Chester and Carlisle this September. We will update you further. If you have any questions please contact ifan.uk@gmail.com.

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**Donation Appeal**

As many of you know, we have been running IFAN without core funding for nearly 3 years. A Menu for Change has been able to support Sabine's work on the independent food parcel distribution data project in Scotland but the day-to-day running of the organisation, planning of events, campaigning within End Hunger UK, undertaking the food bank volunteer hour research as well as the mapping of independent food banks across the UK has been done on a pro bono basis.
As our work and the needs of our growing network increases we are working hard to secure funding. In the meantime we wanted to let you know about the Donate button on our website in case you or others you know would be in a position to support IFAN financially. IFAN now has charitable status and maintains a no fee membership system.

Our vision is of "a country that doesn't need emergency food aid and in which good food is accessible to all" but there is a great deal of work to be done for this to be realised.

Thanks a lot as ever for your support.