



April Newsletter



IFAN's Sabine Goodwin together with representatives of independent food banks in Edinburgh, November 2018

IFAN and A Menu for Change release data on independent food bank emergency food parcel distribution across Scotland:

As a result of a ground-breaking [joint project](#), IFAN and A Menu for Change have revealed the shocking scale of independent food bank use in Scotland.

From April 2017 through to September 2018, 84 independent food banks across Scotland distributed 221,977 emergency food parcels which added to Trussell Trust figure of 258,606 brings the combined total to nearly half a million. Read more in [our press release](#) and [briefing](#).

We are working to instigate similar projects across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and will keep you posted of developments.

Challenging the institutionalisation of charitable food aid:

IFAN's trustees and coordinator were among 58 academics and campaigners who signed a key [letter to the Guardian](#) at the time of the Global Foodbanking Network Food Bank Leadership Institute conference in London at the end of March.

Read more [here](#)

“Food banking is not something to be celebrated, despite the good will and generosity of the many volunteers and donors filling a growing gap in the here and now. The fact that charitable food aid is needed at all must remain unacceptable.” - Sabine Goodwin, Coordinator, Independent Food Aid Network

Workshop on social supermarkets:

Together with Dr Lopa Saxena, IFAN is planning a workshop in Coventry on community food initiatives such as social supermarkets, food pantries and food clubs which are rapidly developing across the UK. The workshop will enable participants to look at the growth of these projects and address key issues facing the sector as well as share experiences and identify good practice. The workshop will be led by Dr Lopa Saxena of Coventry University and Robin Burgess, CEO of Northampton's Hope Centre and IFAN trustee.

This event will take place on Monday the 20th of May 2019 and invitations will be sent out very soon.

Webinar on Undermining the Right to Food: The Rise of Food Charity in North America and Europe - 3pm-4.30pm Thursday 25.4.19.

This webinar, the first in a series of 3, is being organised by FIAN International, WhyHunger and IFAN. In this first webinar of the series, speakers will provide a contextual analysis of the rise of food charity in each of three example countries – the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada - as a “false solution” to ending hunger, and as a direct result of an ever-weakening social welfare state alongside the strengthening of a neo-liberal policy agenda.

Further details can be found [here](#).

Rural Food Poverty Workshops in Bristol Tuesday 25.6.19.

Together with Sustain's Food Power programme and the Bristol Food Poverty Institute, IFAN is organising a series of workshops - **Taking action to reduce rural food poverty** - that will be held at Bristol University on Tuesday the 25th June, 2019.

More details soon.

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.