

## Nicaragua to Nendrum

28 February 2017

**COMBER, Northern Ireland:** Put Fairtrade in your break during Fairtrade Fortnight.



R-L: Mayor, Ards and North Down - Alderman Deborah Girvan with Consul, St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland – Dr Christopher Stange

A coffee and chocolate farmer from Nicaragua will visit Nendrum College in Comber on Wednesday 8 March for Fairtrade Fortnight (27 February - 12 March 2017).

He will talk about how Fairtrade has benefitted him and his family financially giving them a better deal for their produce at a special event organised by Ards and North Down Borough Council's Fairtrade Steering Group.

All Primary six, seven and secondary aged pupils across Ards and North Down have been invited to attend the session.

The Steering Group is also encouraging schools, churches, businesses and workplaces to host their own event - large or small - to promote Fairtrade. This can range from serving Fairtrade tea and coffee at tea break time in work to a Fairtrade bake-off event.

This is just part of the Council's efforts to help make Northern Ireland a Fairtrade devolved region as has already been achieved in Scotland and Wales.

The Council now serves Fairtrade products at its meetings and in its offices and canteens. Ards and North Down towns, Holywood, Newtownards, Comber and Donaghadee, are also to become Fairtrade joining Bangor which was awarded Fairtrade status by the UK Fairtrade Foundation in March 2011.

The Council will also champion a range of initiatives to support this, such as encouraging the serving of some Fairtrade products in local cafes and restaurants, schools and churches. This work will be led by the local Fairtrade steering group of representatives from the local community.

Fairtrade is a global movement for change that works to guarantee a better deal for disadvantaged producers in the developing world. It helps to secure better prices, decent working conditions and fair business terms.

Mayor of Ards and North Down, Alderman Deborah Girvan, said: "As a developed nation, among the most privileged in the world, I believe we have a moral duty to care for our poorer neighbours. Fairtrade allows us to take practical action to help some of the world's most disadvantaged people. To borrow a common phrase, Fairtrade is about giving people 'a hand up, not a hand out'. It offers a minimum price paid by importers and buyers to cover the cost of sustainable production plus an additional, premium designated for social and economic development of local developing communities. I am delighted that the Council is supporting such a fantastic scheme."

**ENDS**