



Banana Link youth delegation visit to Ecuador in 2006

Banana Link is a small not-for-profit campaign organisation working towards a socially just, environmentally sound and economically viable banana industry. To find out more about Banana Link and our Union to Union Programme visit www.bananalink.org.uk or email us on info@bananalink.org.uk



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INTERNATIONAL YOUNG MEMBER SOLIDARITY

Are you a young trade union member?

Would you like to get involved in international young member solidarity?

Read on to find out about the Banana Link Union to Union programme.....

The Banana Link **Union to Union Programme** builds solidarity links between Latin American trade unions, at one end of the international banana supply chain, and British trade unionists at the other. Banana Link works with eight banana workers' unions in **Nicaragua, Honduras, Ecuador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Peru**. The project aims to build the capacity of banana workers' trade unions to organise and educate workers on the ground, whilst lobbying for changes to labour laws, company practices and trade rules at national and international level.

International Young Member solidarity

Over 70% of the workforce on Latin American banana plantations are under the age of 29. These young workers face appalling working conditions, including wages well below the cost of living and exposure to toxic chemicals. Workers who try to join unions face repression - from daily psychological pressure to outright violence. In Ecuador, for example, less than 2% of banana workers are members of an independent trade union. Our Latin American partners are working to organise and train young workers to enable and empower them to fully exercise their legal and political rights and put a stop to workplace exploitation. This work is supported through the Banana Link Union to Union programme, building solidarity between young members at either end of the banana supply chain. This has involved youth delegation visits to both Costa Rica and Ecuador, complimented by visits to the UK by young Latin America union activists. An example of practical solidarity achieved is the funding of young member training and organising work in Ecuador by NTUC Young Members and Amicus. For more information please visit the Union to Union section of www.bananalink.org.uk

HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

1. Join the **Banana Link Young Member Action Network** to receive updates and information on events, projects, fundraising and other ways to get involved in young member international solidarity
2. Join the **Banana Action mailing list** to receive Urgent Action requests and the Union to Union bulletin – which has a regular centre page spread on young member solidarity, and distribute these within your branch, workplace and Young Member Networks.
3. **Raise awareness** on the issues faced by workers in the banana industry at trade union meetings and events, within your workplace, community and other networks – contact Banana Link for educational resources
4. Get your union branch or region to become Banana Link **Trade Union Supporters**
5. **Submit a motion** at your union conference to support the work of Latin American banana workers unions through the Union to Union programme.
6. **Support our campaigns:**
 - Dole campaign – demanding that the world's largest fruit company respects labour rights on their plantations
 - Tescopoly campaign – control supermarket buyer power to reduce the exploitation of farmers and workers worldwide
 - Support Caribbean and Fairtrade bananas – support the survival of thousands of small family farmers in the Windward Islands.

For more information visit the **campaign section of**
www.bananalink.org.uk

To get involved either fill in the form below and return to Banana Link or contact us for more information about young member solidarity and action you can take. (Banana Link contact details are on the back of this leaflet)

I am a young member of a UK trade union and I want to get involved in the Banana Link Union to Union programme and international young member solidarity. Please.....

(tick)

Add me to the Banana Link Young Member Action Network

Add me to the Banana Action Mailing List

Send me copies of the Union to Union bulletin

Send me copies of this Youth leaflet for distribution amongst young member networks

Name:

Address:

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Tel:

Email:

Union:

Position held (if any):

Return to the Banana Link address on the back of this form