



## Notes Food Justice Workshop

Nourish Scotland & UNITY Sisters

23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2018, Kinning Park Complex, Glasgow

### Workshop questions

- What is the right to food and what do we mean by food justice?
- How can we make sure that people going through the asylum and migration system in Scotland have access to the food they need?
- How can we work together to advocate for food justice, as part of the Good Food Nation Bill campaign?

The **human right to food** is everyone's right to be able to eat well and the right to a fair and sustainable food system.

The **Good Food Nation Bill** is a new piece of legislation the Scottish Government will soon be developing to create a better, fairer food system in Scotland.

### Nourish Scotland's ideas for what the Good Food Nation Bill can do:

1. Enshrine the right to food
2. Set up a statutory commission
3. Develop a national action plan for food
4. Place duties on public bodies
5. Set targets + programmes

### Notes exercise 1: Barriers

*What are the problems? What barriers do people going through the asylum and migration system in Scotland face in accessing the food they need?*

- Food, especially healthy food, is unaffordable. There's a lack of choice.
- Halal food and international food is more expensive, and harder to find.
- The support people receive from the Home Office (£5 a day) is far from enough to cover people's basic needs, including food.
- The different levels of support available to different groups of people is confusing.

- Support is provided through a visa card and not all shops accept card payments, especially corner shops that would provide access to more affordable and culturally appropriate food. Depending on the 'category' of support, most people are not allowed to take cash out with this card.
- Food prices are increasing, while the financial support is not.
- Supermarkets don't reduce food that is close to the expiring date and that food goes to waste.
- People don't have the right to work and to make their own money to buy the food of their choice.
- Families who have not yet secured the right to remain are not entitled to receive Healthy Start Vouchers – but every child is the same.
- Accommodation provided by the council is often far away from (affordable) food shops.
- People often don't have access to information about their rights and available support, or about where to go for the food you need.

## **Notes exercise 2: Solutions**

*What should be done to make sure people going through the asylum and migration system in Scotland have access to adequate food?*

### **What governments can do:**

- Change the law and listen to our rights;
- Give everyone the Right to Work.
- Make the support for asylum seekers the same for everyone, including giving everyone cash.
- Increase financial support for people going through the asylum and migration system in Scotland;
- Make it possible for asylum seekers to shop in more affordable shops such as Aldi & Lidl.
- Control the prices of food in stores.
- Reduce the taxes for traders so that they can reduce food prices;
- Make sure families are entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers.
- To help reduce food waste;
- Support community projects that give access to food and support

### **What communities can do:**

- Come together to campaign for the right to food
- Support our rights.
- Food sellers should reduce the prices of food.
- People can go into farming (such as allotments)
- Include more fresh food in food banks.
- Raise awareness of food waste.
- Organising and taking part in meetings to raise awareness and share information;

- Communities have the power to push the government for equal rights for the people.

### **Notes exercise 3: The Bill & Beyond**

*How can we make sure that the voices of people going through the asylum and migration system in Scotland are heard? What role can Unity Sisters play? How can we work together?*

- Collect more information and share with those in need, including those who are not part of the group.
- Organise campaign focused on access to food.
- Continue to insist and persist and try not to give up
- Taking part in the Good Food Nation Bill consultation
- Take more chances to talk about the issues we face with decision-makers and others.
- Unity Sisters is a platform, we can raise our voices to be heard by authorities and campaign for food for everyone;
- As a group, everyone can give suggestions to raise the issue, everyone has different experiences to share. Together we can find the solutions and have our voices heard by government.

### **More information:**

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Social media: #GoodFoodNation #RightToFood