**Scotland Against TTIP Press Release**

*Date.* For immediate release

**Local Holyrood candidate pledges to oppose dangerous new trade deals if elected.**

Local Holyrood candidate, *Name of candidate*, has pledged to oppose two dangerous new trade deals currently being negotiated in Europe if *s/he* is elected in May.

Today, *Name of candidate* met with local campaigners concerned about new trade agreements being negotiated in secret by the EU and how they might threaten Scotland’s democratic powers. *Name of candidate* signed a pledge against TTIP and CETA that commits her/him to speak out against the trade deals if elected to the Scottish Parliament this May.

*Name of local group* is concerned about TTIP, a deal between the EU and the US; and its ‘little brother’ CETA, which is a deal between Canada and the EU. Campaigners argue that these deals, which have been negotiated in secret, will grant corporations a host of new powers to challenge current laws, as well as shape new laws for the sake of corporate profits, not the well being of citizens. Laws protecting workers rights, food safety, energy policy and the environment could all be under threat. Campaigners are also concerned that the Scottish NHS and Scottish Water might be put under increased pressure to become privatised if the deals are ratified.

*Name of local spokesperson from name of local group* said ‘TTIP and CETA threaten our rights as citizens, and the ability of the Scottish Parliament to pass laws to protect us. These are deals for corporations – that offer no benefits to ordinary people in Scotland. There is huge opposition to these trade deals across the country, and across Europe. It is vital that politicians reflect the extent of public opposition by speaking out against them.’

*Name of candidate,* candidate for the *name of party* said: ‘…..?’[ask for a quote from the candidate to fit here]

The pledge against CETA and TTIP that *Name* has signed, has been created by [Scotland Against TTIP](http://scotlandagainstttip.org.uk/)[[1]](#endnote-1), a coalition of trade unionists, NGOs and local activists whose total membership exceeds 100,000 people. It is being used to raise awareness of these trade deals in the run up to the Holyrood elections.

 The movement against TTIP and CETA is growing. In Scotland, [one third of local councils have passed motions opposing TTIP[[2]](#endnote-2).](http://www.ttipfreezone.org.uk/) Last year, [3.2 million citizens from across Europe signed a petition in opposition to CETA and TTIP](http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/news/2015/oct/7/while-cameron-defends-ttip-conference-giant-trojan-horse-delivers-three-million)[[3]](#endnote-3).

Notes for journalists:

1. Photos of *name of candidate* with the pledge against TTIP and CETA are available from our flickr page: ????
2. For press enquiries contact: [put name and mobile phone number of your local contact person here]
1. http://scotlandagainstttip.org.uk/ [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. www.ttipfreezone.org.uk/ [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/news/2015/oct/7/while-cameron-defends-ttip-conference-giant-trojan-horse-delivers-three-million [↑](#endnote-ref-3)