

# STUDENT WEEK OF ACTION TO STOP THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS

***SAY NO TO THE FTAA!***

## **An Initiative of:**

Global Justice  
Oxfam America  
Sierra Student Coalition  
Student Environmental Action Coalition  
Student Global AIDS Campaign  
United Students Against Sweatshops  
United Students for Fair Trade



## Student Call to Action

This November, trade ministers from across the Western Hemisphere will descend on Miami to push forward negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Expanding on NAFTA's failed model, the FTAA poses a threat to working families, democracy, human health, and the health of the planet.

Leading up to massive protests in Miami we call on students throughout the country to join us *October 27-November 4 for a week of action* to build awareness about the FTAA and to educate our elected officials and candidates in preparation for the 2004 elections. We will show them the strength of popular student opposition to the FTAA.

Join Oxfam, the Sierra Student Coalition, United Students Against Sweatshops, United Students for Fair Trade, Student Global AIDS Campaign, Student Environmental Action Committee, Global Justice and others in a week of action for fair trade as we say:

Yes to trade policies that reduce poverty;  
Yes to trade policies that create living wage jobs and protect workers' rights;  
Yes to democratic and transparent trade negotiations that include broad-based citizen consultation and participation;  
Yes to trade policies that protect environmental and public-interest laws and regulations;  
Yes to trade policies that support family farmers and food security;  
Yes to trade policies that enable countries to invest in sustainable development policies; and  
No to the FTAA!

Join in solidarity with fair trade activists throughout the Americas who are collecting millions of ballots to tell our trade ministers when they get to Miami that we say *No to the FTAA!* Ballots signed by millions of affected citizens and activists from throughout the Americas will be delivered to the trade ministers when they meet in Miami to negotiate the FTAA.

Nine years ago, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was put into place, linking the economies of the United States, Canada and Mexico. Despite promises of job growth and an improvement in living conditions for the poor, NAFTA has resulted in increased poverty, stagnant or falling wages, an erosion of environmental and consumer protections and growing inequality. The FTAA stands to recreate these conditions and do still more, creating economic instability, limiting access to life saving medicines in poor countries and further devastating poor agricultural communities. The FTAA negotiations, are scheduled to finish in 2005 and if action is not taken before congress votes in 2005 the FTAA will impose another flawed trade model and lead to further devastating results.

There is a better way. We support trade models that include responsibilities, not just rights for corporations; protect workers' rights, health, safety, family farmers, women, consumers and the environment; and promote sustainable, equitable and democratic development. We join with people throughout the Americas in opposing the failed NAFTA model being proposed for the FTAA. We propose an alternative, fair, sustainable model that ensures the protection of people's livelihoods.

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Student Global AIDS Campaign  
United Students Against Sweatshops  
United Students for Fair Trade

# Stop the FTAA—Take Part in a Student Week of Action for Fair Trade!

## Lobby Your Officials

Join those lobbying on Capitol Hill by setting up a meeting with staffers for your local Representative or Senator. Just call them up, make an appointment and take the opportunity to tell them why they should say no to the FTAA.

## Education and Awareness on Campus

Hosting education and awareness events on your campus and in your community throughout the week including teach-ins, speaker events, tabling around campus and video screenings.

## Collecting FTAA Ballots on Campus

Join with students around the country and across the Americas who will be canvassing their campuses to collect FTAA ballots which will be presented to trade ministers at the FTAA ministerial meeting in Miami. It will be the last big push for ballots as part of a massive national initiative that has involved groups across the hemisphere and will lead to millions of ballots being delivered in November. Incorporate the ballots into your other advocacy efforts throughout the week. Contact your national organizers for information on getting ballots.

## Halloween Events

Use Halloween as a culmination point for much of the week's organizing. Trick or treat for the FTAA and collect ballots with your candy. Hold an "alternative horror movie fest" with a screening of a documentary of the threats of free trade and show your campus that the only thing scarier than Halloween is the FTAA! Hold a Halloween parade or march with children of all ages dressed in Halloween costumes raises their voices against the FTAA. Invite local media. Contact Rachel Ackoff from the Sierra Student Coalition ([Rachel.Ackoff@ssc.org](mailto:Rachel.Ackoff@ssc.org)) for tips.

## Campus Voted

Use the ballots you've collected to hold a public vote on the FTAA on your campus. Set up ballot boxes around campus and ask students to vote "no" on the FTAA. The ballots for Miami will allow students to vote 'no', while materials will also be made available to allow 'yes' votes to be tabulated. At the end of the week, count the ballots and announce the results through campus media outlets or local media outlets (a sample press release is attached).

## Campus Resolutions

Building on the momentum of the ballot campaign and the campus referendum, approach your student government and ask them to pass a resolution opposing the FTAA. Send news of your resolution to local media and to the US Trade Representative to demonstrate public opposition to the FTAA. Contact your national organizers for additional information about how to get a campus resolution passed, and for a possible sample text.

## City Resolutions

Use the week of action as an opportunity to launch a campaign to educate your city council members on the threats that the FTAA poses to your community. City officials have a direct stake in the FTAA because it jeopardizes their ability to legislate in the interests of their constituents. Encourage your city council to pass a resolution opposing the FTAA (a sample local resolution is attached).

## Sample Anti-FTAA City Council Resolution

## **Passed in the City of Santa Cruz, CA**

WHEREAS The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) would be essentially an extension of the NAFTA to the entire western hemisphere....

WHEREAS The negotiations surrounding the FTAA have been held secretly, without allowing for any effective public evaluation or input....

WHEREAS NAFTA's Chapter 11 Investor to State Lawsuits, which will be included and strengthened in the FTAA directly threaten the sovereignty of local and state governments...

WHEREAS This sort of corporate power would diminish the efficacy of local environmental laws and regulations...

WHEREAS The FTAA will undermine the Social Services that are essential for a thriving community....

WHEREAS The strict intellectual property laws within the FTAA will have devastating impacts on the people living in the global south...

WHEREAS Local businesses and workers would be harmed by the increasing powers granted to large corporations...

WHEREAS Local resolutions like this one have been instrumental in defeating other destructive trade agreements such as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Santa Cruz:

1. Is in direct opposition to the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas;
2. Petitions the federal government to refuse to sign any new trade and investment agreements, such as the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, that include investor-state provisions similar to the ones included in NAFTA;
3. Urges the U.S. Trade Representative withdraw any further negotiation on the FTAA;
4. Requests U.S. Trade Representative to release their proposals for the agreement and their written submissions to the nine negotiating groups of the FTAA. We also request the release a comprehensive list of the representatives to the FTAA negotiating groups from all 34 countries involved;
5. Urges the U.S. Congress to adopt stronger sovereignty safeguards in implementing legislation for the FTAA and other trade agreements, now and in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Trade Representative, to the state Congressional delegation, and to the Congressional committees with trade jurisdiction, and be made known to the people of Santa Cruz.

**GET STUDENT OPPOSITION TO THE FTAA IN THE PRESS!**

For Immediate Release

Students Say No to the FTAA! National Week of Action Culminates in Vote Against the FTAA.

Contact: **Your Name and Phone Number Here**

November 4, 2003 – A resounding student vote against the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas occurred today here at **Insert School Here** and across the country as the culmination of a national week of student action.

Throughout the week students set up ballot boxes across their campuses, inviting students to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to the FTAA. As results have been counted the response from students across the country has been an overwhelming “no to the FTAA!”. At **Insert school here**, the total vote count was **Insert vote count or percentage vote**. Following on the overwhelming vote, students are approaching **the student government/local city council** about passing a resolution opposing the FTAA.

**Insert Quote Here. ie “These events resoundingly show a recognition among students that that the FTAA would have terrible consequences for poor communities around the world if it passes. They have voted no to the FTAA in solidarity with communities throughout the Americas who are seeking to resist US pressure to adopt these policies. We can only hope that when the time comes the US congress will follow the lead of its constituents and vote no to the FTAA.”**

The campus referendum took place as part of a national week of student action against the FTAA, sponsored by the Sierra Student Coalition, Oxfam America, United Students Against Sweatshops, Global Justice, Student Environmental Action Coalition and the Student Global AIDS. The week of action began October 27<sup>th</sup> when students went to lobby on Capitol Hill, and has continued with education and direct political action throughout the week on campuses across the country. **(add a sentence about anything particularly significant on your campus)**

The FTAA is a proposed trade agreement which would open up all borders throughout the Americas, excluding Cuba, expanding the free trade zone established nine years ago under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Student opposition to the FTAA stems from the exploitative nature of the particular trade rules being proposed by the US government in this agreement. Students are speaking out in support a better way: trade models that include responsibilities, not just rights for corporations; protect workers' rights, health, safety, family farmers, women, consumers and the environment; and promote sustainable, equitable and democratic development.

**Insert Quote Here – ie. “This week, and the upcoming protests in Miami, are the beginning of a massive mobilization of students around the country in favor of trade policies that work for everyone, not just the rich. We are challenging our government to listen to its constituents and do what is right.” Said group president x.**