



THIS IS RIGGED: GLASGOW 'ROBIN HOODS' REDISTRIBUTE FOOD ON HALLOWEEN

- 1.30PM on Tuesday, the 31st of October 2023: 15 people dressed as Robin Hood took food from supermarket shelves at multiple sites in Glasgow city centre and placed it in food banks.
- This is Rigged are a direct action campaign in Scotland, who took action earlier this year to demand that the Scottish government oppose all new oil and gas projects. [1]
- The 'Robin Hood' action repeats a series of actions by the group in April and May this year, in which multiple supermarkets around Glasgow were targeted. [2]
- This is Rigged target supermarkets for their role in driving the cost of living crisis, and link the cost of living with accelerating climate collapse. [3][4]

This afternoon (Tuesday the 31st of October) at 1.30PM, 15 people from 'This Is Rigged' entered supermarkets at multiple sites in Glasgow city centre (**M&S Argyle Street, Tesco Express St Enochs, Lidl Jamaica Street, Sainsburys Argyle Street**) dressed as Robin Hood, and took food and essential goods from the shelves and deposited it into the supermarkets' food banks. This is Rigged carried out a similar series of Robin Hood style actions earlier this year amid reports about supermarkets driving prices up, in addition to reports of people resorting to shoplifting to meet basic needs amidst the cost of living crisis. In a statement released on their social media, This Is Rigged stated, "Big oil and gas, energy and agribusiness are wreaking social and environmental havoc [...] Global elites must learn that infinite private profit is impossible on a finite planet." [5][6]

The group dressed as Robin Hood, the folklore character known for taking from the wealthy to redistribute. The actions are inspired by farmers' protests in the 2000s, in which underpaid farmers took milk off of supermarket shelves to redistribute it to the public, and by the 'Robin Hood' energy workers in France this year, who redistributed overpriced energy from the national grid. [7][8]

Reports from the Trussell Trust on food bank usage in Scotland show that 1 in 4 people in Scotland have experienced food insecurity in the past year. Supermarkets like Tesco are reporting billions of pounds in profit, whilst ordinary people struggle to make ends meet. [9][10]

Speaking about why she took action, Maz Tambini, 22, a community cafe supervisor based in Glasgow said:

“I am taking action because food is not a luxury item and everyone should be able to afford to eat well. The overpricing of food is yet another way that the greedy 1% take away our health and ability to live a good life. There is no need for anyone to go hungry, and we’re saying no to the system which takes food out of childrens’ mouths just to make higher profits.”

Cat, 20, a student based in Glasgow said:

“I am walking through the checkouts and straight to the food donations with as much as I can carry because I refuse to buy the lie that large supermarkets are selling us - that they are innocent bystanders in the cost of living crisis. They leave a donations point at the exit as a performance to look like they care, when actually their profits - if they distributed them - could end financial insecurity easily.

Their profits are going up along with their prices, and then when people steal to survive they security tag basic necessities like baby formula. Everyone has a human right to food, and supermarkets are currently denying that right to millions of people.”

Under the ICESCR (International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), part of the International Bill of Human Rights, everyone has a Right to Food. In 2014, under the Good Food Nation Act, the Scottish government promised to ensure access to affordable and nutritious food for all by 2025. Yet, in 2023, unprecedented numbers of people are living in food insecurity. Supermarket workers are amongst the many in full time employment who are now dependent on food banks. [11] [12] [13] [14]

This is Rigged have been causing disruption in Scotland since the start of the year, from disrupting FMQs weekly to smashing the glass case to William Wallace's sword to painting Holyrood red. They carried out a sustained period of actions in July - ordinary Scots climbed the Kelpies, spray-painted a portrait of the King, disrupted the UCI cycling championships, and shut down 70% of Scotland's petrol supply by blockading the Grangemouth oil terminal. [15]

The group are demanding that the Scottish government vocally oppose all new oil and gas projects, and create a clear and fully funded transition plan for Scotland's oil workers. Their first demand was met in September, with First Minister Humza Yousaf releasing a statement opposing the Rosebank oil field and all future North Sea projects. [16]

ENDS

Press email: thisisrigged.scot@protonmail.me

High quality images & video here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16y1eGtjQfBnNRlafX91n6gM1jFlza0?usp=sharing>

[Website](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Notes to Editors

[1] This is Rigged: is a Scottish non-violent direct action group

<https://www.thisisrigged.org/>

[2] This is Rigged's past press releases (pre-July)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gyK7LvTHLoMVi2dZjD5HxZGX5yvZ7uD>

[3] How the climate crisis causes food shortages - the conversation

<https://theconversation.com/how-climate-change-and-extreme-weather-may-lead-to-food-shortages-and-escalating-prices-172646>

[4] Climate change and food shortages - the guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/10/global-food-supplies-will-suffer-as-temperatures-rise-climate-crisis-report>

[5] Unite report on supermarkets driving inflation 'Global greedflation': big firms 'driving shopping bills to record highs' | Inflation | The Guardian

[6] Novara media: people resorting to shoplifting due to cost of living crisis

<https://novaramedia.com/2023/04/10/people-are-shoplifting-their-way-out-of-the-cost-of-living-crisis/#:~:text=Statistics%20compiled%20by%20Kent%20Police,steal%20more%20of%20life's%20essentials.>

[7] Farmers' protests over supermarket milk prices <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33777075>

[8] Striking energy workers in France cut power to the rich and redistribute it: <https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/03/30/robin-hood-electricians-and-oil-blockades-the-radical-tactics-of-frances-striking-energy-w#:~:text='Robin%20Hood'%20electricians,-Electricity%20and%20gas&text=As%20well%20as%20withdrawing%20their,for%20free%20to%20the%20poor.>

[9] The Trussell Trust: 1.2 million people in Scotland (¼ of the population) have experienced food insecurity in the past year: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/2023-Hunger-in-Scotland-report-AW-web.pdf>

[10] Tesco reports £1bn pound profit amidst soaring food costs - The Independent <https://www.independent.co.uk/business/shoppers-pay-more-for-less-as-tesco-makes-ps1bn-profit-during-living-costs-crisis-b2319074.html>

[11] ICESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (part of the International Bill of Human Rights. As part of the UK, Scotland is bound by this bill to ensure its citizens have access to basic rights, including the Right to Food. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/international-covenant-economic-social-cultural-rights-icescr/pages/3/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/international-covenant-economic-social-cultural-rights-icescr/pages/5/> (Section 219: Food Insecurity)

[12] More detail on Right to Food in Scotland: <https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/our-law-and-policy-work/right-to-food/#:~:text=People%20should%20be%20able%20to,food%20must%20satisfy%20dietary%20needs.>

[13] In 2014, the Scottish government promised that by 2025 they would be “a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.” <https://www.gov.scot/policies/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>

[14] Supermarket workers among those in full time employment reliant on food banks: [://www.mirror.co.uk/money/asda-staff-forced-use-food-26197236](https://www.mirror.co.uk/money/asda-staff-forced-use-food-26197236)

[15] This is Rigged press releases - July

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18OxznAmlwR4arD6ryyyPUbpJFb8SV7Q>
[A](#)

[16] Humza Yousaf opposes Rosebank and all new North Sea oil projects: <https://www.independent.co.uk/business/developing-rosebank-oil-field-wrong->

[decision-says-scottish-first-minister-b2419525.html](#)