THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD (ITES) REPORT

January 20, 2026



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By M.J. Williams for the ITES

The International Trade Education Squad (ITES) seeks Coop member involvement in two exciting opportunities.

WERE YOU AT THE 1999 WTO PROTESTS?

Did you participate in the World Trade Organization (WTO) demonstrations in Seattle in 1999? Would you be willing to share your personal experiences and reflections with us? Your stories and commentary could enrich educational resources the ITES is developing in conjunction with the release of the new, documentary film “WTO/99,” produced, in part, by PSFC member Debra McClutchy.

If you would like to share your experiences from the WTO protests, please email us at coopites@gmail.com no later than January 30, 2026.

JOIN OUR SQUAD!

The ITES is also seeking new members. We work collaboratively to inform Coop members about trade deals, tariffs and related trade issues that shape our politics, impact our lives and affect the Coop. Squad members take on tasks that reflect their individual interests and abilities as to international trade and together contribute to ITES's educational resources and programs.

The ITES meets every six to eight weeks via Zoom when we discuss upcoming tasks, such as writing articles for the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, running social media, inviting guest speakers for community forums, organizing other educational programs and preparing discussions for presentation to the GM.

The ITES does not require its members have any previous experience in the subject area. We are looking for committed individuals who are interested in sticking up for working people, protecting the environment, calling out systemic corporate abuse, and working cooperatively and creatively to educate their fellow Coop members.

If you are interested in joining the ITES, please email us at coopites@gmail.com.

Please also follow us on Bluesky at: @psfc-trade.bsky.social.

COMMITTEE REPORT: INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD

January 20, 2026



By Susan Metz

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD

January 20, 2026

DEAR EDITORS,

The International Trade Education Squad (ITES) has been working with other trade justice and human rights groups throughout the pandemic to push for changes in international trade arrangements to enable the making of vaccines across the world. From November 30–December 3 the World Trade Organization is meeting where a vote will take place to suspend intellectual property monopolies for COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments. Already more than 100 nations support a temporary, COVID-specific

waiver of WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) rules.

The White House said it would support the TRIPS waiver, but governments of the European Union are currently blocking it. Our government needs to push the European Union to support vaccinating and treating the world so further SARS variants will not render the existing shots and treatment modalities we have ineffective.

Join us in calling on our government to:

1. Cooperate with South Africa, India and other waiver proponents to speedily produce a draft WTO TRIPS waiver text and use all means available to press the European Union to end their opposition and secure swift passage of a comprehensive waiver agreement.

2. Leverage the U.S. government's past public investments, existing legal authorities and considerable equities to make vaccine firms transfer technology to capable and qualified producers around the world.

3. Launch and fund a global manufacturing plan to increase and democratize vaccine production in hubs worldwide.

Thank you,
Helen Beichel


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it's a family thing
LOPE
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