**Reaction: Fashion Revolution welcomes EU vote obliging textile and clothing suppliers to respect workers’ rights.**

Textile workers around the world, many of whom are young women and children, suffer long working hours, low wages, uncertainty, violence and hazardous conditions.

Today MEPs in Brussels have passed a non-binding EU resolution which aims to prevent tragedies like the April 2013 Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh.

They recommended a series of measures including:

* **binding due diligence obligations:** the EU Commission should table a legislative proposal for a binding due diligence system, based on [OECD guidelines](http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/responsible-supply-chains-textile-garment-sector.htm) and similar to those for the so-called blood minerals, that covers the whole supply chain,
* **conditional trade preferences:** the EU should ensure that textile exporting countries with preferential access to the EU market comply with obligations and produce sustainable textiles, while member states should promote workers’ rights in their relations with partner countries,
* **clothing labels:** making the “social impact of production” visible on clothes can help to bring about lasting change, and
* **role models:** EU institutions should set a good example in their public procurement of textiles.

Sarah Ditty, Fashion Revolution’s Head of Policy said: “This vote today has the potential to begin a journey towards transformative change in the fashion industry that will improve the lives of producers across the textile supply chain.”

“It will help reassure the thousands and thousands of everyday concerned European people who participate in Fashion Revolution’s call for a safer, cleaner, fairer and more transparent apparel industry — particularly young people. They have sent a very clear message this Fashion Revolution Week that no matter how much they *love* fashion, they don’t want their clothes to be made off the back of exploitation, poor working conditions, unjust trade and environmental destruction. That’s a price they truly do not want to pay or worse, to inflict on others.

“The government’s role — at the European level — is crucial to ensure our clothes are never made in this way.

“Fashion Revolution was born out of the Rana Plaza factory collapse. Our second edition of the Fashion Transparency Index published on Monday demonstrates to policymakers the pressing need not only for greater transparency from the industry but that this must be underpinned by mandatory due diligence and regulations that have real teeth so that there will be the “race to the top”— and so the brands who are trying to do the right thing no longer face a market where brands are competing on the basis of the cheapest labour costs or the cheapest materials and processes but rather on the basis of quality, design and creativity.”

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**For more information, images, interviews and footage, contact:** martine.parry@fairtrade.org.uk **020 7440 7695/07886 301486.**

**Notes to Editors**

On Monday Fashion Revolution launched the second edition of the Fashion Transparency Index which reviewed and ranked 100 of the biggest global fashion brands and retailers across a variety of market segments including high street to sportswear to luxury.

Brands have been ranked according to how much information they disclose about their suppliers, supply chain policies and practices, and social and environmental impact.

Brands achieved on average 49 out of 250, which is less than 20% of the total possible points.

And none of the brands on the list scored above 50% — proving that there is still a long way to go towards transparency.

Overall brands are publishing the most about their policies and commitments — with 98% of the brands publishing at least some relevant social and environmental policies.

However, far more space is given to brands' values and beliefs than to their actual actions and outcomes. Brands score far fewer points when you drive further into detail about the impact of their practices on the lives of workers in their supply chains and on the environment.

The good news is that 32 of the brands are publishing supplier lists, *at least* at the first tier — where they have direct sourcing relationship and where garments are typically cut, sewn and trimmed.

This is an increase from last year when we surveyed 40 big fashion companies and only 5 were publishing supplier lists. In the past year we have seen brands such as ASOS, Gap, Marks & Spencer, and several others publish factory lists.  This is a welcome and necessary step forward.

14 out of the 100 brands are also publishing their processing facilities where clothes are dyed, printed, laundered and otherwise finished at an earlier stage of production. However, No brand publishes its raw material suppliers so there is no way of knowing where our cotton, wool or other fibres come from, who produces them and under what conditions.

Meanwhile only 34 of the 100 brands we reviewed have made public commitments to paying living wages to workers in their supply chains, and only four brands are reporting progress against this goal — progress that has been very slow.