**Press Release**

Embargoed until Midday Thursday 31st August 2017 GMT

**Hashtag:** #workerdiaries

**Url**: [www.fashionrevolution.org/podcast](http://www.fashionrevolution.org/podcast%20/)

**Fashion Revolution Podcast explores the hidden stories behind the clothing we wear**

A new Fashion Revolution **Podcast explores the hidden stories behind the clothing we wear, and calls on listeners to ask their** favourite brands to give garment workers a voice.

In the debut 3-part series, international fashion journalist Tamsin Blanchard speaks to researchers, supply chain experts, garment workers, politicians and activists about the difficult living and working conditions of garment workers across the world.

Through interviews and investigations, the series explores the intersection of sustainability, ethics and transparency in the fashion industry. Each episode will take listeners deep into fashion's social and environmental problems but leave you with practical actions to help make a positive difference.

Tamsin Blanchard says: “I hope this podcast will educate and inspire others to be part of the change in the industry.”

Research from the [Garment Worker Diaries](http://fashionrevolution.org/workerdiaries/) shows that women workers are not paid enough to afford life’s necessities and support their families. Furthermore, they are under-represented by unions that help them bargain for better wages and working conditions.

Workers in Bangladesh are paid as little as $1.40/hour on average, and that number is adjusted for the fact that it is cheaper to live there. Fifty three percent of women in the study in Cambodia reported not having enough to eat throughout the year. In Bangalore, India and in Bangladesh, only 7 percent of participants were members of a union.

She continues: “It's not about pointing fingers. We are all in this together.  It's about helping other fashion lovers like me make the best choices and to understand that clothes do not materialise by magic but are made by somebody – often in a far away country – who is not being paid fairly, or treated in a way that we would want to be treated ourselves.”

“Nobody wants to be part of a chain that inflicts inhuman working hours, indecently low pay, verbal abuse and dangerous working conditions onto those who make our clothes. But in the race to make the cheapest, quickest, best selling clothes, that's all too often what some of our favourite brands are doing.”

Fashion Revolution is encouraging listeners to ask brands to tell them how many workers in their supply chain are covered by collective bargaining agreements and/or are part of independent, democratically elected trade unions and if they are *actively* making sure that they can both join a union and raise their concerns. Fashion Revolution will be measuring brands’ progress and telling the world about it in the 2018 [Fashion Transparency Index](http://fashionrevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/FR_FashionTransparencyIndex.pdf).

* **Ends-**

**Download images for press**[here](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9jCg_io2PeZbkRsZkdvWmIxV2s&usp=sharing)**and credit where appropriate. For any alternative images, please request from** [press@fashionrevolution.org](mailto:press@fashionrevolution.org) **. High and low resolution campaign images are available on our**[Brand Guidelines page](http://fashionrevolution.org/resources/brand-guidelines-and-assets/).

**For further information, contact:** [martine.parry@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:martine.parry@fairtrade.org.uk) **020 7440 7695/07886 301486.**

**Notes to Editors**

**Episode 1 - Garment workers’ voice**

The first episode in the debut 3-part series “Who Made My Clothes?” asks us to consider the stories behind what we wear and introduces an ambitious research project that collects data from garment workers around the world. Tamsin talks to Fashion Revolution’s Head of Policy Sarah Ditty, Dr Mark Anner, Penn State professor and Director of the Center for Global Workers’ Rights, Ethical Trading Initiative’s Debbie Coulter and Kalpona Akter, former child garment worker and Bangladeshi union activist, to examine garment worker’s collective voice in affecting change, the obstacles that make unionisation a challenge, and the progress being made in this.

**Episode 2 - The Garment Worker Diaries**

The Garment Worker Diaries is a yearlong research project focused on the lives and wages of 540 garment workers in Cambodia, Bangladesh and India. Tamsin speaks to Guy Stuart and Eric Noggle from Microfinance Opportunities, the lead project researchers, to unpack what the garment workers earn and buy, what their working and living conditions are like, and what sorts of things they do to get by on their very low income. We dig deep into the data to reveal just how much economic, workplace and home-life stress these women face. This is the second episode in the debut 3-part series “Who Made My Clothes?”

**Episode 3 - Working together towards change**

This final episode in the debut 3-part series “Who Made My Clothes?” explores the practical ways local, national and international players can help bring about justice for garment workers globally. Tamsin speaks to the co-founders of Fashion Revolution, Member of European Parliament Linda McAvan, and Jenny Holdcroft, the Deputy Secretary General of IndustriALL Global Union to learn how positive change can happen from all angles; from workers themselves, from governments around the world, from brands and consumers. Find out how you can get involved in Fashion Revolution and how to make your voice heard in the movement towards a cleaner, safer, fairer and more transparent fashion industry.