

WHAT DOES NO SWEAT DO?

We publicise and expose sweatshops, aiming to make people aware of the problem. We organise campaigning action to pressure the brands and increase awareness – we have run fashion shows in big stores and raided them as the “fashion police”.



No Sweat fashion show at Primark, London

We flood sweatshop employers with emails and letters to apply pressure while workers are taking action in a factory.

We try to make direct solidarity with sweatshop workers – raising money for their unions, organising speaker tours so people can hear their story and twinning UK unions with worker organisations in places like Indonesia, Mexico and Bangladesh.

And where we can, we help UK workers organise to fight here in this country.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Your involvement can be crucial – from emailing companies we are targeting, to joining demonstrations, to organising a meeting in your school or college, to

twinning your union branch or affiliating to No Sweat. Get in touch.

I WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH NO SWEAT

Name: _____ Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

School, college or trade union: _____

Please return to:

No Sweat, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX. 07904 431 959.

www.nosweat.org.uk admin@nosweat.org.uk

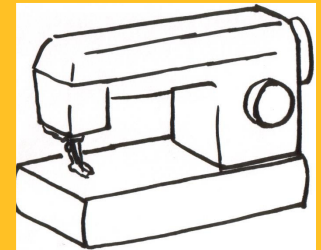
SUPPORT NO SWEAT



SWEATSHOP SUMS #1



Mauritian garment worker producing for Top Shop - 12p per hour
*The Times



Sir Philip Green (Top Shop owner) is worth £4,330 million
* Sunday Times

SWEATSHOP EXPLOITATION

Is modern, globalised capitalism stripped bare. Sweatshops are characterised by long hours, low wages, dangerous conditions, back-breaking work and repression of trade union rights. At the other end of the spectrum the bosses and celebrity endorsers take home millions without ever touching a sewing machine.

NO SWEAT

Is a volunteer-run, grassroots campaign. We aim to make solidarity with sweatshop workers around the world and to build an alliance powerful enough to take on the high street giants and win.

WHERE ARE THE SWEATSHOPS?

The big brands contract their production wherever wages are low. China, a repressive regime that bans trade unions, has 130 million migrant factory workers. Even in the UK, workers have been found producing for high street names like Arcadia (Top Shop) and Primark. No Sweat found workers in the East End of London producing for Arcadia who were being paid illegally low wages to work in unsafe factories with blocked fire escapes.

SWEATSHOP SUMS #2

It takes Tesco just one week to ring up £1 billion in sales



Workers in a Sri Lankan factory supplying Tesco said they worked on average 64 hours a week and sometimes up to 90 *Clean Clothes Campaign

WHO WORKS IN THE SWEATSHOPS?

Typically the workforce is young and female and has often recently migrated to the city from the countryside. Bosses often see these workers as weaker and more easily exploitable. Women workers often face sexual harassment as well as the rigours of overwork.

WHY DO WORKERS PUT UP WITH THIS?

They don't. Despite facing opposition and even violence for fighting back, workers have formed unions and organised action such as strikes and factory occupations to demand justice. With our support, workers can and do win.



ISN'T CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS?

Many companies now have a CSR Department, a code of conduct and may belong to a multi-stakeholder initiative (MSI) like the Ethical Trading Initiative. The problem is that companies still exist primarily to make money. And while the Compliance Dept asks suppliers for better wages and an end to forced overtime, the Buying Dept asks for more garments, quicker and cheaper than the last time. Most brands still don't state clearly where a garment was made and under what

conditions. They don't make anything themselves, instead contracting production to thousands of smaller companies, so it is hard to monitor the industry and pull them up on their labour practices.

WHY ARE UNIONS SO IMPORTANT?

A union is a collective self-defence organisation for workers. If a workforce is organised they have the power to negotiate with their employer and to set limits on their exploitation. A strong union can be a very powerful thing. That's why some employers go to great lengths to keep them out of their factories.

SHOULD WE SHOP SOMEWHERE ELSE?

The problem is that there are very few companies that do take an ethical commitment seriously. And if no one buys the products made in a sweatshop factory, the work there may cease, sending those workers to an even more unsure and unsafe future without work. We want to keep these jobs there but make them jobs with justice.

WHO CAN BEAT SWEATSHOPS?

The workers themselves regularly fight back and organise to win things like better pay, union rights, shorter hours and respect. Our support can be crucial. In Mexico a No Sweat delegation heard how the workers saw the management arguing about campaigning we had been doing in London. This gave the workers the confidence they needed to keep going.



Garment workers demonstrate in Bangladesh

SWEATSHOP SUMS #3

It took Adidas CEO Herbert Heiner just one year to earn 2.8 million euros in 2007 * Playfair 2008



An Indian football stitcher would have to sew over 12 million footballs to earn the same amount *Playfair 2008