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Ethical fashion report 2015

The YearGlassons website has misrated for the worker's rights to those in the company's supply chain. Photo: Greg Bowker's fashion retailer.Women Glassons has received a pensime overall rating from D-minus in a new report designed to expose the exploitation of workers in the industry. The Truth Behind the Barcode: Australian Fashion Report 2015 found 219 fashion brands on their policies, traceability and transparency, monitoring and training, and workers' rights. Grades indicate the extent to which a company has tracked down its suppliers and established systems along its supply chain that can enable it to prevent and address worker exploitation and modern slavery, the report states. Glassons received an F-ranking for everyone but the policy category, For which D-plus.Read more:• Glassons ad 'glamorises animal cruelty'• Glassons taken to task over skinny mannequinThe clothing chain's poor ranking follows a chain of previous controversies for the clothing chain, including using mannequins with their ribs showing to advertise swimwear, and a ad featuring a woman bull A Spokeswoman for Glassons said the company would not be commenting on the report. The report was created by Baptist World Aid Australia following the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh in 2013, in which 1100 workers lost their lives. The event raised the collective awareness of consumers, retailers, investors and governments to learn more about the people who produce our clothing and how they are treated, the report states. Although there were promising signs for the fashion industry, significant problems remained, he said. The report says the industry remains categorized by poverty-level wages, with only 12 percent of companies able to demonstrate any action to pay wages above the legal minimum. Despite the 75% increase in the minimum wage in Bangladesh since rana Plaza's fatal collapse in 2013, he still had the lowest minimum wage in the world, he said. The report also highlighted the lack of transparency, claiming that 91% of companies did not know where all their cotton came from. If companies don't know how and where their products are manufactured, then there's no way they can make sure their workers are protected, the report authors said. Although there were signs of progress, the report said many of the worst artists overall were iconic Australian fashion brands, including the Just Group (owner of Just Jeans, Jay Jays, Dotti, Peter Alexander and Portmans), fast retailers such as Ally, Valley Girl, Temt and Industrie, and low-cost suppliers such as Lowes and Best & Less. All of these companies have received D or F ratings. We may find little evidence that any of these fashion retailers doing much, if anything, to protect workers abroad, the report's authors said. Many of them had little or no publicly available information and/or did not respond to any of our requests to with the investigation process. Among the companies that had made significant improvements were Kmart - which published a complete list of its direct suppliers, the Cotton On Group - which had taken steps to identify the suppliers deeper in its supply chain, and H&M, Zara, Country Road and the Sussan Group, which have made efforts to pay better wages for foreign workers The report said. Read the full report here:PremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremiumPremium Premium The Etica Fashion Report sheds light on what industry and individual companies are doing to address forced labour, child labour and exploitation. Every report, since the launch of the first in 2013, has tracked progress within the industry. The change since 2013 has been significant. In this edition we have evaluated 106 companies, each giving each an A-to-F rating based on the strength of their labor rights management systems to mitigate the risk of exploitation in their supply chain. This report marks a significant expansion of the work of previous reports by adding 50% more companies, updating research and adopting a new and improved grading tool. 78% of companies directly evaluated the investigation process, up from 54% in the first report. This is the fourth edition of the Fashion Tica Report. It is launching the week before the fourth anniversary of the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh, a tragedy that disrupted the lives of 1,134 garment workers. When the factory went down, at the same time it catapulted the bad and unsafe working conditions of the clothing industry to the front-page news and front of our minds. Rana Plaza shocked the collective awareness of consumers and decision makers around the world, helping to accelerate efforts to defend workers' rights throughout the clothing industry's supply chain. However, three years later, the need remains pressing. There are currently 14.2 million people in forced labour exploitation and 168 million child workers spread across the world economy. Many of this number are forced to work in farms and factories that feed the clothing industry. For millions of people working in the industry, wages remain so low that they are unable to take themselves and their families out of poverty. The qualifications provided by the Fashion Tica Report are a measure of each company's efforts to mitigate the risks of forced labour, child labour and exploitation of workers in their supply chains. Higher degrees are awarded to companies with labour rights management systems that, if implemented well, should the extent of the exploitation of workers. Our research team evaluates each company's labor rights management system according to 40 specific criteria. These assessments consider three critical stages of the supply chain as a proxy for the entire supply chain: raw materials, input production, and final manufacturing. To learn more about how we rate brands, read our FAQ section. This year, ours the barcode campaign has had an unprecedented impact on the Australian fashion industry. In April we launched the Australian Fashion Report 2015, and its accompanying Etica Fashion Guide, which rated 219 brands on the policies and practices they have in place to prevent the exploitation of workers in their supply chains. As individuals, Catalyst groups, and churches—then we find ways to advocate and engage the brands we love. We send letters of encouragement to highly rated brands, and urge brands that misqualified brands to do more to address worker exploitation issues in their supply chain. We changed our consumption habits in preference to brands that were taking steps to protect their workers, and gave the educational focuses in our churches and schools to encourage others to do the same. Some of us even use Behind the Barcode research to conduct ethical shopping tours at our local malls! Our report release was collected in the Australian and international media, and we know that brands and consumers around the world were paying attention. And in response to our efforts we have seen a remarkable change! Companies such as Target, Kmart and Coles have published lists of factory suppliers, in a step towards transparency more about where their clothes are made and how their workers' working conditions are. In May of this year David Jones set an ambitious goal to make every product in his store ethical in the next five years. The Just Group, which we have campaigned for years, has finally arrived at the table and started telling us more about what they are doing to protect workers. I also led the first Australian Fashion Forum with Be Slavery Free (formerly Stop the Traffik) and Fashion Revolution. We had major brands across the country and NGOs campaigning on living wages came together to talk about how to move the industry forward and ensure that workers are paid decent wages. We are constantly told that the reason companies are changing is because of the pressure and awareness that we are all helping to create! Syrian Refugee Crisis Our defense around the Syrian refugee crisis is a clear example of how powerful our voices can be when we raise our voices together in search of justice. In September, the photo of young Alan (Aylan) Kurdi's lifeless body on Turkey's beach triggered Australians' collective awareness of the increasingly growing humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. But as other nations intensified and increased their intake of refugees from Syria and Iraq, our government announced that Australia would not follow suit. What followed an incredible display of compassion, defense and solidarity. With hundreds of thousands of other Australians, we attended vigils, signed petitions, and led our churches in prayer, so that God would work to awaken compassion in the hearts of our nation's leaders. Just a few days after the initial announcement, and in response to public, public pressure, he reversed his decision and announced that he would permanently resettle 12,000 Syrian refugees and contribute an additional \$44 million in humanitarian funding. This was an outstanding outcome, a response to prayer, and a decision that would not have been made if we had not worked together to raise a powerful voice for justice. In speaking for aid, much of the aforementioned regrets, challenges and perseverance has been linked to our campaign on Australian aid. For those of us who have ever campaigned for help, 2015 has certainly been a year of great challenges. But as difficult as it has been to see the Australian aid program reduced to its lowest levels, this year's events have also inspired us to find new and creative ways to talk for help. Together with Micah Australia and the Australian Aid Campaign, we have held forums in our communities, conducted What We Are For, and Australian Aid Trivia Nights; we've met with our politicians in Canberra and at home, and some of us have even talked about Australian aid about morning tea with the Shadow Foreign Minister! We've begun looking for innovative ways to talk about help with our federal representatives, and more powerful ways to amplify the voices of the communities the Australian aid program works with. And in 2016 we will strive to do the same, and even more as we see the election approaching. Fiscal Justice Campaign We continue to see really encouraging progress on tax justice. Taxes remain the most critical way for developing countries to finance development, and unfortunately too many multinational companies are not paying their fair share. Catalyst groups have continued to write letters, complying with their parliamentarians, organizing educational nights and sending postcards demanding action. One of the most exciting developments is that the Australian Government has legislate that as of January next year, large companies operating in Australia will be linked to a country-by-country reporting system, making it difficult for them to evade aggressive tax evasion in Australia and developing countries. This is a move we've been defending since our campaign began, and it's brilliant to see the change. Unfortunately, it doesn't go far enough. The information will not be made available to the public, making it difficult for NGOs and the public to hold businesses and governments accountable and making it difficult for experienced people to support developing countries in repairing fiscal loopholes. What's next? 2015 has been a great year, and next year it is loathing to be no different, with the publication of the Australian Fashion Report a federal election and the launch of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. We have great things planned, and we are excited to see how God will continue to work, through his people, to bring about justice! Are you in? In? In?