



Released by AFWA India and AFWA Sri Lanka

## **Statement on Toxic Gas Leak Leading to Hospitalization of Hundreds of Workers at Brandix's Manufacturing Unit in Andhra Pradesh, India**

**August, 2022**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, more than a hundred women workers of Seeds Intimate Apparel India Private Ltd in Brandix India Apparel City were hospitalized due to a gas leak inside the factory. This is not an isolated incident as a similar accident occurred in [June 2022](#) as well.

These two incidents alone have caused more than 400 workers in a factory complex to be hospitalized within a span of just 60 days. The occurrences are more deadly proof of the dangerous health and safety conditions for garment workers producing for global fashion supply chains.

Brandix is a global supplier of garments, with operations across multiple countries including Sri Lanka. In 2020, [reports](#) found Brandix Lanka responsible for violating COVID-19 protocols in Sri Lanka, leading to a super-spreader event, which infected more than 1,000 workers. The incident was followed by a massive crackdown on trade unions with public threats, and police searches of trade unions and workers' rights organizations -- with the head of the Sri Lankan Army even threatening trade unions [on television](#).

These repeated incidents of health and safety violations across Brandix facilities are a product of sheer negligence and unwillingness of Brandix and the brands sourcing from it to eliminate and reduce health hazards and ensure decent work for garment workers.

**Catastrophes, as seen in Brandix facilities, are entirely preventable.** They call for promoting a preventative safety and health culture in factories, development of OSH management systems, stronger law enforcement, more independent factory inspections, and most importantly, ensuring that workers and their unions have a right to voice their concerns when something is going wrong, so that man-made disasters can be prevented. The right to freedom of association is at the core of ensuring occupational health and safety (OSH) in garment factories.

Brandix must immediately apologize to their workers in India who are suffering due to its failure in ensuring health and safety standards in its facilities. **Brandix and the brands sourcing**

**from it must pay prompt and just compensation to all victims who have suffered from these unsafe conditions. It must also ensure that workers across Brandix facilities can exercise the right to organize themselves and raise their concerns without fear of losing their jobs and incomes, or jeopardising their physical safety.**

Brandix should not wait for future disasters before it acts to make its garment factories safe places to work. Decent work and access to justice is the right of every garment worker. It is the basis of a just and sustainable future.