

Nearly 40 global garment unions call on European trade unions to support the European Citizens' Initiative on living wages, *Good Clothes, Fair Pay*

June 2023

We, the undersigned unions, kindly urge you to undertake action in support of the European Citizens' Initiative [*Good Clothes, Fair Pay*](#). This initiative calls on the European Commission to implement specific legislation that would require garment brands and retailers that are importing into the EU market to put in place, implement, monitor, and publicly disclose a time-bound and target-bound plan to close the gap between actual and living wages. European citizens can sign a petition to show support for the initiative. One million signatures would bring garment makers in Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas one step closer to a living wage.

For decades, our trade unions have been fighting for higher wages in the garment sector. But while garment brands and retailers have seen their revenues and profits grow over the past decade – most even remained profitable during the Covid-19 pandemic – workers in garment production countries have not experienced a similar growth in their purchasing power. In fact, quite the opposite! The gap between what workers are earning and what constitutes a living wage has grown or at best stayed the same.

The reason we call on you to support this initiative is because it calls for

a binding mechanism for change. The past 20 years we saw an explosive growth in the amount of voluntary initiatives supposedly addressing the poverty wages in our sector. After all those years we must conclude that voluntary initiatives will not merit any real change for workers: workers are still trapped in poverty. How many more generations of workers will face the same fate if we continue to invest our energy in voluntary initiatives? How many more years will this sector test workers' resilience only for the financial benefit of the already super rich? It is high time we put this to an end and force brands to do better and pay the workers who build their profits a living wage. Legislation at EU level is a huge opportunity to change the lives of millions of workers and their dependents across the globe.

Our members cannot sign [this petition](#), which is why we would like to ask you to reach out to your EU-based members and ask them to request their members to stand in solidarity with garment makers inside and outside the EU by signing the petition and sharing the petition widely. As Asian, African and European trade unions representing workers in the garment supply chain and other supply chains, we must fight this battle together.

We count on your support.

In solidarity,

Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers' Federation, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Garments Labour Congress, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Garments Textile Workers Federation, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Progotishil Garments Workers Federation, Bangladesh

Cambodian Alliance of Trade Unions, Cambodia

Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers' Democratic Union, Cambodia

Federasi Perjuangan Buruh Indonesia, Indonesia

Federasi Serikat Buruh – GARTEKS, Indonesia

Federasi Serikat Buruh Persatuan, Indonesia

Federasi Serikat Buruh Indonesia, Indonesia

Federasi Serikat Buruh Merdeka, Indonesia

Federation of Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cambodia

Federation Union of Free and Independent, Cambodia

Federation Union of Labor Influences, Cambodia

Free Trade Zones & General Services Employees Union, Sri Lanka

Gabungan Serikat Buruh Indonesia, Indonesia

Garment and Allied Workers Union, India

Garment Workers' Trade Union Centre, Bangladesh

Garment Workers' Unity League, Bangladesh

Green Bangla Garment Workers' Federation, Bangladesh

Home Based Women Workers Federation, Pakistan

Independent Trade Union Federation, Cambodia

Kilusang Mayo Uno Labor Center, Philippines

Konfederasi Serikat Nasional, Indonesia

Kongres Aliansi Serikat Buruh Indonesia, Indonesia

Mill Mazdoor Panchayat, India

Motherland Garment Workers Federation, Bangladesh

National Clothing Textile and Allied Workers Union, Lesotho

National Trade Union Federation, Pakistan

Nepal Garment Workers Union, Nepal

Readymade Garments Workers Federation, Bangladesh

Serikat Buruh Seluruh Indonesia - 1992, Indonesia

Serikat Gabungan Buruh Nasional, Indonesia

Serikat Pekerja Nasional, Indonesia

Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union, India

Textile Garment Workers Federation, Bangladesh

Textile Powerloom and Garment workers Federation, Pakistan

Uganda Textile Garments Leather and Allied Workers Union, Uganda