



CLEAN CLOTHES CAMPAIGN CHANGEMAKERS

**Clean
Clothes
Campaign**



OWN THE REALITY



Foto: Yes Men en Threads and Tits



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About the Clean Clothes Campaign



We are a vibrant, diverse network united by solidarity, bringing together activists, workers, policymakers, journalists, NGOs, and consumers.



With over **220 organisations in 45 countries**, the Clean Clothes Campaign is the **largest and oldest global network fighting for a fair garment industry**. From research and lobbying to advocacy and public campaigns, our strategy and work are led by garment workers and union leaders.

Using various tactics, including disruptive action, we ensure that garment brands address labour rights violations in specific cases and that this leads to structural changes in the form of policies. We are a grassroots and non-hierarchical network that focuses on solidarity and collaboration. Our network includes organisations from garment-producing countries as well as countries where brands and consumers are based, enabling us to counter the power imbalances in the garment industry.

Our organisation does not have a CEO or similar position. All employees earn an equal salary, currently set at €3,664 gross for a 32-hour work week. This allows us to make the most of our budget to support garment workers' struggles around the world!



The state of play in the global garment industry

Approximately **72 million people** work in the garment industry around the world. With a growing assertiveness and visibility, and **often in the face of harsh repression, they continue to fight for better conditions**

In most production countries, **workers do not even earn half** of what can be considered a **living wage**. Meanwhile, powerful CEOs make millions

Through our **network, local trade unions and NGOs** in consumer countries **unite to advocate for labour rights**, despite facing an increasingly hostile environment

Since the **deadly collapse of the Rana Plaza building in 2013**, significant **improvements have been made to worker safety in Bangladesh and Pakistan**. Unfortunately, in many other countries, garment workers still face unsafe conditions

The **overproduction of garments** significantly pollutes our planet and **contributes to global warming**. This in turn, directly affects the health, safety and livelihoods of garment workers in vulnerable regions

We have seen that **consumers are eager to make a difference**. However, **insufficient transparency from companies** - many of which invest heavily in greenwashing efforts - leads to a **lack of reliable information** about garment supply chains

Legislation to hold companies accountable is being developed in many countries. Where it does exist, corporate lobbying means that **continued pressure is needed to ensure enforcement**





Our Achievements

250 brands

Over 250 brands committed to the legally binding **International Safety Accord**, which the Clean Clothes Campaign helped create. It has evolved from a national programme to an international one following successful campaigning efforts



32 million dollars of wages and severance compensation owed to over **200,000 garment workers** were secured as a result of our Pay Your Workers coalition




500 cases

Through our Urgent Appeals system, we have supported trade unions and NGOs in **40 countries in 500 cases of labour rights violations**. This system allows garment workers to rapidly alert the network of labour rights violations and request support.



119 garment brands signed a **Transparency Pledge** to provide more information about their supply chains



FASHION CHECKER 

ARE THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE YOUR CLOTHES PAID ENOUGH TO LIVE ON?

37 million dollars were paid to victims of large industrial accidents in South Asia and their families to cover medical costs and compensate for lost earnings

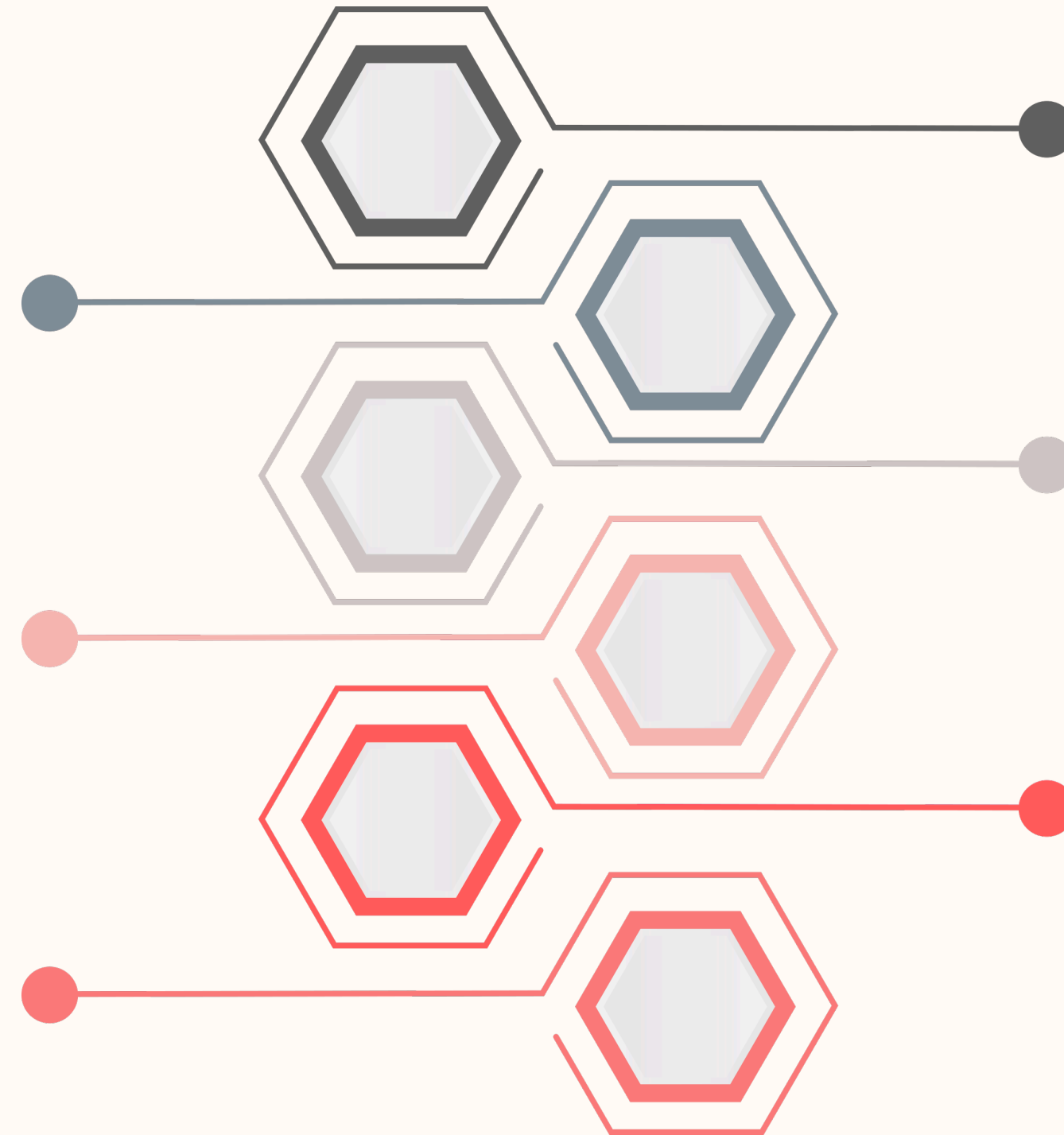
300+ brands We launched the **Fashion Checker**, an online database for **journalists, researchers and consumers** that contains statistics about the wages paid to garment workers in the supply chains of over 300 brands

In the coming ten years, we want to work on:

A **social safety net for workers** who suddenly lose their jobs in times of crisis (e.g. as a consequence of climate change) and **improved protection of freedom of association rights**. We've already developed a model for an **enforceable brand agreement** on this important issue in collaboration with trade unions in our network

Maintaining and growing our collective power and resilience, from the local to the global level; **expanding our solidarity movement** to include more people in the supply chain, from delivery to fibre recycling

Providing consumers with **tools to participate in our campaigns as engaged citizens**



A **just transition** towards a garment industry that puts **workers' rights at the centre of designing a sustainable model of production**

Binding legislation that makes **transparency about working conditions mandatory** and protects the rights of all garment workers, **holding brands accountable for issues in their supply chains**

Protecting our **watchdog function** to **continue exposing the actors who benefit** most from workers' exploitation

The political landscape is rapidly changing

As right-wing politics gain increasing momentum, with corporate elites influencing global politics, NGOs and trade unions are facing ever more restrictions. Governments and corporate actors increasingly discredit organisations like ours. In this context, we can no longer depend on governmental funding as much as we did before. In particular, our International Office has been directly affected by major budget cuts to development aid in the Netherlands. Solidarity from individual donors is absolutely critical to ensure that our movement remains strong in the face of a changing landscape and that our work towards justice for garment workers continues.



The importance of critical voices

Billionaire Bernard Arnault attended Trump's inauguration in January 2025. Arnault is the founder of the fashion conglomerate LVMH, which includes brands like Louis Vuitton and Dior. However, Arnault does not just dominate luxury fashion; he has also purchased several French newspapers and magazines. In 2024, LVMH employees were instructed by their employers not to speak to certain competing media outlets.

As a diverse and global network, the Clean Clothes Campaign is well-positioned to ensure that workers' stories about corporate misconduct continue to be heard.

That's why we need Changemakers!

Changemakers are people who value Clean Clothes Campaign's work and commit to ensuring its long-term survival.

There are several ways in which you can be part of this group:

- Commit to a yearly financial contribution of €500
- Activate your network to help us reach more structural and one-time donors
- Commit your time to help us take our fundraising efforts to the next level



An evening with Kalpona Akter, trade union leader from Bangladesh, and a fundraising moment



Our Changemakers...

01

Are invited to exclusive events and meetings that showcase the work that is made possible with your support, with an opportunity to meet with staff members, trade unionists and garment workers where possible.

02

Are part of a unique network of engaged activists and experts in the fields of labour rights, business and human rights, gender and climate justice.

03

Be the first to receive updates about the activities and campaigns of Clean Clothes Campaign.

Tax deduction for donors in the Netherlands

If you are a Dutch citizen, your donation to the Clean Clothes Campaign is eligible for tax deduction if you commit to an annual donation for at least five years. You can find the registration form on our Changemakers sign-up page.



Our story of origin

In the fall of 1988, a group of concerned citizens in the Netherlands highlighted labour conditions at a garment factory in the Philippines. The factory owners had laid off a thousand workers who stood up for their rights and subsequently shut down the factory. The Dutch activist group traced the garments from the factory back to the store and discovered they were sold by C&A. They also linked the factory to an English company, William Baird. Working together with trade union activists in England, the Dutch group continued their solidarity efforts.

Over two years, they carried out actions in the Netherlands, England, and the Philippines, applying pressure on the factory owner and other influential players in the supply chain. Eventually, the workers reached an agreement with the factory owner for salary compensation, marking a significant victory for the affected workers. However, this outcome did not lead to structural changes in the garment sector. Research revealed that this was not an isolated case, as garment workers in Bangladesh, India, and Europe also faced labour rights violations.

The emerging international solidarity movement for 'clean clothes' gained increasing support in both consumer and production countries. By the 1990s, this momentum culminated in the establishment of a global network: the Clean Clothes Campaign.



Photo: Protest at C&A in Haarlem, 1990. Collection Fotopersbureau De Boer



Interested in becoming a Changemaker?

Send an email to changemaker@cleanclothes.org for more information.

Contact Clean Clothes Campaign



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