**Subject: Invitation to Respond - Amazon - Global Garments in Bangladesh**

**19 July 2021**

Amazon takes the allegations involving Global Garments seriously and is actively investigating them. We respect freedom of association and our supply chain workers’ right to join, form, or not to join a labor union or other lawful organization of their own selection, without fear of reprisal, intimidation, or harassment.

In addition to our own investigations, along with other brands, we are also supporting efforts to investigate the issue led by Better Work —a partnership between the International Labour Organization and the International Finance Corporation focused on improving working conditions, respect for labor rights, and supporting greater compliance by factories with national labor laws and international labor standards.

The global pandemic has been particularly challenging for workers, as suppliers have faced massive supply chain disruption, workers have been displaced, and communities have experienced unimaginable loss. Amazon is committed to supporting our suppliers, their workers, and their communities as they are impacted by COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Amazon has honored all orders for both our US and EU private-label apparel businesses. In 2020, we created a $1.3 million fund to invest in organizations providing critical frontline support to workers impacted by the pandemic.

Some examples of how Amazon has invested the $1.3 million to provide critical frontline support to workers impacted by the pandemic are:

* Support for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bangladesh to distribute medical supplies and COVID-19 related resources for frontline doctors, nurses, and medical workers operating in the largest refugee camp in the world. The contribution supported the procurement of lifesaving PPE—approximately 322,000 gloves, 16,000 gowns and coveralls, 18,300 N95 respirators and 119,000 face shields—for 23 IOM-managed health facilities, serving to benefit both refugee and host community populations in the region.
* Support for Swasti, a global nonprofit committed to ensuring access to quality healthcare for workers and those in marginalized communities, to innovate in order to respond to worker needs. With our support, Swasti set up a worker helpline, developed health protocols for workers to return to work safely, and provided critical mental health, healthcare, and social entitlement support to workers, their families and their communities.
* Increased investment in Amader Kotha, meaning ‘Our Voice’ in Bengali, a helpline that provides a safe, timely, and effective communication channel for the purpose of identifying and resolving any grievances and concerns of workers in the Bangladesh ready-made garment sector
* Support for a PPE Purchasing initiative in partnership with Nest, a nonprofit providing support to the global hand-worker economy. The program purchased over 200,000 protective masks that were then delivered to front-line workers. Nest distributed over $500,000 in economic relief to 57 businesses, which altogether employed 10,510 skilled artisans.

You can learn more about how we are protecting our supply-chain and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic on our [Day One blog](https://blog.aboutamazon.com/company-news/amazons-actions-to-help-employees-communities-and-customers-affected-by-covid-19), [Sustainability site](https://sustainability.aboutamazon.com/people/covid-19-response), and our [BHRRC response](https://media.business-humanrights.org/media/documents/Amazon_COVID_questionnaire_response.pdf).