

“Primark’s response”, 4 November 2022

We are very selective about who we work with and our suppliers commit to the high standards we expect, as set out in our Code of Conduct, as a condition of doing business with us. This Code sets out very clearly what we expect of our suppliers, based on standards set by the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

We investigate every issue brought to our attention about Primark-approved factories and all efforts are made to resolve where possible. We are aware of one of the cases raised by BHRRC, and the factory is currently suspended as we work with them on a remediation plan. We are not aware of the other case and we have reached out to the factory concerned to investigate the allegations. Should we uncover any evidence of the allegations, which will indicate non-compliance with our Code of Conduct, a remediation plan will be activated.

Following the publication of the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI)’s independent, evidence-based assessment on human rights and responsible business conduct within the country in September, we made the difficult decision to begin a responsible exit from the country. The ETI report shows a significant deterioration in the situation in Myanmar, which poses significant challenges to our ability to ensure the standards we require to protect the safety and rights of the people who make our clothes and products.

In what remains a highly complex, dynamic and unpredictable situation, we are managing this exit in close collaboration with our partners and stakeholders in Myanmar and internationally, following the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We will continue to assess compliance with our Code of Conduct throughout this process – we have increased our presence on the ground in Yangon and we also continue to liaise with SMART and Women Win and others about other measures we could put in place to further protect workers and increase our visibility on the ground.