

Statement – to be attributed to a Primark spokesperson

Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of the people who make our products and we take our responsibility towards them very seriously.

Last September, following the publication of the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI)'s [independent assessment on responsible business conduct within Myanmar](#), we took the difficult decision to plan and implement a responsible exit from the country. The ETI's independent findings confirmed we could no longer conduct the necessary due diligence and ensure the high ethical standards we insist upon to protect the safety and rights of the people who make our products.

Since then, we've worked closely with global trade union IndustriALL and other major brands to create a framework for responsible business disengagement from Myanmar with input from the OECD's Centre for Responsible Business Conduct in Paris. This new framework aligns with our long-standing global approach to responsible factory exit under the terms of our membership of ACT, but takes into account the very specific context of Myanmar following the coup in 2021 and the guidelines of the OECD. The framework now guides our responsible exit from Myanmar which is conducted with frequent consultation with IndustriALL and other relevant stakeholders. We stopped placing new orders in October 2022 and expect our final orders to ship before the end of 2023.

However, our decision to responsibly exit the country did not mark the end of our efforts to support workers in Myanmar – this has continued throughout the responsible exit process. We continue to work closely with factories, suppliers, trade unions, basic labour organisations and project partners such as SMART Myanmar to seek remedy for issues that arise and, where possible, build capacity for factory management and mitigate the impact to the workers in our suppliers' factories.

To this end, we've doubled the size of our Ethical Trade team in Yangon, enabling more frequent visits to our suppliers' factories to allow greater engagement and improved visibility. Furthermore, we launched new events for groups of workers this year in our My Life programme with our partner Girl Determined focusing on topics such as self-confidence, gender-based violence, self-defence and communication among factory workers.

With regards to the specific allegations:

- **Tianjin Fashion Milestone Garment:**
 - o **Allegations from March to October 2022:** We were aware of some of these issues through our previous partnership with SMART Myanmar. An investigation by SMART through worker interviews found excessive working time and that they needed further information around general leave entitlement. However, none of the other allegations could be confirmed. A remediation plan to address these issues, along with the installation of a filter machine and large tank for drinking water, was put in place. SMART Myanmar's remediation is ongoing and we remain in touch with SMART and the factory for oversight on the progress of this.
 - o **Allegations from February 2023:** Our final handover from this factory took place in July 2023, and our audit in March 2023 did not reveal any instances of wage cuts or issues with worker safety. However, we will follow up as part of our exit process and work on any remediation required to oversee that workers are paid their legal dues.
- **Myanmar Knitting Factory:** Our final handover of products from this factory was August 2022 and while we remained in contact with the factory after the handover for several months, our due diligence in the factory has ended and the allegations raised took place outside of this period of time.

- **Myanmar Guotai Huasheng Glory Fashion:** We were made aware of these allegations via social media in July 2023 and visited the site to investigate. Our team's investigation found no indication of these issues, however we welcome any further information that would help us progress our investigation.
- **Gainway International:** We're pleased to report that this issue was settled without the need for any involvement by us or our partners.
- **Huabo Times:** We formally exited this factory in October 2021, at which point our business relationship and our due diligence with them ended. We cannot comment on the issues raised in the allegations connected with this site as they took place after this point in time.