

## H&M's response

23 March 2020

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited H&M to respond to the following item:

- "Uyghurs for sale: 'Re-education', forced labour and surveillance beyond Xinjiang", 1 March 2020, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI): [https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ad-aspi/2020-03/Uyghurs%20for%20sale\\_Final.pdf](https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ad-aspi/2020-03/Uyghurs%20for%20sale_Final.pdf)

H&M sent the following response:

"H&M Group strictly prohibits forced labour and any form of discrimination in our supply chain and we are deeply concerned by reports from civil society organizations and media that include accusations of forced labour and discrimination of ethnoreligious minorities in Xinjiang.

All our direct suppliers sign our Sustainability Commitment that clearly states our expectations with regards to forced labour and discrimination linked to religion or ethnicity and we adopt our due diligence to the various parts of our supply chain from manufacturing to farm level. We are committed to upholding international labour standards and we systematically conduct due diligence which aims to identify and address any risks in our supply chain. It is our most basic responsibility and essential for our business success. We are deeply committed to ensuring that the people who make our products have good working conditions and are treated with respect.

We do not work with any garment manufacturing factories located in Xinjiang. We do not source products from this region – neither through first nor second tier suppliers. In addition, we have conducted an investigation at all the garment manufacturing factories we work with in China and based on findings concluded that none of them are employing workers from Xinjiang through what is reported on as labour transfer programmes. Our products are not connected to Huafu's facility in Anhui province that is mentioned in the ASPI report. However, we have an indirect business relationship with another of Huafu's units in Shangyu province. This said, we have reached out to Huafu on this topic following the release of the report and learnt that they have not extended the contract linked to the labor program.

Considering the complexity of the situation, we are in close contact with human rights experts, other brands, and stakeholders continuously, to evaluate how we can further strengthen our due diligence and responsibly address the situation."