



Mülheim an der Ruhr, 31 July 2015

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre  
1-3 Charlotte Street, third floor  
London, W1T 1RD  
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Ebert,

Thank you very much for providing us with the opportunity to submit a written statement regarding the allegation of the Clean Clothes Campaign.

We are following the events and developments in Bangladesh very closely. For this reason, we are aware of the situation of the workers at Swan Garments and Swan Jeans.

Against this background, we would like to inform you that the business relationship with Swan Garments and Swan Jeans was phased out in mid-2014, of which both factories had been aware of beforehand.

The fact that we do not maintain a business relationship with either of these factories impairs our ability to directly influence the production facilities and to ensure the settlement of payments pending since January 2015. However, we have been in contact with individual national stakeholders and have asked them for their active involvement in working towards a peaceful solution. Within this context, we would like to emphasise that we appreciate the current engagement of the Bangladesh Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturing and Exporters Organisation, and the Bangladesh Garment Worker Trade Union Centre in this matter to seek a suitable and viable solution for the workers.

As an international company, we are well aware of our social responsibility and take its fulfilment very seriously. For several years now, ALDI has been committed to improving the working conditions in Bangladesh.

In addition to regular third party audits, which are mandatory for all production facilities in Bangladesh producing goods for ALDI, we further conduct internal audits with the aim of achieving continuous and sustainable improvements.

Furthermore, in 2013, ALDI also launched the ALDI Factory Advancement (AFA) Project, a training project which helps to sustainably improve the working conditions of garment workers in Bangladesh. The basis for achieving this is the intensive cooperation and dialogue between the workers and factory management in order to identify deficiencies in the production facilities and to jointly develop practical solutions. Please visit the following website for further information: [https://corporate.aldi.co.uk/fileadmin/fm-dam/Corporate Responsibility/Refresh 250315/Suppliers/Attachment 2 AFA Brochure AS EN.pdf](https://corporate.aldi.co.uk/fileadmin/fm-dam/Corporate%20Responsibility/Refresh_250315/Suppliers/Attachment_2_AFA_Brochure_AS_EN.pdf)



Since April 2013, ALDI has also been actively involved in the international Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. The aim of the Accord is to ensure safe working conditions in Bangladesh's ready-made garment industry.

We hope this information is helpful in further clarifying our position regarding Swan Jeans and Swan Garments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reiner Mischke', written over a horizontal line.

Reiner Mischke  
Managing Director