

Frequently Asked Questions...

on shopping for and sourcing ethical clothing and sportswear

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1. Are there any sports shoe brands that I can buy with confidence?

We all need runners to stay active and play sport. Unfortunately, none of the sports brands pass the grade in terms of labour rights in their supply chains.

Whilst some of the top brands are generally responsive when cases of labour rights violations in specific suppliers are exposed, systemic change is needed to ensure workers' rights are respected across all their supplier factories in their supply chain.

Outlined below is some information about the individual sports brands from Oxfam International's report [Offside! Labour Rights and Sportswear Production in Asia](#)

Nike, adidas, Puma, Asics and Umbro – have improved their labour practices by becoming more transparent, stopping anti-union discrimination in some factories, and allowing some workers to receive training regarding their rights. **However**, even these companies source most of their production in countries or free trade zones where independent trade unions are banned, and Puma, adidas and Nike have cut orders to factories where workers have established trade unions.

Progress has been made in some factories that make sports goods. Unfortunately, workers' basic rights are only respected in a small percentage of supplier factories. Since the end of 2006 Adidas and Nike have pulled their orders out of several factories in Indonesia, leaving tens of thousands of people without work. In 2008 a Malaysian Nike supplier was found to be using forced labour and keeping workers in appalling living conditions. Nike, who had been sourcing from this factory for more than 10 years, rectified the situation, once it was brought to their attention.

Mizuno, New Balance, Lotto, Kappa and Pentland (which owns Speedo and Lacoste) have demonstrated some interest in cooperating with trade unions and human rights groups to improve workers' conditions. **However**, in each case it is either too early or else there is not yet enough independent evidence to determine whether any workers are able to claim their rights, and in particular whether those workers are free to form and join trade unions.

When you are shopping you can also check the 'made in' label to see where the runners were made. If the country has ratified the basic International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions this indicates that the country has at least agreed in principle, to respect basic rights. To find out which Asian countries have ratified basic ILO conventions take a look at the table of countries on page 60 of [Offside!](#)

In January 2008, Oxfam Australia Executive Director Andrew Hewett wrote to the executive directors of 10 sports brands asking them to outline their progress on the major recommendations in the *Offside!* report. He asked how they were solving the outstanding issues of workers' labour rights in their supply chains. [Find out what the sports brands said](#)

An **important action** to take as a consumer is to make your voice heard by telling companies how you feel about the conditions for their workers.

After you have chosen which brand of shoes you will buy, you can write a message to the brand on your receipt. Post us a copy of the receipt with a note saying that you wish you could buy clothes and shoes made under decent conditions. We'll use this evidence of consumer concern to encourage brands to respect workers' rights by delivering these receipts to sports brands.

Address to the attention of:
Kelly Dent and Tim Connor
Oxfam Australia
PO Box 1711
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
AUSTRALIA

Please feel free to write to the companies yourself to ask them questions about their labour rights practices. Check the companies' websites to see if there is any additional information and ask companies to prove they are implementing the measures they outline.

For monthly up-to-date information on labour rights and sportswear developments sign up to receive the Nike Watch Newsletter on the [Labour Rights home page](#).

2. How do the brands compare? Who is good and who is bad?

Oxfam Australia focuses on women sportswear workers in Asia. On the Oxfam Australia website is the Offside! report which shows how sports brands compare with each other. For more information about how sports brands compare see [Are there any sport shoe brands that I can buy with confidence?](#)

To get updates about Australian brands visit recent events and urgent actions at the FairWear Australia website. You can also join your the nearest [antisweatshop campaign](#). These campaigns and groups will have more information about global brands.

To see who's doing the right thing in Australia, visit [Ethical Manufacturers](#)

[Offside! report](#)
[How sports brands compare](#)
[FairWear recent events](#)
[FairWear urgent actions](#)

3. How can I shop for clothing ethically?



Many people are shocked to learn that workers making garments in their homes in Australia are often paid as little as three dollars an hour. Exploitation is common in the fashion and clothing industry; both consumers and companies can play an active role in supporting ethical manufacturing in Australia and around the world.

An important part of shopping ethically is to create the change you want. If you have a favourite label and you are not sure they are ethical, write to them and ask them about their labour rights practices. Raise the issue of ethical clothing in your school or workplace. Here are some [Action ideas for you](#)

People power has had some successes already. "If clothing carries the No Sweat Shop label it means the garment was manufactured in Australia and the manufacturer has committed to ensuring that all of the people involved in its production received, as a minimum, the legally stated wage rates and conditions (known in Australia as the industry Award wages and conditions)".

There a few companies with clothes that range from streetwear and sportswear to high end fashion who are ethical manufacturers that are No Sweat Shop accredited. Happy shopping!

[Ethical manufacturers](#) (ranges from high end fashion to streetwear)

4. What is the situation for the workers making garments?

Exploitative wages and conditions are still common in the garment sector in Asia. These conditions are well documented in [reports by Oxfam](#) and reports by other [international NGOs](#). FairWear Australia has compiled a brief [list of reports](#) on labour rights in several countries. Employment conditions and the legal rights of waged workers are key issues for global poverty reduction, gender equality and development.

The labour rights of garment workers differ from country to country and between different areas.

Oxfam Australia suggests that companies source from countries and free trade zones where the right to freedom of association has legal force and the core ILO conventions have been ratified and given effect in national law. Companies should also prioritise retaining production in unionised factories.

Sourcing from countries and free trade zones where these core labour standards and fundamental rights have been ratified does not guarantee that workers will all be treated fairly in factories. National laws giving effect to these conventions need to be enacted and implemented. However, ratification of these core labour standards is an important step.

Asian countries which have ratified ILO Conventions numbers 87, 98 and 135

Country	Convention #87	Convention #98	Convention #135
Bangladesh	✓	✓	X
Bhutan	X	X	X
Cambodia	✓	✓	X
China	X	X	X
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)			
India	X	X	X
Indonesia	✓	✓	X
Japan	✓	✓	X
Laos	X	X	X
Malaysia	X	✓	X
Maldives	X	X	X
Myanmar (Burma)	✓	X	X
Nepal	X	✓	X
Pakistan	✓	✓	X
Philippines	✓	✓	X
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	X	X	✓
Singapore	X	✓	X
Sri Lanka	✓	✓	✓
Thailand	X	X	X
Timor-Leste	X	X	X
Vietnam	X	X	X

Key: ✓ = ratified X = not ratified

Notes:

Convention 87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948

Convention 98: Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949

Convention 135: Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971

The ILO has identified Conventions 87 and 98 have as core labour standards and "fundamental to the rights of human beings at work". This means all ILO member countries are obligated to respect, promote and realise these core labour standards, even if they have not ratified the specific conventions that give content to these core standards.

In 2000 the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) commissioned a report to assist with investment decision-making for emerging markets. The report, conducted by Verite, provided a quantitative ranking of 27 countries based on labour conditions, adherence to United Nations' standards and governmental efforts to address problems relating to labour rights. You can view the 2003 results of this study at: [Emerging Markets Research Project](#)

It is a company's responsibility to ensure that workers' rights are being respected throughout its supply chain. Companies should be able to prove this is the case through transparent monitoring and verification systems.

5. What can I do to help?

Become involved in your local group supporting workers' rights. Find [a group near you](#).

Sign up for Nikewatch news to receive monthly updates about sports brands and workers' rights campaigns. You can sign up on the front page at www.oxfam.org.au/labour
To receive international campaign e-actions on labour you can sign up for the weekly [Labour Start alerts](#) or the [Clean Clothes Campaign Urgent Action Network](#).

Send your sportswear receipts to Oxfam Australia with a note saying that you wish you could buy clothes and shoes made under decent conditions and we'll use this evidence of consumer concern to pressure the brands to respect workers' rights.
Address to the attention of:

Labour Rights
Oxfam Australia
PO Box 1711
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
AUSTRALIA

Visit the Oxfam Australia labour rights action page www.oxfam.org.au/labour for more action ideas, information and campaign updates.

6. Why are unions important?

If one worker tries to obtain their rights or fight for better conditions in a factory alone, they can easily be dismissed or discriminated against. In a group, workers have more power to collectively voice their concerns and bring about positive change in their lives.

In Asia, violence is used to stop workers from organising themselves into trade unions. Two of the factory cases examined in Oxfam International's 2006 [Offside!](#) report involved violent assaults on union organisers and in both these cases union members were threatened with death if they did not stop their union activities.
Other tactics used by factory owners include demoting union organisers to menial tasks, dismissing workers for participating in industrial action, using verbal abuse and other forms of harassment against union members and threatening to close or relocate the factory.

7. Importing garments. How do I find out if the company I am importing from is ethical?

Below are several checks you can make and actions you can take.

Adopt a code of conduct or another instrument to ensure that core labour standards are adopted including a living wage. Both the [Clean Clothes Campaign](#) (CCC) and [JO-IN](#) codes of conduct include a living wage.

Before you place orders directly into a new supplier factory

Before starting a business relationship with a new supplier here is a brief checklist:

- Organise an independent verification of conditions at the factory.
- Take a look at whether the core ILO conventions and other ILO Conventions are respected in supplier's country.
- Check whether fundamental labour standards including trade union rights of Freedom of Association (FOA), and the right to organise and collectively bargain are being respected in the factory.
- Search the internet to see if there have been any campaigns revealing labour rights violations directed at the factory.
- Talk to the union (if there is one) about the situation in the factory and establish a relationship with them.
- Find out the following through independent verification and your own research:
 - Is there an independent union in place at the factory?
 - Is there a collective bargaining agreement already in place?
 - What are the wages and conditions like?
 - Is the factory paying a living wage?
 - What are the workplace health and safety conditions?
- Include performance indicators into your contract with the supplier relating to respect for labour rights. Ensure you are providing a unit price and turnaround times that enable the supplier to respect labour rights.

If you are ordering through an agent or through licensees then you should raise these same issues with your agents/licensees. Your agents/licensees should check these issues with their suppliers.

Independent verification of conditions

In addition to credible factory audits, it is important to have in place independent and regular verification of conditions and to assess the situation in the factory in relation to Freedom of Association (FOA). A local labour NGO might be one group that could conduct an investigation or verify standards at the factory. The NGO should be able to interview workers confidentially outside the factory to determine if there are any obstacles to freedom of association in the factory. These interviews would also indicate if there is a democratic and independent union inside the factory. If there is a democratic trade union then it would be important to consult with the leaders of that union. Workers may risk dismissal or other forms of discrimination if they report problems at the factory, so confidentiality is essential.

Rewarding your supplier with stable orders

You can include performance indicators into the contract relating to respect for labour rights (particularly if the factory has a democratic, independent union in place) and reward their good performance with long-term, stable orders. You should always ensure you are providing a unit price that enables the supplier to respect labour rights.

ILO Conventions

1. Find out whether the country where the goods were made (also known as country of origin) has ratified (and is giving effect in national law to) the core International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions relating to:

[Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, 1948 \(No. 87\)](#) and; [Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, 1949 \(No.98\)](#).

For a list of Asian countries which have ratified these conventions see page 60 of the [Offside! report](#). For all other countries visit the [ILO standards database](#)

2. If the country of origin has ratified these first two conventions, you can ask the supplier some questions to find out whether these standards are actually respected within the factory. Are workers free to join a democratic and independent trade union?

If there is no democratic union in place in the factory, then do workers have the right to join (or not join) a union of their choice?

What percentage of workers in the factory are permanent employees? (temporary and short-term work means that workers don't have any job security, are less likely to join a union and are often not able to access the same entitlements and benefits as permanent employees)

3. Has the country of origin ratified the other core labour conventions? These include:

- [Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#)
- [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#)
- [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#)
- [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#)
- [Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\)](#)
- [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No. 111\)](#)

You need to find out whether these conventions are given effect in national law in the countries where they have been ratified. This is because some countries ratify conventions but do not implement them.

8. We have our own company. Who can I contact about making my garments ethically?

Transparent production in Australia

The [NoSweatshopLabel](#) for ethical manufacturing

A fair deal for cotton farmers

[Fairtrade cotton](#)

Worker Run Garment Cooperatives

The Solidarity Cooperative (Thailand)

Workers at the Bed and Bath factory in Bangkok, Thailand, turned up to work one day in 2002 to find they no longer had jobs. The factory, which produced Nike, Reebok, Levi and adidas, had closed without warning and the Thai owner had fled the country with the workers' wages. Some of the workers set up their own cooperative making garments, called Solidarity. For the story of the cooperative see [Dignity is not for Sale](#)

Please note the ability for the cooperative to handle overseas commercial orders is limited at this time.

Reducing the environmental impact

We suggest you contact environmental groups and ask them for hints about ways to reduce environmental impact.

We have added some resources in the section [Where can I find more information?](#)

9. What is Fairtrade?

Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions (including a better price) to, and securing rights of, marginalised producers and workers - especially in low-income regions.

The Fairtrade Mark is one way consumers can be sure they are buying goods that have been fairly traded. It is important to note, however, that the Fairtrade mark may only certify one part of the production and may not relate to the whole product. For example, a t-shirt may be made with Fairtrade Mark certified cotton. So in this instance, only the cotton is certified Fairtrade (also see below and question 10). Some goods, on the other hand, like Rise Up Productions, are made with Fairtrade cotton and their production (sewing) is also certified No Sweatshop.

For **small farmers**, access to market or price information is difficult and as a result, many become increasingly dependent on middlemen and receive smaller and smaller returns for their work. In bad times, many lose their only property - their land - and thus, their livelihoods.

Similarly, many plantation workers endure low pay, unsafe working environments and poor living conditions. The way that many products are produced, traded and consumed is unjust and this is a factor contributing to poverty.

Coffee, tea, cocoa, cotton and rice are some of the **products** that are available through Fairtrade.

[Find out more](#)

In Australia

Fairtrade Association of Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ) Inc is an incorporated, not-for-profit, member based body for individuals and organisations interested in and supportive of Fairtrade. Through its members, and a small secretariat, the FTAANZ seeks to:

- increase awareness of Fairtrade;
- help facilitate and coordinate Fairtrade activities;
- assist producers from developing countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, to access Australian and New Zealand markets;
- establish a regional organisation to manage Fairtrade certification and labelling. To download a short introduction to FTAANZ, [click here](#).

Fairtrade Cotton



Some garments (and other items) can be made with [Fairtrade certified cotton](#).

The aim of Fairtrade certification is to ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their cotton and a Fairtrade premium for them to invest in social, environmental and economic development of their communities.

Companies who sell clothing made from Fairtrade cotton have to show some evidence that they have asked for information from their suppliers about the labour standards in the factory where the garments were produced. However, products made with Fairtrade certified cotton can be -

and often are -manufactured in the same factories as regular clothing. At this stage Fairtrade cannot guarantee that all garments made with Fairtrade certified cotton are 'sweat free' and made under conditions that empower workers. The economic benefits of Fairtrade - the price and premium - are only being paid to the cotton producers. For information on how to ensure the garments are being made under conditions that respect workers labour rights, please go to [I import garments. How do I find out if the company I am importing from is ethical?](#)

If you would like to more information about Fairtrade certification of cotton, and its relationship to the garment supply chain, please contact Cameron Neil via audit@Fairtrade.com.au.

10. Does Fairtrade Cotton mean the item has been made fairly?

Companies who sell clothing made from Fairtrade cotton have to provide some evidence that they have asked for information from their suppliers about the labour standards in the factory where the garments were produced. However, products made with Fairtrade certified cotton can be - and often are - manufactured in the same factories as regular clothing. At this stage Fairtrade cannot guarantee that all garments made with Fairtrade certified cotton are 'sweat free' and made/manufactured under conditions that empower workers. The economic benefits of Fairtrade - the price and premium - are only being paid to the cotton producers.

One way to check if the item has been *manufactured* fairly is by seeing if it was made under the No Sweat Shop initiative. The No Sweat Shop label means the garment was manufactured in Australia and the manufacturer has committed to ensuring that all of the people involved in its production received, as a minimum, the legally stated wage rates and conditions (known in Australia as the industry Award wages and conditions).

It is possible to make garments both Fairtrade and ethically manufactured. This is when the material is Fairtrade cotton and the item is manufactured under the No Sweat Shop label in Australia. For more info on the No Sweat Shop label see: [How can I shop for clothing ethically?](#)

For codes and initiatives outside of Australia see: [Is there a certification system for clothes made outside Australia that says whether or not a company is manufacturing ethically?](#)

11. As a company, how do I source Fairtrade?

Your company can become licensed to trade in Fairtrade Labelled Products in Australia and New Zealand.

Click [here](#) to view the steps to follow and the people to contact to find out more about becoming licensed to trade Fairtrade.

Fairtrade Labelling ANZ can provide you with information on your importer options for the product you are interested in, or you can search their database for current importers on the Fairtrade website <http://www.Fairtrade.com.au/?q=locator>.

12. I own my own business. Can I get my garments made in Fairtrade Factories?

A first step to ensuring fairer conditions is to source from countries where the right to freedom of association has legal force and the core ILO conventions have been ratified and given effect in national laws. For more on this see the sections [I import garments. How do I find out if the company I am importing from is ethical?](#)

You can access Fairtrade cotton. Fairtrade cotton seeks to ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their cotton. See [As a company, how do I source Fairtrade](#) for more information.

If you are looking for some assurance that your garments are being made under fair and transparent conditions, one option is to use a manufacturer accredited to the Australian Homeworkers Code of Practice and No Sweat Shop Label. Your business can also become accredited to the Homeworkers Code of Practice yourself which entitles you to sew the No Sweat Shop Label into your garments. Find out more about signing up to the Homeworkers code of practice at [How to Become Accredited](#)

13. My supplier tells me the factory conditions are excellent (for example workers have air conditioning and can attend English classes at night). Does this mean workers' rights are being respected?

Anything your supplier tells you should be able to be independently verified to ensure credibility. Working air-conditioning may well be useful for factory workers, but what counts are their overall conditions of employment and whether workers basic human and legal rights are being respected in the factory.

For a check-list of some things to look for when assessing your supplier factory go to:

[Importing garments. How do I find out if the company I am importing from is ethical?](#)

The right to Organise and Collectively Bargain is particularly important, because without the right to organise and be in the union of their choice, it is very difficult for workers to speak out about their conditions and gain any real improvements within their factory.

The [JO-IN model code](#) and the Clean Clothes Campaign [Full Package Approach to Labour Codes of Conduct](#) are both useful guides for companies.

Basic human and legal rights are set out in the core International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions which include:

- [Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, 1948 \(No. 87\)](#)
- [Right to Organize and Collective Bargain, 1949 \(No.98\).](#)
- [Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#)
- [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#)
- [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#)
- [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#)
- [Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\)](#)
- [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No. 111\)](#)

Countries are bound by core ILO Conventions whether or not they have ratified them. However, it is important to find out if these laws have actually been given **effect** in the legal system of the country that has ratified them. Other ILO conventions, once ratified, should be enforced through the country's legal system.

An air-conditioned factory might still have a supervisor (often male) who abuses women production line workers and forces workers to work long hours of overtime. In one case that Oxfam Australia investigated, workers reported that their supervisor would throw ashtrays into their faces. In another case, supervisors insulted women by calling them animal names if they felt the women weren't working hard enough.

For more information go to: [Importing garments. How do I find out if the company I am importing from is ethical?](#)

14. Is there a certification system outside Australia that says whether or not a company is manufacturing ethically?

Codes of Conduct

Unions, NGOs, activists, consumers organisations and other groups have campaigned for more than a decade for the global garment and sportswear industries to take responsibility for workers' conditions in their supplier factories. As this pressure grew, companies created policies on the minimum labour standards and conditions they expect in their supplier factories. These guidelines for suppliers are often called a Code of Conduct but there are other names such as compliance codes.

A Code of Conduct should include all provisions based on the International Labour Organisations (ILO) Core Conventions and include guidelines around the following:

- freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise
- right to collective bargaining
- no forced labour
- no child labour
- no discrimination
- maximum hours of work
- health and safety
- a living wage
- security of employment

The Clean Clothes Campaign, an international campaigning network has guidelines on what companies can do to better assess, implement, and verify compliance with labour standards in their supply chains, and eliminate abuses where and when they arise: [Full Package Approach to Labour Codes of Conduct](#). The [JO-IN model code](#), which includes a living wage, is also useful guide.

Adopting a code of conduct is only the first step for a company. The real challenge arises in implementing the code and verifying that the code has been implemented. And ultimately in ensuring workers rights are respected and improved throughout the company's supply chain. Some companies have adopted codes that do not include all the basic worker rights, and other companies have adopted fairly comprehensive codes, but they are not implemented in the factories where their goods are made.

Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives

There are several Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives (MSIs) globally that are relevant to the garment and sportswear industry, bringing together different groupings, usually consisting of companies, trade unions, universities and NGOs, to implement codes of conduct that try to protect workers' rights.

The Clean Clothes Campaign provides a short overview of five international multi-stakeholder initiatives that have been initiated in the sportswear and apparel sector:

1. [Ethical Trading Initiative](#)
2. [Fair Labor Association](#)
3. [Fair Wear Foundation](#)
4. [Social Accountability International](#)
5. [The Jo-In initiative](#)
6. [Workers Rights Consortium \(WRC\)](#)

NB: The WRC is independent of any industry and its only stakeholders are USA and Canadian universities.

An example of a continuous improvement program is the [Better Factories Cambodia](#) Program. The program is not intended to guarantee complete compliance with labour standards. It focuses on continuous improvement.

There are some criticisms of the effectiveness of MSIs, particularly around their ability to uphold workers' rights to Freedom of Association, and the Right to Organise and Collectively Bargain.

In 2007, experts from a large variety of initiatives, countries and backgrounds workshopped what could be done to improve the effectiveness of MSIs in a consultation that was convened on behalf of Professor John Ruggie in his capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (SRSG) on the subject of business and human rights.

Participants at this consultation workshop felt that the social auditing model (which is the model that MSIs have adopted) has been effective in identifying health and safety problems, but generally ineffective in identifying more fundamental, rights-based issues such as freedom of association, discrimination, harassment, and physical abuse.

A summary of these discussions is available at [Overview of resources on MSIs and other overseeing mechanisms](#)

Earlier research by the Ethical Trading Initiative made similar findings in their 2006 report: [Getting smarter at auditing: Tackling the growing crisis in ethical trade auditing](#)

15. I have a business selling garments. Can I get garments manufactured ethically in Australia?

In Australia, the ILO conventions on Labour Rights have been ratified and workers have entitlements under both Federal and State laws through the industrial relations system. However, textile workers (and particularly Homeworkers) in Australia are often paid as little as three dollars an hour and are often denied basic legal conditions.

There is a growing base of consumers looking for ethical suppliers of products in Australia.

The Homeworkers Code of Practice and [No Sweat Shop Label](#) is a joint industry-union initiative administered by an independent committee. The principle behind the Code is, if companies can make their production chain transparent, then exploitation can be identified and addressed.

There are commercial and moral incentives for eliminating exploitation in the Australian garment industry. Companies can position themselves to meet this demand by utilising the respected Homeworkers Code of Practice. [Find out more](#)

16. Are there any examples of other Australian companies addressing labour rights?

Companies that have become accredited to the No Sweat Shop Label have committed to ensuring that all of the people involved in the production of their garments received, as a minimum, legally stated Australian wage rates and conditions. There is a list of these companies at [Ethical manufacturers](#)

For more information on this initiative go to [I have a business selling garments. Can I get garments manufactured ethically in Australia?](#)

A couple of examples are:

[Rise Up Productions](#) is an example of an Australian company that is actively trying to address labour and environmental factors relating to raw materials, trade and manufacture in its supply chain.

[Hunter Gatherer](#) opened in St Kilda, Melbourne in 1998, selling vintage second-hand clothing donations. In 2001 Hunter Gatherer began designing and manufacturing its own clothing range to complement the second-hand stock. After becoming aware of the problems of exploitation within the Australian garment industry, the Brotherhood of St Laurence signed the Homeworkers Code of Practice and became the first fashion brand in Australia to be accredited as a **No Sweat Shop Label** manufacturer and retailer.



17. When was the NikeWatch campaign launched, what were its aims and who are its targets

Global campaigning around Nike's practices started in 1990. Community Aid Abroad, now Oxfam Australia, joined the international Nike campaign in 1995. The aim of the NikeWatch campaign is to successfully persuade sports brands to respect workers' rights. Several international NGOs and campaign groups around the world focus on Nike's practices. Click on [global campaign](#) to find out more about the groups that have campaigns directed at sports brands like Nike to improve their respect for workers' rights. These rights include the right to form and join a democratic trade union, the right to decent hours and the right to safe working conditions.

Oxfam Australia writes the monthly NikeWatch newsletter that reports on labour rights in sportswear companies including Nike. The NikeWatch newsletter also reports on sports brands such as adidas, Puma and Asics. Visit the Oxfam Australia Sweatshop Watchdog [Flickr site](#) for pictures of student campaigning for fair labour conditions for sportswear workers.

18. I am writing a report on Nike (regarding social responsibility). Do you have information about the history and what they are doing today?

[NikeWatch](#) on our website has information about the outstanding problems in Nike's current practices. This section also has links to research reports on Nike, media articles and workers' stories.

19. Where can I find more information?

Below are some links to research, reports and articles on the topic of fair fashion and ethical consumerism. The list is by no means exhaustive.

Reports

[Ethical Threads: Corporate Social Responsibility in the Australian Garment industry](#)

(Brotherhood of St. Laurence 2007)

[Conditions facing sports wear workers](#) (1997 to 2006)

[Offside! Labour Rights and Sportswear Production in Asia](#)

(Oxfam Australia 2006)

[Reports](#)

(Oxfam Australia reports and other reports on our website)

A [Full Package Approach to Labour Codes of Conduct](#)-four major steps companies can take to ensure their products are made under humane conditions

Speaking out

[Workers speaking out about their conditions and Oxfam reports](#)

Articles

[Is Fairtrade a good fit for the garment industry?](#)

(Maquila Solidarity Network 2006)

Articles about [Fairtrade certified cotton](#)

Media stories about workers' [rights in the sportswear industry](#)

[Waste Couture: Environmental Impact of the Clothing Industry](#) (2007)

Magazines

[New consumer: UK ethical lifestyle magazine](#)

Anti-sweatshop groups around the world

[Link up with an organisation](#) in your part of the world that is campaigning to bring an end to sweatshops.

Other useful FAQs

[Labour Behind the Label](#) (LBL)

(LBL coordinate the UK platform of the international [Clean Clothes Campaign](#).)

[Frequently Asked Questions About Fairtrade](#)

[Clean Clothes Campaign](#)

[NoSweatShop Label](#)

[FairWear Campaign](#)

Glossary of ethical trade terms

An explanation of some of the language in supply chains –

The Ethical Trading Initiative has developed its own "[glossary of ethical trade terms](#)"