



How to propose a motion?

This will depend on the trade union you are a member of - it will usually involve contacting your branch secretary. But if you don't know who that is, ask your rep at work, or just call up the number on the back of your membership card and ask them to put you in touch with branch officials!

Model motion

Solidarity with Leicester garment workers

The cost of living crisis is a crisis not of workers' making. Globally, inequality both between countries and within countries has continued to increase, especially since the 2008 financial crisis. According to a 2023 War on Want report¹ the estimated revenue for the fashion industry in 2022 was £1.2 trillion. Yet little of this enormous wealth trickles down to garment workers. The average fashion CEO makes what a garment worker's monthly wage in 28 minutes.

This branch notes that there is an ongoing crisis for garment workers globally due to the rising cost of living. This crisis also impacts workers in the garment industry in Leicester. Fashion brands sourcing garments in the city are demanding price reductions, often on orders of clothing already made and delivered, which is making businesses unviable. In turn, garment workers in Leicester report significant reductions in hours and factory closures, increasing pressure on already low paid workers on the frontline of the cost of living crisis. 40% of children in Leicester are [living in poverty](#), including those where parents are in work. Following exposures over exploitative practices, UK fashion brands sourcing from Leicester entered into a dialogue with trade unions to improve conditions for workers. Now, they are abandoning these workers in search for bigger profit margins.

This branch believes the fashion companies who profit from the labour of workers in their supply chain are responsible for the pay and conditions of those workers. As trade unionists, we call on brands to commit to their workers and provide good, sustainable jobs with fair pay, safe conditions and full freedom of association for workers - both here in the UK and globally.

We also know the rules are written to benefit the companies and not the workers. We therefore believe the UK must adopt legislation to regulate corporations' behaviour when it causes social or environmental harm. We note similar legislation on mandatory human rights due diligence is currently being proposed and developed in the European Union.

¹ https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/WOW_Fashioning%20the%20Future_report.pdf



Finally, we note this crisis falls disproportionately heavily on the shoulders of migrant workers, women and workers from marginalised communities and offer our unconditional solidarity to all parts of the labour movement.

This branch resolves to:

- Support Leicester garment workers' demands to UK fashion brands and offer solidarity to the workers
- Share the Labour Behind the Label campaign and petition in support of workers with our members
- **For non-affiliated branches only: Affiliate to Labour Behind the Label as the only UK-based labour rights organisation working on garment workers' rights internationally**
- Support the Corporate Justice Coalition campaign for new legislation to regulate corporate behaviour
- Mobilise members in support of future organising activities, rallies or protests the Leicester garment workers organise