

31st October 2016

Joint Committee on Human Rights
Committee Office
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Rt. Hon Harriet Harman - Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

Thank you for your letter to Lord Wolfson advising that the Joint Committee on Human Rights is conducting an inquiry into human rights and business. This is considering the progress by the Government in implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights and specifically, looking in particular at what progress British business has made in carrying out its responsibility to respect human rights, and whether victims of human rights abuse involving business enterprises within UK jurisdiction have access to effective remedy.

In this context, you advise that the Committee is concerned at allegations made in the BBC Panorama programme broadcast on 24th October that Syrian refugees, including under-age children, are being employed in Turkish factories which manufacture clothes for NEXT.

In response, NEXT was pleased to note that none of its clothes were made in any of the factories featured in the programme. The only NEXT item shown was a single set of pyjamas and as Panorama stated, these **were not made** in any of the factories that were included in the broadcast. We can also assure you that NEXT has taken a pro-active and responsible role in ensuring that Syrian refugee workers being employed in our Supply Chain in Turkey meet both NEXT published Code of Practice and the Turkish legal standards. To achieve this assured compliance, NEXT employ its own dedicated and qualified team in Turkey to undertake audits in the factories which manufacture clothes for NEXT, as well as supporting local NGO's that are working with the UNHCR in Turkey.

With regard to a future request for further written evidence from Next in relation to wider issues raised; NEXT will be most happy to present our approach, the progress made to the implementation of the UNGP of Human Rights and the collaborative work being undertaken, to ensure that any potential victims of abuse involving business enterprises within UK jurisdiction have access to effective remedy.

Yours sincerely



Chris Grayer
Next Global Code of Practice Manager

