



Joint Committee on Human Rights

Committee Office · House of Commons · London · SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 2797 Email JCHR@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk



From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Steve Rowe
Chief Executive
Marks and Spencer Group plc
Waterside House
35 North Wharf Road
London W2 1NW

27 October 2016

Dear Mr Rowe,

The Joint Committee on Human Rights is conducting an inquiry into human rights and business. This is considering progress by the Government in implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights, by means of the National Action Plan published in 2013 and revised in May 2016. The inquiry is 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 the Committee was concerned at allegations made in the BBC Panorama programme broadcast on 24 October that Syrian refugees, including under-age children, are being employed in Turkish factories which manufacture clothes for Marks and Spencer.

The Committee would be grateful to receive a response from Marks and Spencer to the specific allegations made in the Panorama programme.

I will be in touch again in the near future with a request for further written evidence from Marks and Spencer in relation to wider issues raised by our current inquiry, but it would be very helpful to receive a response as quickly as possible in relation to the Panorama allegations. If that response could be received by 3 November, that would be much appreciated.

I am writing in similar terms to your counterparts in the other companies featured in the Panorama programme.

Yours sincerely,

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



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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Nick Beighton
Chief Executive
ASOS plc
Greater London House
Hampstead Road
London NW1 7FB

27 October 2016

Dear Mr Beighton,

The Joint Committee on Human Rights is conducting an inquiry into human rights and business. This is considering progress by the Government in implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights, by means of the National Action Plan published in 2013 and revised in May 2016. The inquiry is 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 the Committee was concerned at allegations made in the BBC Panorama programme broadcast on 24 October that Syrian refugees, including under-age children, are being employed in Turkish factories which manufacture clothes for ASOS.

The Committee would be grateful to receive a response from ASOS to the specific allegations made in the Panorama programme.

I will be in touch again in the near future with a request for further written evidence from ASOS in relation to wider issues raised by our current inquiry, but it would be very helpful to receive a response as quickly as possible in relation to the Panorama allegations. If that response could be received by 3 November, that would be much appreciated.

I am writing in similar terms to your counterparts in the other companies featured in the Panorama programme.

Yours sincerely,

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Lord Wolfson of Aspley Guise
Chief Executive
Next plc
Desford Road
Enderby
Leicester
LE19 4AT

27 October 2016

Dear Lord Wolfson,

The Joint Committee on Human Rights is conducting an inquiry into human rights and business. This is considering progress by the Government in implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights, by means of the National Action Plan published in 2013 and revised in May 2016. The inquiry is 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 the Committee was concerned at allegations made in the BBC Panorama programme broadcast on 24 October that Syrian refugees, including under-age children, are being employed in Turkish factories which manufacture clothes for Next.

The Committee would be grateful to receive a response from Next to the specific allegations made in the Panorama programme.

I will be in touch again in the near future with a request for further written evidence from Next in relation to wider issues raised by our current inquiry, but it would be very helpful to receive a response as quickly as possible in relation to the Panorama allegations. If that response could be received by 3 November, that would be much appreciated.

I am writing in similar terms to your counterparts in the other companies featured in the Panorama programme.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Harriet Harman
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