

## NEWS STORY AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

### PEOPLE & PLANET

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### NAKED STUDENTS SAY 'NO' TO SWEATSHOPS

Students from universities across Britain, Canada and America are taking action, and their clothes off, as part of an international campaign against sweatshops.

Representing the campaigning organisation People & Planet [1], the students will be saying 'we'd rather go naked than wear sweatshop clothes' as a part of the new Buy Right [2] campaign. They are calling for their universities to join an international 'Workers Rights Consortium'[3], which will monitor workers rights abuses in university supply chains.

Said Madalena Andrade a student from Loughborough University, "This is a fun action with a serious message. We're saying that we don't want to wear clothes that have been made in sweatshops. We're calling for our universities to take responsibility for the human rights of people that make our sports kits, hoodies and uniforms."

People & Planet's Buy Right campaign has already achieved a historic success against sweatshop conditions. Last year, a Honduras-based subsidiary of the garment manufacturer Fruit of the Loom was forced to back down after it fired 1300 workers [4], prompting over a hundred universities in Britain and America to sever their contracts after a massive student outcry.

Jim Cranshaw, campaign coordinator for People & Planet, the student group organising the campaign, said "Student action changed Honduras, and it can change the other places our universities buy from as well. This campaign aims to use the purchasing power of universities to tell clothing companies that they can't use sweatshops any more."

The Worker Rights Consortium requires university suppliers to disclose the locations of their factories and agree not to violate their workers rights.

-ENDS-

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

#### [1] **People & Planet**

Founded as Third World First, People & Planet has 40 years' experience of supporting student activism and campaigns to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment.

[www.peopleandplanet.org](http://www.peopleandplanet.org)

[2] The Buy Right campaign aims to defend human rights throughout university supply chains. It will do this by making university buying power a beacon for sustainable development and a force for human rights.

The campaign acts in solidarity with workers in the global South to help defend their rights.

[www.peopleandplanet.org/buyright](http://www.peopleandplanet.org/buyright)

<http://lists.peopleandplanet.org/listinfo/buyright>

[3] The Worker Rights Consortium is an independent organisation set up by students that monitors whether university suppliers are exploiting workers and violating their human rights. If your university joins then all the factories that supply it with clothes will come under the WRC monitoring system.

[www.workersrights.org/](http://www.workersrights.org/)

[4] <http://peopleandplanet.org/navid9118>