



SWEATSHOP FREE

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

people & planet

student action on world poverty and the environment

Throughout the Global South, poverty and climate change is driving people from their villages to work in sweatshops. Frequently in these sweatshops workers face violations of their human rights and restrictions on their right to unionise.

Sweatshop Free is part of a movement of people across the world, who are coming together to win workers' rights for sweatshop labourers. Our campaign brings together students and workers in a coalition capable of challenging the root causes of unacceptable working conditions.

Sweatshop Free focuses on the electronics industry, well known for worker rights abuses and sweatshop exploitation. Despite this, many workers in the Global South have organised collectively for better treatment and conditions.

We are calling on public bodies such as Universities to join Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation that works with institutions buying electronics to protect and improve workers' rights in the factories where the electronics are made.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

These sweatshops are found in free-trade zones in cities where factory owners are usually exempt from protecting most workers' rights, tax and safety regulations.

Workers are paid poverty wages while the richest accumulate wealth at the expense of the poorest.

The minerals too that are used to inside electronics are sourced from large scale mines that cause extensive environmental damage, as well as driving labour rights abuses for miners.

Lack of transparency in electronics supply chains means companies can cover up abuses of workers' rights and demands for change in factories.

We use what they make. Let's support them, and be part of the solution for workers' rights globally.



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WHAT CAN YOU DO ON YOUR CAMPUS?

1. JOIN YOUR PEOPLE & PLANET GROUP AND LAUNCH A SWEATSHOP FREE CAMPAIGN

- People and Planet can help you set up a campaign group if you don't already have one on campus or you could talk to existing groups on your campus, whether they are social justice, anti-racist or anti-sexist societies about contributing to or joining the campaign.

2. RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT SWEATSHOP ABUSES IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

- Put on film screenings, invite guest speakers, make leaflets and posters and organise solidarity events with workers in the Global South fighting for their rights.

3. LOBBY YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE TO AFFILIATE TO ELECTRONICS WATCH

- Check out the People & Planet action guide on how to run a Sweatshop Free campaign on your campus and contact us for more support such as free resources and workshops.

8 Universities in the England and Wales as well as all 44 Universities and Colleges in Scotland have already joined Electronics Watch!

Join the campaign to call on your university or college to affiliate to Electronics Watch too.

SIGN A PETITION NOW
ACT.PEOPLEANDPLANET.ORG/MAKEICTFAIR

FIND OUT MORE

Head to:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/sweatshopfree>

electronicswatch.org

Get in touch or book training:

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