



# SWEATSHOP FREE



**SIGN-UP NOW FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS**  
**[BIT.LY/JOIN-2016](http://BIT.LY/JOIN-2016)**

## **TAKE ACTION AGAINST SWEATSHOPS**

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.

**people & planet**

student action on world poverty and the environment

# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Throughout the Global South, poverty and climate change is driving people from their villages to work in sweatshops. These sweatshops are found in macabre free-trade zones in cities where factory owners are usually exempt from protecting most workers' rights, tax and safety regulations. Workers, mostly young women, are paid poverty wages, too low to survive on, while the richest accumulate wealth at the expense of the poorest.

Women face discrimination as well as exploitation. They work double days, earning on average 25% less than men for the same work. At home, they care for their family and manage household chores.

Despite working in repressive conditions, many workers in the Global South have organised collectively for better treatment and conditions.

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



## WHAT IS A SWEATSHOP?

While situations vary from factory to factory, the conditions workers face are incredibly similar. Typically speaking, workers in sweatshops will experience the following:

- Excessively long working hours
- Low pay
- Workplace abuse & humiliation
- Working with dangerous materials in unsafe conditions
- Restrictions on the right to form or organise trade unions
- Highly casualised work
- Forced overtime
- Exploitation of migrants

# ...AND WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Sweatshop workers are collectively struggling for better conditions and pay. Frequently these workers face violations of their human rights and restrictions on their right to unionise.

Lack of transparency in electronics supply chains means companies can cover up abuses of workers' rights and demands for change in factories. We need to know what is going on in our supply chains.

Sweatshop Free focuses on the electronics industry, well known for worker rights abuses and sweatshop exploitation. The campaign supports workers' demands for humane conditions at work.

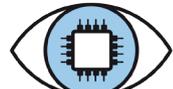
In 2013, a coalition of workers' rights organisations in countries

producing electronics and European purchasers launched Electronics Watch. This became the first worker led organisation supporting demands for democratic unions, better pay and improved factory conditions in the electronics industry.

Eight universities have already joined Electronics Watch! Join the campaign and call on your university or college to affiliate to Electronics Watch too.



One in five computers in Europe is bought by the public sector, amounting to more than 94 billion euros. Public money must be spent sustainably and responsibly. Electronics Watch allows this by bringing public buyers together - especially colleges and universities - to support worker led solutions to problems in the electronics industry.

electronics  watch



## WHAT CAN YOU DO ON YOUR CAMPUS?

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

- If you don't already have a group at your university or college, People & Planet can help you set one up.
- You could also 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.
- Host a People & Planet workshop on sweatshops and campaigning.

### 2. RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT SWEATSHOP ABUSES IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

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

### 3. START LOBBYING 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.

#### FIND OUT MORE

There are loads more resources available on our website:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/sweatshopfree>

Contact People & Planet: [sweatshopfree@peopleandplanet.org](mailto:sweatshopfree@peopleandplanet.org)