

KEY WORDS



Code of conduct

A set of rules outlining the responsibilities of or proper practises for an individual or organisation. A brand or retailer may have a code of conduct that sets out the way it expects suppliers to act, particularly with regard to workers' rights.

Decent work

Decent work is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and protection for families (for example in case of illness). It gives people freedom to express their concerns and represent their interests through trade unions, and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

Ethical trade

Ethical trade focuses on respecting the rights of workers within the global supply chain. It means that brands and their suppliers take responsibility for improving the working conditions of the people who make their products, and work together with trade unions and labour rights organisations to achieve this.

Fair Trade

Fair Trade is concerned with the relationship between the buyer and producer. It enables producers, typically growers of tea, coffee, bananas and cotton, to get a better deal from trade by giving them an agreed, stable price and an additional premium to invest in their communities. This is a start, but trade unions would like all workers in the supply chain to be paid a living wage, and be involved in monitoring and improving their working conditions rather than this being done by outside Fair Trade certifiers.

Forced labour

Forced labour is any work or service that people are forced to do against their will under the threat of some form of punishment, for example, workers being forced to work overtime and being threatened with losing their jobs if they do not.

Global supply chain

A system of production in which clothing, food, souvenirs and many other items pass through a long line of factories, suppliers, buyers and warehouses before ending up on our high streets.

These 'supply chains' employ millions of workers and stretch all over the globe – from China to Kenya, Bangladesh to Manchester.

Living wage

A living wage is based upon the actual cost of living in a particular place. It means that workers earn enough to provide their family with the essentials of life. This includes food, water, shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, transport and some income to spare.

Millennium Development Goals

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight targets for addressing extreme poverty adopted by world leaders in 2000 and set to be achieved by 2015. They address hunger, income poverty, disease, education, lack of shelter and exclusion. They promote the rights of every person on the planet including the right to health, education, shelter and security, as well as decent work.

Minimum wage

A minimum wage is, legally, the lowest amount of money a worker can be paid in order for them to sell their own labour to an organisation or firm. It is quoted at an hourly rate.

Sponsorship

Supporting an event, activity or organisation by providing money or other resources that are of value to the sponsored event. This is usually in return for advertising space at the event or as part of the publicity for the event. Global sporting events offer big brands the chance to reach hundreds of millions of people through sponsorship deals.

Trade union

People at work can join together in trade unions giving them a collective and independent voice in the workplace. As members of a trade union, workers have more power together than they do as individuals. This helps them negotiate better pay and working conditions with their employers. Trade unions also build relationships internationally to support better working conditions around the world.

Working conditions

The conditions in which people work, including hours of work, degree of safety or danger, stress and noise levels, facilities available.