

Ethical Trade: shaping a new agenda

ETI Biennial Conference 2005



Final Programme

Thursday 12 May

08:30 Registration

09:30 P1: Introduction to the conference

Alan Roberts, Chair, ETI

09:45 P2: Putting workers centre stage

Top-down approaches to ethical trade that do not actively involve workers will not achieve lasting change. This was a key message from trade union and NGO participants at our last conference, a view that is increasingly echoed by many corporate ethical trade managers. But in practice, how does one go about putting workers centre stage? How do we ensure that all types of workers – be they female homeworkers or male factory workers – are given a voice and an active role in shaping better working conditions for themselves? This session will provide participants with:

- The rationale for actively involving workers – why it makes sense for workers, suppliers and retailers/brands;
- A practical case study of how one retailer/brand has actively involved workers in code activities.

SPEAKERS

Lakshmi Bhatia	Gap Inc
Nkopane Monyane	Lesotho Precious Garments (PTY) Ltd
Bahlakoana Shaw Lebakae	Lesotho Clothing and Allied Workers Union (LECAWU)

10:45 Tea and coffee break

11:15 ETI Workshops: Session One

Participants will attend one of nine ETI workshops – see *ETI workshops: Programme and Information for details*.

12:15 ETI Workshops: Session Two

Participants will attend one of nine ETI workshops – see *ETI workshops: Programme and Information for details*.

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Keynote Speaker

Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development

14:45 Critical Issues Workshops: Session One

Participants will attend one of nine critical issues workshops – see *Critical issue workshops: Programme and Information for details*.

16:45 Tea and coffee break

17:15 P3: Marrying the commercial with the ethical

There has been growing debate over the last couple of years about the need to integrate ethical trade considerations into the purchasing practices of retailers and brands, and ultimately, into the way they do business overall. Many corporate ethical trade/CSR staff agree with NGOs and trade unions that this needs to be done – but what's in it for the rest of the company, in particular buyers and senior managers? This session will provide participants with:

- **The rationale** – how current purchasing practices can undermine the efforts of compliance staff, and how improving purchasing practices can yield commercial as well as ethical benefits
- **A company case study** – showing practical initiatives that companies can take, and how potential barriers can be overcome.

SPEAKERS

Neil Kearney	International Textile, Garment and Leathers Workers' Federation (ITGLWF)
Kate Raworth	Oxfam
Hannah Jones	Nike

18:15 Close and drinks reception (18:15 – 19:30)



Friday 13 May

09:00 P4: Keynote speaker

Richard Howitt MEP

09:30 Critical Issues Workshops: Session Two

Participants will attend one of nine critical issues workshops – see *Critical issue workshops: Programme and Information for details*.

10:30 Tea and coffee break

11:00 Critical Issues Workshops: Session Two (continued)

12:00 P5: Panel debate – what future for ethical trade?

This session will provide participants with the chance to hear what respected visionaries think will be the key trends and challenges in ethical trade over the next 5 years. Drawing on both corporate and non-corporate perspectives, this debate will help those responsible for developing companies' ethical trade/CSR strategies by providing fresh ideas and an insight into what key critics might expect from companies in the years ahead.

Chair: Dan Rees ETI

PANELLISTS:

Neil Kearney	International Textile, Garment and Leathers Workers' Federation (ITGLWF)
Ineke Zeldenrust	Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC)
Ingrid Schullstrom	Hennes & Mauritz (H&M)
Vinita Singh	Development Consultant and Ex Director International Resources for Fairer Trade (IRFT)
David Croft	Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd

13:15 Closing remarks

Alan Roberts, Chair, ETI

13:30 Conference closes

ETI Base Code

Our Base Code of labour practice contains provisions based on the following principles:

- employment is freely chosen
- freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected
- working conditions are safe and hygienic
- child labour shall not be used
- living wages are paid
- working hours are not excessive
- no discrimination is practised
- regular employment is provided
- no harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed.

The Code is given in full on our website:

www.ethicaltrade.org

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