# 18th June 2019

**Fashion Revolution is shocked by Government’s systematic rejection of EAC findings**

News that Ministers have rejected all recommendations from MPs on the [Environmental Audit Committee](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/) (EAC) to clean up the huge environmental impact of fast fashion shows that the UK government is out of step with the public who expect it to do more, Fashion Revolution warns.

Fashion Revolution is shocked to learn that after such a comprehensive investigation, the government has rejected the proposals of the committee so systematically.

In February 2019, the EAC published their report *Fixing Fashion* on the sustainability of the UK fashion industry. The report included evidence from leading fashion retailers as well as supply chain and environmental experts, including evidence from Fashion Revolution (You can read the evidence we submitted [here](https://www.fashionrevolution.org/fashion-revolution-written-evidence-to-the-sustainability-of-the-fashion-industry-inquiry-u-k-environmental-audit-committee/)).

Within the report were key recommendations that the UK Government should adopt into policies and legislation to help combat the social and environmental abuses that occur as a result of the way clothing is made, sold and disposed of.

Sarah Ditty, Policy Director at Fashion Revolution said: “The official response sends a clear message that the government doesn’t take the fashion industry seriously. This is despite its huge importance to the economy, employing many people from farm to manufacturing to retail and having an enormous environmental impact, particularly when it comes to pollution of our seas and drinking water.

“Parliament essentially rejected each and every recommendation in the report, often citing alternative courses of action for the issues in question, without committing to any tangible policies.

“From environmental issues like synthetic clothing in landfill to human rights abuses such as the illegal and abominably low pay that is commonplace in some UK garment factories, the Government’s official response is sympathetic but passive.”

The response is out of character with current political climate as the UK Parliament [declared a climate emergency](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48126677) less than 2 months ago.

One recommendation highlights the important work of the voluntary action agreement, SCAP ([Sustainable Clothing Action Plan](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sustainable-textiles/scap)), which says lack of government funding is a barrier for the program in getting brands to sign on. The report requests that SCAP receive more public funding.

On human rights, the government’s shortfall in commitment is equally confusing, especially in the wake of a recent [review of the Modern Slavery Act](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803406/Independent_review_of_the_Modern_Slavery_Act_-_final_report.pdf).

Human rights abuses were particularly highlighted in the enquiry and journalist Sarah O’Connor noted that in Leicester, “The going rate for a garment worker in lots of places in Leicester is £3.50, £4 an hour”. Addressing this, the government rejects the policy recommendations and cites programmes already in place to address UK labour abuses. This does not, however, explain how the government will actually remediate the labour abuses in the garment industry that are currently taking place.

Sarah Ditty continued: “As citizens, we should be concerned. Rather than take real responsibility, the government is simply suggesting non-binding, voluntary measures with little accountability. This is despite the fact that citizens expect the UK government to do more.”

Fashion Revolution’s recent [consumer research](https://www.fashionrevolution.org/resources/consumer-survey/) shows that 63% of UK consumers believe the government has an important role to play in ensuring that the clothing we buy is made sustainably.

“As a movement, Fashion Revolution is proof that citizens care and that our voices matter. So today we encourage you to tweet, write, call or email your elected officials. If we truly want to turn around the climate catastrophe and end human rights abuses happening in fashion, like modern slavery, the government must play an active role. So, let’s demand our MPs tell us why we aren’t seeing legislation. “

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