

H & M Head of Sustainability
Leyla Ertur
Ertur@hm.com

Jesse P.
The Calhoun School

10/20/2021

Dear Leyla Ertur,

My name is Jesse P. and I am a Junior at The Calhoun School in New York City, New York. I am writing to you to ask for a re-evaluation of your clothing production ethics. The ethical and environmental impacts of fast fashion are extremely serious. I admire the work you have already done to move a fast fashion giant in a more sustainable and ethical direction. However, there is still so much work to be done.

A plausible step could be limiting the amount of synthetic materials used. Synthetic materials may be cheap and easily made, however, they pollute our water with 700,000 microfibers during each wash cycle and can take up to 200 years to decompose (<https://www.sustainyourstyle.org/en/whats-wrong-with-the-fashion-industry>). In addition, it would be beneficial to make sure that the garment workers are being made a living wage. I understand that you outsource your production, however, finding out how much the workers are being paid and making that public knowledge could reassure people of the ethicality of your company. Many workers are paid minimum wage, yet, minimum wage is rarely equivalent to living wage. I see that most of your clothing is made in India, Bangladesh, and China. These countries all have around a \$200 difference between their minimum and living wages (<https://cleanclothes.org/livingwage-old/living-wage-versus-minimum-wage>).

As such a big corporation, H & M has a widespread influence on other corporations, big and small. You can set an example of how to conscientiously produce and sell clothing. Changes toward slow fashion and ethical fashion will impact everybody. It will limit the pollution of our planet and give workers a better quality of life. Please consider these and other switches in the name of our Earth and people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse P.